053 The Scarlet Thread of Redemption

This is a lesson about God’s plan of redemption and how it moves through the Bible like a continuous thread. It began in the Book of Genesis and continues until it is fulfilled the Book of Revelation. The work of redemption from sin came to its fullness when Christ redeemed us on the cross. He died for us so we could live with Him forever, saved from sin’s curse. Romans 10:13 says, “For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Redemption will have its final reward when Christ returns and judges the world. Then, the saints will live forever with Him in the New Jerusalem.

Romans 10:15 says, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things.” This means that there is something beautiful about those who are willing to share the good news of redemption, without regard to the costs. This means everyone who tells of the good news of redemption through Christ. God has chosen us to work with Him. We are friends of God. It’s God’s plan that we have a working relationship with Him to announce to the world what Jesus has done. As God’s voices, we are vital to the advancement of His kingdom.

GENESIS 1:1-3 and JOHN 1:1-5

Genesis 1:1-2 tells us that God, the Father, Jesus (who is both the Son and the Word - John 1:1) and the Holy Spirit were there “in the beginning.” it must have been beautiful. I (Nancy Abramson) remember late one night we were in a small motorboat in the Pacific Ocean traveling between remote islands. You couldn’t see any lights, or land. There was no noise except for the small motor on the boat. All you could see were stars from horizon to horizon. I have never experienced the majesty of the heavens like we did that night. We were enveloped in the stars. It was unimaginable magnificence. We have been on pristine beaches that clear, beautiful blue water washes upon. These beaches had no rubbish, tar, or sea lice. When you visit a remote place where modern man has not made his mark, you can see how God originally created this earth. It reflected His glory.

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Genesis, Chapter 1 tells us that on the sixth day the beasts of the earth, and also Adam and Eve were created (Genesis 1:26-28). God created Adam and Eve in His image. There was originally a physical and spiritual connection between God and mankind.

_Ephesians 4:24 (NLT)_

“You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness—righteous, holy, and true.”

_Colossians 3:10 (NKJV)_

“and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,”

Adam and Eve were given qualities that elevated them above all other creatures. They were given dominion over all God created. He blessed them with the ability to fellowship with Him. He gave them a magnificent garden in which to live. However, Eve just could not resist the temptation Satan presented to her. Adam sinned with her by allowing it. Sin was conceived and brought suffering and death into the world. The conflict between the evil of Satan and the righteousness of God began.

**GENESIS 3:9 “Where are you?”**

Pastor Bob and Nancy have a grandson whose name is Adam. He likes to play hide and seek. When he was about 20 months old, he would crawl under the dining room table, or sit on the floor next to the couch and think he was hiding. Pastor Nancy would say, “Where’s Adam?” I can’t find him,” and then pretend to walk around looking for him. Now he was in plain sight, but she still “searched” for him. God did the same thing with Adam. He knew where Adam was, but he wanted to hear from Adam. His question opened a door for Adam to respond to Him. God came to Adam knowing he (Adam) had sinned. It was not the other way around. Adam responded by telling God that he was afraid because he was naked and that’s why he hid.
The Bible tells us Adam and Eve made coverings for their nakedness out of fig leaves. God knew the fig leaves would not hide their sin. Adam and Eve did not have the ability to provide for their own covering or atonement for sin… and neither do we. The Lord made provision for them. This was the beginning of the scarlet thread of redemption.

**The Beginning of “The Scarlet Thread of Redemption”**

*Genesis 3:21 (NIV)*

"The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."

God killed an animal, shedding its blood, and made tunics of skin for Adam and Eve. This was the beginning of the “scarlet thread of redemption.” It was the first time that blood was shed to cover sin. This “scarlet thread” runs through the entire Bible. It was completed in the final offering by God for our redemption from sin, through the shed blood of Jesus.

God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. They lost their intimate fellowship with God. Fallen mankind began its journey, heavily burdened with a sin nature. Satan became the ruler of the world in which they now lived. (John 12:31; 14:30)

**The First Blood Sacrifice To God**

*GENESIS 4:3-7*

We can only speculate why God rejected Cain’s offering. Some believe it was rejected because it was not a blood offering. We do know it was not a faith offering. We do know Abel’s offering was a faith offering, and God respected and accepted it.

*Hebrews 11:4 (NIV)*

“By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.”

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1 John 3:12 (NKJV)

“not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.”

Abel was called righteous and God was pleased with him. Cain was called wicked and his works were called evil. Cain’s offering was evil and carnal. He was angry because God rejected his offering, and he killed his brother.

GENESIS 6:5-8

As time went on, things eventually got so bad that by the time of Noah, God had decided to destroy sinful mankind. But Noah found grace in the sight of the Lord. God told him to build an ark and the scarlet thread of redemption continued though Noah and his sons. Notice the first thing Noah did when he left the ark - 1 year and 10 days later. The first thing Noah when he left the ark was to make a blood sacrifice to God. He honored God’s provision for redemption. So the earth was populated again through Noah and his family.

GENESIS 8:15-20

The Genesis Narrative Continues and We Read About the Next Events Along the Scarlet Thread of Redemption.

Genesis, Chapter 11 tells us the world had plunged into the sinful darkness of idolatry. God called to Abram. His story was another piece of the scarlet thread of redemption. He obeyed the call of God to leave his native land and travel to a place God would show him. He did this by faith. It takes faith to respond to God.

In Genesis 15:7-21, we learn about the Abrahamic Covenant in which Abram cut the animals in half, shedding their blood. In Genesis 17:8-11, God instituted circumcision and changed Abram’s name to Abraham. Circumcision also required the shedding of blood. This would always remind God’s people of their covenant with God. In Genesis, Chapter 22 God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. This was to be another blood sacrifice. Abraham raised the knife (verse 10) and was about to
plunge it into his son, but God provided a sacrificial ram. Again, the scarlet thread continued to point ahead to Christ.

As the Old Testament continued, Isaac had a son Jacob from whom the twelve tribes of Israel were born. Then narrative moved ahead to Joseph, who was redeemed from prison. He became a prophetic picture (or “type”) of Christ as he redeemed his family. Eventually, Israel endured four hundred years of slavery in Egypt. The scarlet thread of redemption continued with the deliverance God provided for His people through the Passover. Exodus 12:13 tells us the blood of the Passover lamb was shed to mark the doorposts, so the angel of death would pass over God’s people. Moses also was a “type” of Christ. God used him to redeem His people from slavery and start them toward God’s promise land.

The Book of Leviticus teaches us about how the Israelites approached God through blood sacrifices.

**Leviticus 16:15-16 (NKJV)**

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”

**Leviticus 17:11 (NKJV)**

“Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. {16} So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.”

**Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV)**

“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”

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Let’s move ahead to the Book of Joshua. The children of Israel were about to come out of the wilderness. Joshua was preparing to cross the Jordan to take Jericho. Rahab was told she and her family would be saved by a scarlet cord - and they were.

Joshua 2:18, 21 (NKJV)

“...unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home.” {21} Then she said, “According to your words, so be it.” And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.”

As we continue through the Old Testament, we read about Ruth, Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon and others. Then we read the Prophets, who repeatedly told of the coming Savior and King - the Messiah. Finally, the New Testament leads us to the cross of Calvary and beyond. The story ends in the final four chapters of the Book of Revelation, when God’s plan prophetically comes to its conclusion. All sixty-six books of the Bible lead us through this plan, as we follow the scarlet thread of redemption to its ending.

The Bible is a book of redemption. It is not just a historical account, or a traditional history of Israel. It is a book of salvation and deliverance for all lost humankind. Redemption and restoration from sin are the Bible’s message of hope and victory. It is clearly demonstrated by the scarlet thread that winds its way from the beginning to its conclusion at the end of the book.