

## A History of the Work of Redemption

By Jonathan Edwards

### Lesson 25 - Period 3 - Part 7 - From the Present Time to the Fall of Antichrist

***“The work of redemption is a work that God carries on from the fall of man to the end of the world”***

Edwards has dealt with everything that has happened up to his day. Now, we get a glimpse into how Edwards understood the rest of the history of redemption would unfold. Edwards eschatology falls into the \_\_\_\_\_ camp. First Edwards makes two general comments.

The first thing Edwards believes will happen before the end will be an increase in \_\_\_\_\_. Times will get worse and worse for the church.

*“We have all reason to conclude from the Scriptures, that just before this work of God begins, it will be a very dark time with respect to the interests of religion in the world. It has been so before preceding glorious revivals of religion: when Christ came, it was an exceeding degenerate time among the Jews; and so it was a very dark time before the Reformation. And not only so, but it seems to be foretold in Scripture, that it shall come to set up his kingdom in the world.”*

Secondly, Edwards sees this glorious time unfolding on earth \_\_\_\_\_.

*“There is no reason from the word of God to think any other, than that this great work of God will be wrought, though swiftly, yet gradually.”*

*“This work will be accomplished by means, by the preaching of the gospel, and the use of the ordinary means of grace, and so shall be gradually brought to pass. Some shall be converted, and be the means of others conversion. God’s Spirit shall be poured out first to raise up instruments, and then those instruments shall be used with success. And doubtless one nation shall be enlightened and converted, and one false religion and false way of worship exploded, after another. By the representation in Daniel 2:3-4, the stone cut out of the mountain without hands gradually grows.”*

Next, he discusses how this work will be accomplished and he sees three main movements. The first thing that will happen will be the \_\_\_\_\_ out of the Spirit to bring a great \_\_\_\_\_ upon the earth.

*“The Spirit of God shall be gloriously poured out for the wonderful revival and propagation of religion. This great work shall be accomplished, not by the authority of princes, nor by the wisdom of learned men, but by God’s Holy Spirit.”*

*“This great work of God shall be brought to pass by the preaching of the gospel...And there shall be a glorious pouring out of the Spirit with this clear and powerful preaching of the gospel, to make it successful for reviving those holy doctrines of religion which are now chiefly ridiculed in the world, and turning many from heresy, from popery, and from other false religions; and also for turning many from their vice and profaneness, and for bringing vast multitudes savingly home to Christ.”*

The second thing that will happen leading up to this time will be the growth in \_\_\_\_\_ to the things of the Lord.

*“This pouring out of the Spirit of God will not affect the overthrow of Satan’s visible kingdom, till there has first been a violent and mighty opposition made.”*

*“And probably there will be great opposition by subtle disputers and carnal reasoning, persecution, virulent reproaches, craft, and subtlety.”*

The third and final thing that will happen before the time of peace will be that the church of Jesus Christ will obtain a mighty \_\_\_\_\_ over their adversaries.

*“In this victory will be a most glorious display of divine power. Christ shall therein appear in the character of King of kings, and Lord of lords, as in Revelation 19:16. Now Christ shall dash His enemies, even the strongest and proudest of them, in pieces; as a potter’s vessel shall they be broken.”*

The third and last item that Edwards deals within this section is a two-fold discussion on how Satan’s \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom on the earth will be \_\_\_\_\_.

First, he details how all various false \_\_\_\_\_ will be destroyed. He identifies five chiefly: heretical “Christianity”, Roman Catholicism, Islam, Judaism, and heathenism.

In this section concerning how the Lord will destroy the Jewish religion that has rejected Christ, he does show how he interprets those passages of Paul in Romans 11 to be a reference to a large-scale \_\_\_\_\_ of national Jews as part of the destruction of that Judaism which is opposed to Christ.

The second and final element of this section, is his dealing with the \_\_\_\_\_ extent of Christ’s victory.

*“The visible kingdom of Satan shall be overthrown, and the kingdom of Christ set up on the ruins of it, everywhere throughout the whole habitable globe.”*

*“The church’s afflicted state has been continued, excepting some short intermissions, from the resurrection of Christ to this time; but now shall a final end be put to her suffering state. Indeed after this, near the end of the world, the church shall be greatly threatened; but it is said, it shall be but for a little season.”*