**Redemption what is it all about**: Norm Womersley Saturday, December 6, 2014

We all know the pagan origins of xmas celebrations, and understand the marketing ploys that lead many to excesses, financially as well as in the consumption of alcohol, and the flow on with the road toll and family heartache.

It is that time of year when most people are all gearing up for xmas, and the shops are already full of a lot of trinkets that could only be sold in this silly season.

However I hope that we are not so prejudiced and self-righteous that we become blind to many of the truths of God and Jesus Christ that numerous people sing about, either with or without understanding. Not: I wish you a merry xmas or Good King Wenceslas.

But Hymns like O come all ye faithful, O Come O Come Emmanuel, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Once in Royal David’s city, Hark the Herald Angels Sing.

are certainly much more than just beautiful music, they actually do impart important theological truths, originally for an illiterate population to learn.

Yes He Jesus Christ was and is a King: In fact King of Kings

Mat 2:2 MKJV saying, Where is He *who is* born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him.

Mat 27:11 KJV And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

Yes He Jesus Christ did come to Reconcile the world to Himself:

Col 1:20-21 KJV And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say,* whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. (21) And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled….. actually concilliated

Yes Jesus Christ did come as our Incarnate deity: He personified God

Joh 14:9 KJV Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then,* Shew us the Father?

And yes He fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 as Emmanuel or God with us:

Mat 1:23 MKJV "Behold, the virgin shall conceive in *her* womb, and will bear a son. And they will call His name Emmanuel," which being interpreted is, God with us.

True Jesus was not born at xmas time 25th Dec which is slotted in with the Northern Winter solstice and the pagan Saturnalia.

However Jesus Christ birth to Mary as part of mankind was necessary not only so that He could sacrifice His life, which is self-evident, but also most importantly to enable Him to legally qualify and fulfill His work of reconciling all mankind to The Father, as our near Kinsman. Which I will go into later.

*2Co 5:18-19 KJV And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

Jesus Christ’s birth was according to God’s intention before the foundations of the earth and fitted precisely in to God’s Holy Day Plan taking place at Tabernacles or more specifically Trumpets 2 BC…… I have spoken on this before.

Not only was Christ’s birth anticipated prophetically but it was also incredibly important in setting in process the lawful requirements that gave witness to what is even now still being fulfilled through the Birth, life, death, resurrection and advocacy of our Mediator Redeemer and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We all I expect believe and understand that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour but today I would like to focus on the fact that He is also our Redeemer.

There is much more written about Redeemers and redemption under the Old Covenant than in the New Testament which is common on many subjects. For we have an incredible wealth of information through the history and detail given to us in the OT narrative.

This Data in the inspired records if you like, really does require the New Testament to reveal much of its spiritual relevance and assist our understanding about God’s incredible life saving plan for mankind. Hence we need to study the whole Bible if we seek accurate spiritual perception.

I will try today to “join some of the dots“ using Old Testament Laws that really illustrate the Spiritual truths that are revealed under The New Covenant as we endeavour to lift the veil “which is done away in Christ” (2Cor 3) through the New Covenant spiritual understanding of Redeemer, Redemption,

Kids first what is a Saviour ?

Kids. What is a Redeemer?

In English the word redeem means To buy back: cash converters, pawn shop,

Also meaning to work hard to retrieve credibility that has been lost.

Any questions just put up you hand and I will try and answer

Biblically redeeming is often about buying back people from slavery, not generally the slavery we imagine when we read about the slave trade, although that would still be redeeming. But when people had debts under the Old Covenant that they couldn’t pay, they sold themselves or were sold as servants to pay off the debt, and if a close relative loved them enough that relative or kinsman had the right to pay off their debt and buy them back. and remember that debt in scripture is synonymous with SIN.

*Rom 6:16 KJV Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

The word servant here is actually bond slave, the word is used 118 times in the New Testament and refers to those who were bonded for whatever reason and were subservient to that master.

Just as we all naturally are under the bondage of sin, this then is the slavery from which mankind needs to be redeemed.

*Php 2:5-8 KJV Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Through this humility of our Creator, Jesus Christ became part of mankind: For by being born of Mary He consciously made himself a near Kinsman of the entire family of Man, and therefore legally qualified under God’s Law to redeem all mankind.

*Eph 1:13-14 NASB In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, (14) who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory*.

There are many physical examples of redemption in the OT all of which when we lift the veil with New Covenant understanding will assist us to see the spiritual intent and REDEMPTIVE resolve of our Creator from the beginning.

*Deu 7:7-9 KJV The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: (8) But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand,* ***and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*** *(9) Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;*

Probably the first question we need to address: Is do we all really need to be physically redeemed?

Yes is most certainly the answer for those who are called and desire to be chosen by our Creator to be in the better resurrection. That is we will genuinely aspire to be the sheep of his pasture.

*Psa 100:3 KJV Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

I hope we know, and understand the allegory that Paul uses Gal 4:21-31 and we will turn there soon.

It actually explains that we being under the New Covenant are to be like Sarah, figuratively the New Jerusalem, free and not under bondage, and like Sarah who brought forth the man child, the child of promise. We also, through the Power of God’s Holy Spirit are expected to do likewise. Impossible we might laughingly say, yet this also was Sarah’s reaction even though she tried to deny it.

*Gal 4:21-31 KJV (21) Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? (22) For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. (23) But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. (24) Which things are an allegory:* ( that is a teaching tool*) for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage,* ( or produces bondage) *which is Agar. (25) For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth (* or figuratively corresponds *) to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. (26) But Jerusalem which is above is free*, *which is the mother of us all.* ( that is the spiritual city of Peace, the New Jerusalem*) (27) For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. (28) Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. (29) But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. (30) Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. (31) So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.*

*Gal 4:28 KJV Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.*

We are not to be of Hagar the bondwoman who brought forth Ishmael, who was the child of the flesh, which I should add naturally we all are from birth.

Ishmael means “wild donkey of a man”. Speaking to Hagar in Genesis, The Lord said:

*And you will bear a son; And you shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has given heed to your affliction. Gen 16:12 "He will be a wild donkey of a man, His hand will be against everyone, And everyone's hand will be against him;*

Before our calling to be His sheep, we also are categorized as donkeys, yet we learn from God’s Law that He anticipated the need for our redemption even as donkeys that are unclean animals needed to be redeemed.

*Exo 13:13 KJV And every firstling of an ass (donkey) thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem.*

I still remember asking about the redemption price for Andrew our first born when I over 45 years ago ignorantly viewed this law only from an Old Covenant perspective.

Our Redemption is necessary to bring about the spiritual changes from donkey to sheep, to bring us into newness of life through the New Covenant, and we most emphatically should not hanker, as did many of the Galatians for the Old Covenant.

For under the Old Covenant we would all stand condemned.

We are called to be of the Spirit not of the flesh we are called to be Son’s of Promise and we need to identify with our potential and our calling, and being redeemed we need through the process of spiritual development to bring forth the New Spiritual man, or the Man Child.

We know that it is appointed unto all men to die because we all come under the curse of Adam

*Rom 5:12 KJV Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

So our carnal self, that is, as we were born, or our old man is sentenced to death and that is non negotiable.

Thankfully however God has a merciful, gracious and loving plan, which produces the “ New Man” that is the New self, begotten in us through the power of the Holy Spirit which is developing even now, The spiritual you, and it is this spiritual self with which we need to increasingly identify.

*Rom 8:11 NKJV But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

Paul had to deal with this conundrum of who was the real Paul, the Paul of the flesh or the REDEEMED Paul being reproduced of the Spirit of God

*Rom 7:20-24 KJV Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. (21) I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. (22) For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: (23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (24) O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

And this New Man is achieved legitimately and legally. Rom 7:14 for the Law is Spiritual.

It is not about any of our good works providing us with an entry visa into God’s kingdom.

It is all about Sonship and becoming heirs of the promise, which is a mystery to most, yet still our only hope.

*Col 1:26-27 KJV Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: (27) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles****; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:***

*Gal 4:1-7 KJV Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; (2) But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. (3) Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: (4) But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, (5)* ***To redeem*** *them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (6) And because ye are sons,* ***God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts****, crying, Abba, Father. (7) Wherefore thou art no more a servant,* **(no more a bond-slave )***but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

We can read about the principal law of Sonship in *Deu 25:5-*10 for God provides within His law that sons and heirs can be legally begotten through adoption.

*Deu 25:5-10 KJV If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. (6) And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel. (7) And if the man like not to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, My husband's brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother. (8) Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and if he stand to it, and say, I like not to take her; (9) Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house. (10) And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him that hath his shoe loosed.*

The book of Ruth (which I have spoken on before) well illustrates this principal. In fact it is through this legal adoption that Ruth a Moabitess, redeemed through Boaz the estate of her father in law Elimelech, which interestingly means “my God is King”

When Mahlon which means “sickly or weak and puny” Ruth’s husband died the family lost the estate. However Marlon’s kinsmen, Boaz, loved Ruth and would have married her right away, except that the first right of the kinsman belonged to a closer relative. So he explains to her in

Ruth 3:12-13 And now it is true I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will redeem you, good; let him redeem you. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then I will redeem you, as the LORD lives.

In this history, Boaz called the kinsman having the first right of redemption, and asked him if he wanted to redeem the property left by Elimelech. He did want to redeem it, but when he discovered that he would also have to marry Ruth, he decided against it.

Boaz in marrying Ruth not only redeemed the estate of “ My God is King” but created the royal lineage of king David, and more importantly, the entitlement of Jesus Christ as heir to the throne of David, as the legitimate King of the Jews.

We all know that physically Jesus Christ died childless, despite Dan Brown’s fiction, and we also know that Jesus Christ is not ashamed to call us brethren, and as such we are called to bring forth or to raise up seed for Him.

*Heb 2:11-17 KJV For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified*

( That is us) *are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, (12) Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. (13) And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. (* We are those children, that is those that are spirit led.*)*

 *(17) Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*

And I should add as a Kinsman of man to be able to redeem mankind:

Christians, who think after reading *1Pe 1:23* that they are already born again, a done deal, often misunderstand this truth.

Whereas “born again “ or the Greek word “gennao” actually means “begotten from above”.

Possibly many of us remember the debate and discussion within WCG regarding the word gennao.

It actually can mean either born or begotten depending on in what context it is used, whether masculine or feminine, ………fathers beget, and mothers give birth.

We are actually told in 1Peter when we understand it properly that we are begotten by the word or gospel through the agency of The Holy Spirit which is actually the seed of our begetal from above.

*1Pe 1:23-25 KJV Being ~~born again~~ begotten from above, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (*That is by the word of gospel of the living God, which remaineth for ever;) *(24) For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: (25) But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word, which by the gospel is preached unto you.*

With this understanding we should be able to compare the process taking place in our lives through the Holy Spirit, and relate it even with the Incarnation of Jesus Christ our elder brother Eph 4:15 who is the Head of the body and the Greatest Example of Spiritual Sonship.

*Luk 1:30-35 KJV And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. (31) And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. (32) He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: (33) And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. (34) Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? (35) And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy ~~Ghost~~ Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

Mary knew that she had been redeemed she viewed herself as the servant or slave or literally the Bond slave of the Lord.

*Luk 1:37-38 NASB "For nothing will be impossible with God." (38) And Mary said,* ***"Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word."*** *And the angel departed from her.*

Just as Mary brought forth Jesus the Christ, which The Holy Spirit did beget in her and He on being born of Mary grew to become the visible manifestation of The New Man who had no earthly father.

We being redeemed are also to bring forth, again through the Spirit of God, our New Creation Man, which as with Jesus the head is to be our part of the body of Christ as Son’s of God when His Kingdom is manifest.

The whole of creation is owned by The Creator and yes because of the sin of Adam mankind was sold into the slavery of sin. Jesus Christ’s life and blood was worth far more all the sins that have ever been committed from Adam to the end of time.

We are bought or redeemed for a price, a price we cannot pay:

*1Co 6:20 NASB For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

Being Redeemed from slavery or from servitude as bondservant does not mean freedom as most view freedom, that is answerable to no one, and free to do whatever we might foolishly decide.

*1Co 7:22-23 MKJV (22) For he who is called a slave in the Lord is a freed man of the Lord. And likewise, he who is called a free man is a slave of Christ. (23) You are bought with a price, do not be the slaves of men.*

The redeemed is answerable to their Redeemer, and the only true freedom is to become a bondslave of Jesus Christ. All other kings and masters are oppressive in some way, unless conformed to His image, which is why Jesus Christ says:

Mat 11:28-30 MKJV Come to Me all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take My yoke on you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest to your souls. (30) For My yoke *is* easy, and My burden is light.

Jesus Christ obviously had the means to redeem all of creation, and the implications of this are enormous, for as the near Kinsman of all mankind, he also has the lawful RIGHT of redemption. The question then remains: Did Jesus actually WANT to redeem all of creation, or is He content with redeeming only a few.

Are God’s hands figuratively tied?

Is The Gracious Omnipotent Sovereign God trumped by man’s rebellious nature?

Jesus Christ is the King in the Kingdom of God, for He is the Heir to the throne of David.

We all need to be identifying with our Godly potential as the Redeemed of God, and even if we were to die before Christ’s return as many already have, we are still destined to be resurrected as legitimate Son’s of God.

*Tit 2:13-14 KJV Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; (14) Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

The Old Covenant was man’s vow to God, but mankind is weak and puny, ultimately unable to keep his vow, in reality puny just like Mahlon, Ruth’s first Husband and therefore unable to retain his inheritance.

But God on the other hand is well able to keep His vows to men and also provide His inheritance. We read His promise, given even when the Old Covenant was in force…..

*Jer 31:33 NASB "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

A Promise which was kept: For at Pentecost, He sent the Holy Spirit to beget Christ in us, for that is The New Covenant manner of redemption and salvation.

This gennao or “being begotten from above “does not benefit our old man directly who is destined to die, but engenders within us an entirely new developing entity as “the real you” God is fulfilling His word according to His Law of Sonship.

This is confirmed twice in the book to the Hebrews in Heb 8:9-10 and Heb 10: 15-17

Our carnal minds have difficulty with these concepts because just as there was with The Apostle Paul, there is that ongoing battle where our carnal mind fights for dominance not wanting to be replaced by the true Spiritual Heir.

So in conclusion: The How, When, Where and Why.

How is one redeemed? By being purchase by our near Kinsman, Jesus Christ.

When is one redeemed ?

Initially when called, and completely on receiving our eternal inheritance.

Where is one redeemed ?

Initially in our spirit, this is then completed fully at the time of our resurrection into eternal life in spirit, soul and body.

Why is one redeemed? Because of the Love, Mercy, and Grace of God Who wants us to receive Sonship, and become part of the spiritual body of Jesus Christ.