

A History of the Work of Redemption

By Jonathan Edwards

Lesson 27 - Period 3 - Part 9 - The Great Day

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

“The success of Christ’s purchase is of two kinds, consisting either in grace or glory...I come now to the latter, viz., that kind of success which is accomplished in the bestowment of glory on the church at the day of judgement...All that precedes this, while the church is under the means of grace, is only to make way for the success which is to be accomplished in the bestowment of glory. The means of grace, and God’s grace itself, is bestowed on the elect to make them meet for glory.”

In this section Edwards discusses all of the elements that will accompany that Great Day, when Christ shall _____ and the work of redemption will come to an end. He lists 8 things that will happen during this time.

- 1. Christ will appear in _____** - *“Christ shall appear coming in His human nature, in that same body (now glorified) which was brought forth in a stable, and lain in a manger, which afterwards was so cruelly used, and nailed to a cross. Men shall now lift up their eyes, and see Him coming in such majesty and glory as now is to us utterly inconceivable. That glory of the sun in a clear firmament, will be but darkness in comparison to it.”*

“This will be a most unexpected sight to the wicked world: it will come as a cry at midnight: they shall be taken in their wickedness, and it will give them a dreadful alarm...But with respect to the saints, it shall be a joyful and most glorious sight to them...Christ will appear with infinite majesty, yet at the same time they shall see infinite love in His countenance. And thus to see their Redeemer coming in the clouds of heaven, will fill their hearts full of gladness.”

- 2. The last trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be _____, and the living _____** - *“And now the work of redemption shall be finished in another respect, viz. that all the elect shall now be actually redeemed both in soul and body.”*

- 3. The saints shall go to be with Christ in the _____, while the wicked are gathered together for judgement-** *“Then shall the work of redemption be finished in another respect; then shall the whole church be perfectly and forever delivered from this present evil world; shall take their everlasting leave of this earth, where they have been strangers, and which has been for the most part a scene of trouble and sorrow.”*

“If Satan, the prince of hell, trembles at the thought of it thousands of years beforehand, how much more will he tremble, proud and stubborn as he is, when he comes to stand at Christ’s bar...all the devils in hell, who have so opposed Christ and His kingdom, shall now at last stand in utmost amazement and horror before Christ and His church, who shall appear to condemn them.”

“Now also all the cruel enemies and persecutors of the church that have been in all ages, shall come in sight together...and must now confront one another before the Great Judge. And now shall the saints on their glorious thrones be made the judges of those unjust kings and rulers who before judged and condemned them...Thus wonderfully will the face of things be altered; now will all things be coming to rights.”

- 4. The righteousness of the church shall be made _____ and the wickedness of their enemies shall be brought into the _____** - *“They shall now appear clothed with the glorious robe of*

Christ's righteousness. It shall be most manifest before the world, that Christ's righteousness is theirs, and they shall gloriously shine forth in it."

"And now it shall appear who indeed were those wicked persons that were not fit to live; when all the wickedness of the enemies of Christ and His church, their pride, their malice, their cruelty, their hatred of true religion, shall be set forth in all its horrid acts, in its proper colors."

- 5. The _____ will be _____ on the righteous and the wicked-** *"Christ shall pronounce a sentence of justification on millions, who before had a sentence of condemnation passed upon them by their persecuting rulers...He will own them for His, and will put a crown of glory upon their heads before the world; and then shall they shine forth as the sun with Jesus Christ in glory and joy, in the sight of all their enemies."*

"Thus, also, shall the church's enemies be condemned...when the words of this sentence are pronounced, they will strive every heart of those at the left hand with inconceivable horror and amazement. Every syllable of it will be more terrible than a stream of lightning through their hearts."

- 6. After this Christ, His saints, and the angels will _____ to the _____-** *"They shall leave this lower world, and ascend towards the highest heavens."*

- 7. After the saints have _____ the world, and all the wicked on it, shall be consumed eternally in blazing _____-** *"When they are gone, this world shall be set on fire, and be turned into a great furnace, wherein in all the enemies of Christ and His church shall be tormented for ever and ever."*

- 8. The saints will then _____, with Christ, into the glorious _____ of the Father-** *"At the same time, all the church shall enter with Christ, their glorious Lord, into the highest heavens, and there shall enter on the state of their highest and eternal blessedness...The gates shall open wide for them to enter, and there Christ will bring them into His chambers in the highest sense. Here Christ will bring them, and present them in glory to His Father, saying, 'Here am I, and the children though hast given me.'...And then the Father will accept of them, own them all for His children, and welcome them to the eternal and perfect inheritance and glory of His house."*

"And now the whole work of redemption is finished. Now the top-stone of the building is laid. In the progress of our discourse, we have followed the church of God in all her great changes, all her tossings to and fro, all her storms and tempests through the many ages of the world. We have seen her enter the harbor, and landed in the highest heavens, in complete and eternal glory."

"Now shall all the promises made to Christ by God the Father before the foundation of the world, the promises of the covenant of redemption, be fully accomplished. Christ shall now perfectly have obtained the joy set before Him, for which He undertook those great sufferings in His state of humiliation. Now shall all the hopes and expectations of the saints be fulfilled...All the glory of the church on earth, is but a faint shadow of this her consummate glory in heaven."

"How are all the former things passed away, and what a glorious state are things fixed in to remain to all eternity! And as Christ, when He first entered upon the work of redemption, had the kingdom committed to Him of the Father...now the work being finished, He will deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father...The end of this commission, or delegation, which He had from the Father, seems to be to subserve this particular design of redemption; and therefore, when that design is fully accomplished, the commission will cease, and Christ will deliver it up the Father, from whom He received it."