

58-09-02-The Eternal Redeemer
salvation, love, Heaven, Hell, Holy Communion
Hebrews 9:11-12

God's plan for sinners has eternally been one of redemption.

INTRODUCTION: (after Holy Communion has been observed)

–Heb.9:11-12, *When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The Cross where Christ purchased our salvation was a point in time, but its plan of redemption was in eternity.*
–These verses say that the OT Tabernacle wasn't original; It had been built according to a heavenly pattern that God showed Moses on Mount Sinai. That there was already a heavenly Tabernacle is extremely significant: as a holy place to receive the blood of a sacrifice, its very design signifies an eternal desire: HOM.idea.

I. Christ Was the Foreordained Redeemer

- A. God knew we'd need redemption before we were created– Tit 1:2, a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time... (God's plan was always Heaven; Hell resulted from free-will creatures missing that plan!)
- B. But we often bring up a philosophical problem: “*If God knew we would fall into sin before He created us, why did He create us?*”
(We ask this because of all the suffering sin has brought so many.)
 1. The answer is in God's very attributes and nature:
 - a. He's all-knowing (omniscient): **He knew what we would do.**
 - b. He's all-loving and all-powerful: **He knew what He would do.**
 - c. He's all-wise: **He knew the final outcome would be worth it.**
 2. God fully realized that the risk of creating free-will creatures was the possibility of Hell and of suffering for the innocent, but He also knew what He had Paul share in 2 Co 4:17-18. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. [Hymn, “*When We See Christ*”: Ofttimes the day seems long, our trials hard to bear, / We're tempted to complain, to murmur and despair; / But Christ will soon appear to catch His Bride away, / All tears forever over in God's eternal day. // It will be

worth it all, when we see Jesus, /Life's trials will seem so small, when we see Christ; / One glimpse of His dear face all sorrow will erase, / So bravely run the race 'til we see Christ.]

- C. God's redeeming love controls our ultimate destiny, and it existed in Christ before we did– 1 Pet.1:18-20. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

TRANS: God's plan for sinners was not Hell, but Heaven! His eternal purpose is redemption! The ***Book of Life*** contains the names of all who becomes Christ's follower. **Jesus owns that book!** He paid for it with His blood. But that payment, in God's mind, happened long before this planet existed– Rev 13:8b (GWT), That book [the Book of Life] belongs to the lamb who was slaughtered before the creation of the world. **God's plan for sinners has eternally been one of redemption.**

II. The Sacrifices of the First Tabernacle (part of *this creation*)

- A. The Old Covenant's sacrificial rituals pointed to a coming New Covenant, foreshadowing a heavenly fulfillment of redemption.
- B. The 1st Tabernacle no longer exists. It was just an *object lesson* to show us that repetitive animal sacrifices were temporary– Heb 10:1. The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

TRANS: Why just an object lesson? Why not a perfect redemption plan at the outset? That's explained by our need, as time-creatures, for progressive revelation that unfolds as history progresses. But there's another, more Scriptural explanation– Gal 4:4-5 (NLT), But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. God's Son became human and died for us at exactly the right time, AND on exactly the right future day, He will return to make our adoption complete by resurrection. While awaiting that future day, whenever we partake of this Communion Table, we “proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.” (1 Co 1:26). This is the central ritual of the New Covenant: to remember the *forever finished* sacrifice of “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of world.”

III. The Eternal Redemption of the New Covenant

- A. Christ's ministry as High Priest of the New Covenant is *eternal* and *final*—it will not be repeated. (The Levitical priesthood was only a shadow that ended with the coming of the One it predicted.)
- B. The New Covenant moves us from *shadows* to *reflections* through a new Thanksgiving ritual of *remembrance* and *proclamation*:
1. **This Bread** is the New Tabernacle of His Body (**Immanuel**: *God is with us*, making His home with us in human flesh forever, so that He could forever espouse us as His human Bride!)
 2. **This Cup** is the New Covenant in His Blood, the purchase price of eternal redemption, by which we have His life flowing in us.
- C. Christ has become our dwelling place, our fortress, our home, the New Tabernacle where God and man meet:
1. *What did Moses see on that mountain?* A Tabernacle not of this creation! It's the eternal Tabernacle of the future, new creation.
 2. *What do we see, as we look toward our future?* We see ourselves as the City of the New Jerusalem, which is the Lamb's Bride—**Rev 21:2-3**, I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

CONCLUSION:

—**God's plan for sinners has been eternally one of redemption.** *Why did God go ahead and create us when He knew we would blow it?* He knew He would provide this Table. *Think about that!*

—This Holy Meal is older than the Eden. It existed in God's mind and heart before all time. The Table of Communion with the Lord's Body and Blood is the *most powerful place on earth*, and the *holiest*. It's the new *Most Holy Place*, where God invites us to fellowship with Him.

Here we feed upon no shadow. We remember a past fulfillment; we celebrate a *present* reflection of reality; we proclaim a future hope.

—Make this Holy Meal a priority. If illness keeps you from it, call upon your ministers to visit and share it with you. By this Bread and Cup, we keep on remembering and celebrating and proclaiming our King and Bridegroom till He comes back for us, His Body of followers and His Bride. **Make sure you're one of those faithful followers.**