

The Purpose of Jesus

1. Introduction

As Creator, Jesus brought this World and mankind into existence – ‘*ex nihilo*’. Things between God and His creation went well until mankind rebelled against God. Then in came sin, which drew man into slavery and death. However, in the midst of this darkness, God’s plan to save His creation was unfolding, as foretold in the Old Testament. This culminated in the prophetic words of Isaiah and finally Joel, in which God announced that He was going to destroy the power of man’s slavery ... sin.

The first thing required was for man to be released from sin’s power. Man could not do this by himself, since sin had control over him (John 8:34 *Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”*) Only God could pay the price needed to rescue all mankind (Gal 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”*). Therefore, Jesus came for this purpose, to become our Redeemer, which means:

‘One who frees or delivers another from difficulty, danger or bondage, usually by the payment of a ransom price.’

In other words, He came as our Redeemer. The payment? His sinless life.

Jesus, as the Redeemer, paid the ransom for mankind. When we are ransomed, we are then free to choose to be saved. When we’re saved, then Jesus becomes our Saviour mediator and healer. He intercedes, without ceasing, for us as individuals as well as for Church. Finally, at the end He will judge the world.

2. Jesus’ Purpose

What is the purpose of Jesus? He has many purposes; do we know what they are?

[\[Ask the congregation for a list\]](#)

- Creator
- Healer
- Intercessor
- Judge
- Lord [[– no this is His person](#)]
- Mediator
- Redeemer
- Saviour

a. Christ Our Redeemer

REDEEMER — Heb. ga'al (ga w-al); i.e., one charged with the duty of restoring the rights of another and avenging his wrongs (Lev. 25:48, 49; Num. 5:8; Ruth 4:1; Job 19:25; Ps. 19:14; 78:35, etc.). This title is peculiarly applied to Christ. He redeems us from all evil by the payment of a ransom (q.v.).¹

The principle purpose of Jesus is that of Redeemer. If Christ had not redeemed us, He could not save us: the Redeemer becomes our Saviour, Lord, healer, etc. -- and ... friend.

3. Redemption

a. The Need for Redemption

Why is it that mankind needs a redeemer? Paul defines, in his letter to the church at Rome, the need of mankind for Jesus. He does this in a very simple but effective statement.

Rom 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

We started brilliantly, having a close relationship with God ... but it didn't last and mankind has lived without that closeness to God for a very long time.

Gen 1:26-28 Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'

Gen 3:17,23 To Adam he said, 'Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

b. The Purpose of Redemption

However, God had put in place a plan to solve this separation, which involved His Son. Only one without sin could undo the grave error caused by Adam. For this, Jesus became - in effect - a second Adam who would not fall, but having lived without sin, would die in our place to destroy the hold that death had placed on mankind.

¹ Easton, M. G., M. A. D. D., *Easton's Bible Dictionary*, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1996.

1 Cor 15:21-22 *For since death came through a man [Adam], the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man [Jesus]. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

Though physical death still occurs at a rate of one death for every life, this death now holds no fear for us, as the real death - spiritual death - can never touch us.

Mat 10:28 *Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

The major purpose of redemption is to restore us to a relationship with God, by rescuing us from the self-centredness and evil of our own lives. Jesus does this by cleaning us up for His service. In short, this means we no longer need to live under the influence of this world and its decaying standards. This 'clean up' should make us a people who are wholly Jesus' and who are eager to do what is good. Take a look at Isa 6:8 and Titus 2:14.

Isa 6:8 *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

Titus 2:14 *who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

c. Redemption Enables Salvation

Christ paid the price to save us from the curse of sin, through being crucified on our behalf. 'Redemption' = 'bought back at a price, through the payment of a ransom' ... the life of Jesus – His blood shed for us, though He had committed no sin.

Gal 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."*

Rev 5:9 *And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.*

d. Redemption Is Free

We are 'justified freely', i.e. we have received grace, through the redemption that comes from Jesus. This means we become as if we had never sinned. Why? Because Christ shed His blood on our behalf. The price of salvation is free. He's done it all for us, because there is nothing we could ever do to gain our salvation.

Rom 3:22-24 *This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

e. Redemption Changes Our Character

When we are 'in Christ', He has become our wisdom, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. When we lack these things in our lives, we need to get back to being fully '*in Him*'.

1 Cor 1:30 *It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*