

# WE BELIEVE!

## WK IV - REDEMPTION (PT I)

### Redemption

We believe that God has not abandoned his creation to sin's consequences of destruction and decay but is actively redeeming it. Out of the chaos of our rebellion, God called Abraham and his descendants to be his people. He blessed them, that through them he might bless the world. Out of the violence of bondage he redeemed his people, covenanted with them and gave them a mission of representing him to the world. His people would again live in the presence of God in a fruitful land marked by shalom.

We believe that God gave covenants and promises to his people to redeem and restore creation and that these covenant promises were later extended to the line of David, through whom God would restore his reign and bring shalom to the world. However, Israel, like the rest of humankind, consistently turned from God. They broke the law that God provided and did not listen to the prophets God sent. The sons of David were also sinful and unable to bring about shalom in their own country, let alone the world. Like Adam and Eve, the disobedience of Israel led to the loss of life in God's presence within the land he had placed them. Yet, God gave them hope through further promises of a new covenant and coming Messiah who would restore all of creation.

### Jesus Christ

We believe that all of these hopes and promises are fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was sent by the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, Mary, in such a way that the Son of God is fully God and fully man. He announced the good news of the kingdom of God and demonstrated his power to restore shalom. By the power of the Spirit, Jesus submitted himself fully to the Father in obedience, unlike Adam, Israel and the rest of humanity. He was obedient in life, even unto death on a cross, and his blood atoned for our sins in our place and on our behalf. He arose bodily and triumphantly over Satan, sin and death.

### Key Scriptures for the Week

- Philippians 2:6-11
- Hebrews 9:13-14, 22
- Romans 3:21-26
- 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18

### Key Points

- **God Moves First:** Redemption is the story of God pursuing us to rescue us, not about us seeking God for help.
- **Covenant:** The history of redemption is marked by covenant agreements between God and man, which highlight God's provision and man's persistent failure to keep these agreements.
- **One Hope:** All the covenants point to Jesus Christ and are fulfilled in Him. He is the only way of redemption and the only hope of salvation.

# WK IV - CONT.

## Key Points cont.

- **Perfection:** Jesus perfectly kept the law and was in every way good and sinless, making Him not just our model but qualified to save.
- **Atonement:** Jesus made peace between God and man by offering Himself as the perfect atoning sacrifice, paying for our sins by dying in our place and offering us His perfect righteousness.
- **Resurrection:** Jesus did not stay dead but was raised to life, defeating death and offering us the promise of eternal life with Him.

## Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you in this first half of our talk on redemption?
- What are some of the implications of knowing that Jesus is the only way to be saved from sins and have eternal life?
- How does it affect your life? Your worship?
- How does it impact the lives of those around you?
- What are some wrong beliefs about salvation that you've heard?
- Why does the Resurrection matter? What would you say to someone who denied or downplayed it?

## ***We Believe! Outside the Gate***

A friend reposts an article on social media talking about how substitutionary atonement (Jesus died in my place) is a mistake. He says it comes from a twisted view of God who is demanding and abusive, and that what really happened is Jesus just died to show us how much God loves us. The post is getting lots of "likes" and affirming comments.

- Is this doctrine important enough to debate? Why or why not?
- What does the Bible say about substitutionary atonement? What verses would you point someone to?
- Would you raise concerns on social media, since that's where the post is, or would you go to your friend in private? If in private, would you talk in person or through technology? Explain your thinking.
- What do you think your friend needs to know most of all? How can you help him with that?

## **"I BELIEVE..."**

Summarize in your own words your beliefs about Jesus Christ and His role in redemption.