

February 2010

Dear Friend of Light of the Word,

Revelation 5:1-7 says,

*“And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?’ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.’ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.”*

Is there anyone who is able to deliver mankind?

It’s interesting that in the 25th chapter of the book of Leviticus, there is what is called a law of redemption. Not anyone could fulfill this law. There were certain conditions that had to be met in order for someone to redeem another person from trouble or slavery. One condition was that the person doing the redeeming must be a relative of the one in need. It couldn't be anyone—there had to be blood-ties. A second condition was that the one doing the redeeming had to be wealthy—they had to have enough resources to redeem back the person that was enslaved. And lastly, in Deuteronomy 25, the person doing the redeeming had to be able to marry the person!

We see this law exemplified in the book of Ruth through a man by the name of Boaz and a young woman by the name of Ruth. Ruth 2:1 says, *“There was a relative of Naomi’s husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.”*

If we read on in Ruth we see the process of redeeming become clear. Ruth 4:5-10 says,

*“Then Boaz said, ‘On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance.’ And the close relative said, ‘I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it.’ Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel. Therefore, the close relative said to Boaz, ‘Buy it for yourself.’ So he took off his sandal. And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, ‘You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech’s, and all that was Chilion’s and Mahlon’s, from the hand of Naomi. Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day.’”*

*(Continued on reverse side)*

Bingo. Boaz met all three conditions for the law of redemption to be met.

There is an interesting parallel with this law of redemption and our eternal redemption in Christ. Think about it for a moment. In Hebrews 2:16-17 we are told, in regards to Jesus Christ, *“For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”*

Christ is “next of kin” to me. He is able to redeem me, for He made me and died for me. Jesus knew He could fulfill all the requirements to redeem us. He is a relative. He owns everything. And He takes us as His bride! But not only does He fulfill the law of redemption, He fulfills God’s requirement for perfection—for a sinless, holy sacrifice.


God has bought you back for Himself—you are set free from the enslavement of sin and death. You now belong to Jesus Christ; you are now a part of His family. In fact, when you are in heaven, there will be a big feast called the marriage supper of the Lamb!

If we truly understood this, we would not be depressed. There is no need for self-esteem because we have God-esteem.

I want to encourage you with all my heart to truly grasp the truth that God has bought you and redeemed you. He will not fail you and He will not forsake you. His love will never leave you. No matter what trial or circumstance you find yourself in, God has put His seal of redemption upon your head.

Look up my friend, for your redemption is nigh.

In Christ,



Pastor Steve

P.S.

To encourage you as you face the challenges of living day to day in this world, I’ve written a new pocket booklet, Let Go and Let God. It speaks about the freedom and encouragement that come when we look to God and cast our cares upon Him.