

***Core Values: Redemptive History***  
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## **Introduction**

Today we are going over Redemptive History, the sixth word/phrase that is a core value of our church. This is amazing if you understand it. We will talk about what Redemptive History is, and how we are participating in it.

We are drowning in trouble, hardships, and sins of life, and we are often trying to find something to hold onto to survive. If we look in scripture, Jesus comes to rescue us from this drowning. This is Redemptive History in a nutshell. This is the perspective we need to have when we think about life.

Sin, godliness, and everything else has history. In whatever state we are in in our lives, there is a history as to how we got there. Our character and personality are made of habits in our past, which were formed from an attempt to gain pleasure or avoid pain. A great person in our day probably has a history of hardships they had to overcome to get where they are now. All of us have a story that is part of history.

Humans want to live their best lives because time is limited and we only have one chance at living. According to the Bible, there are consequences for everything we do. If we live for our own happiness, it will last, at most, only during this lifetime. However, if we were to live a purposeful life for Jesus, the joy and happiness lasts eternally. Life is about participating in the great big story of Redemptive History where we must participate in it with our small lives. We should concretely think about what life is about.

Consider the example of a high school football star making plans for the rest of his life. He'll strive for the next goal: a scholarship in college, a high-paying job, a wife, kids, and a house. After this all, he'll probably retire then die. But then what happens after death?

Through Christ we live for eternity, and there is consequences to how we live this life. We all want progress in our lives, and continue to strive for the next goal. But if you are on the wrong path, progress means to turn around and walk back to where you went astray. For the people on the wrong path, the man who turns around is the most progressive. Hopefully even tonight, if you are on the wrong path, you will learn to turn with the perspective of God's Redemptive History.

## **What is Redemptive History?**

### ***Story***

We all have our own, unique stories that are written in our memories. What people said and pictures that are taken are a few of the things that make our memories. These memories become our testimonies, telling people of how we got to where we are. For some, if their memories are worthwhile to read, they write autobiographies. Consider this room: if we have a thousand

people in here, we have a thousand different stories. Even though siblings have grown up in the same house, their stories are completely different because they have a different perspective on life. All our stories make up history.

### ***History***

Webster defines it as a chronological record of significant events such as those affecting a nation or institution and often includes an explanation of their causes.

Human beings wrote these chronological records—a recording of events. People made the interpretation and explanation of causes. Though I do not like history, it would have been great to study it in college because it would have been so important to understand historical context in ministry. Some people continue to read and re-write history; we do not always know who is right. We can assume they are probably relatively correct.

Through the reading of history, we can recall what we were doing at specific moments in time when big events were happening. For example, almost everybody in America can tell you exactly where they were when 9/11 happened because it was such a significant event in history. Our stories are all within history.

### ***Redemptive History***

#### *Recording of significant events*

The Bible is not a history book, but it has so much history in it that it is credible by Christian and non-Christian historians. If you compare it against other religious books, the Bible has much more historicity than the rest of them, which separates it from any other religious books.

The Bible is a recording of significant events in history.

#### *Explanation of their causes/interpretation*

These explanations and interpretations are made by people. Consider Luke, he interviewed the people that had met and seen Jesus in his lifetime, and compiled a story that walked in the life of Jesus Christ, from his birth in Bethlehem, to his death on the cross in Jerusalem. These stories not only made up history, but also are a part of Redemptive History.

#### *Specific kind of history with a theme of God's redemption through Jesus Christ*

This is Redemptive History because through history, God not only saves, but also transforms people. This power for change comes through Jesus Christ. The Bible is a non-fiction book. About 40 different authors wrote this book, and often they did not know each other or live at the same time. God and the Holy Spirit moved the hearts of all the authors and used them to contribute to Redemptive History. Though they are writing their own thoughts, choosing their words, and using vocabulary they know, the Holy Spirit is inspiring them in such a way that their logic and thinking process and choices of their words are explaining the history of God's redemption in an incredible way. The Bible is a message of how God is transforming, and redeeming people through Jesus so he can use each and every one of us to be part of this.

Another way to explain this theme is by using the Korean word “짝사랑”, which means one-sided love. God is chasing after His people constantly, creating them, sending them His son and prophets, and man continues to sin and run away. This is the history of the Old and New Testament. God continues to love them even through all their rejection of Him. He chases, loves, and forgives again and again. God is always on the move to love us.

Stories are “me.” History is made up of many “me” stories. Redemptive History is God chasing after us, knocking on our door so we too can participate in His history and be used to glorify, worship, honor him so that one more heart can worship and love him and participate in Redemptive History as well. This is how we should view our eternal life fully in Jesus Christ.

God has given us the incredible, precious, gift of life, and we have no idea what we have received. We misuse these gifts to benefit ourselves.

### **What does the Bible say about Redemptive History?**

#### ***The Origin – two families [Genesis 2 and 3]***

In Genesis 2:15-17, God places man into the garden to work in it and commands him not to eat of the one tree of the knowledge of good and evil; he warns him that if he eats it, man would surely die. God wanted us to love him, but also wanted to give us the choice to love him.

In Genesis 3:6, Satan tempts Eve. When she saw that the tree seemed to have good food, it was delightful in her eyes. Just as when we see worldly things, they are a delight to our eyes. When we are left to our senses without God’s Word, we sin. Eve took the *fruit* of the tree and gave it to the man who was with her. The seed of the fruit became the seed of sins in us to produce evil and rebellious fruit in our hearts, lives, and generations.

In Genesis 3:14-15, we can see that from Eve’s eating of the fruit, two offspring were born: Satan’s, and the woman’s. These offspring were separated by God. God declared to Satan that he (the woman’s offspring) will bruise your (Satan’s) head, and you will bruise his heel. This is symbolic of Jesus Christ coming to crush the head of Satan, and Satan bruising the heel of Jesus. The crushing of the head is symbolic of Jesus coming to save us from our sins.

#### ***The Kingdom – two kingdoms [Daniel 2]***

In Daniel 2:31-40, we see that King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and demands his wise men and magicians to tell him the dream, and the interpretation. This was a test to see if their interpretations were valid or not. Nobody could do it. However, Daniel comes along and he praises God, who then gives him the dream and interpretation.

The dream was of a great image with a statue with a frightening appearance. It had a head of fine gold, chest and arms of silver, the middle thigh of bronze, and legs of iron with feet partly iron and partly clay. The interpretation was that each part of the status represented four kingdoms that would come in the history of mankind. After these four human kingdoms, they were not going to last. This is because in the dream, a stone not made by human beings struck the feet of the iron clay and broke them into pieces and they became like chaff, gone from the memories of people.

Not a trace of them could be found. However, the stone that struck the image became a great mountain in all the earth.

The following kingdoms represent the parts of the image:

1. Head of gold: Babylonian Empire [625-539 B.C.]
2. Arms of silver: Medo-Persian Empire [539-331 B.C.]  
This was established by Cyrus and overcome by the Greek empire.
3. Thigh of bronze: Greek Empire [331 – 363 B.C.]  
This was established by Alexander the Great.
4. Roman Empire [63 B.C. – 476 A.D.]  
This was the greatest empire of history.

These four metals represented actual kingdoms in history. Three of them are in the top 10 empires of mankind.

In Luke 20:17-18, we see this same stone being talked about. The stone is Jesus Christ. The stone destroys anything that is of this world. In 1 Peter 2:7-9, we see that the stone is not only going to destroy, but also build a holy kingdom of his people for his own possession. By his mercy we can go to him again and again after we sin. He is expanding his kingdom in and through us.

### ***The Climax – two races [Romans 10]***

In the Old Testament, Jews were a race of God's people. However, once Jesus had come, there was and is no difference between Jews and Gentiles. Everyone who puts their faith in Jesus Christ will be saved. The Old Testament traces the Jews, while the New Testament traces how the Jews are reaching the Gentiles. The two races are differentiated between those who are in Christ and those apart from Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-2 explains how we see in the Old Testament that God spoke to the forefathers through the prophets. Now, God speaks to us through his son, whom he appointed heir of all things. All of humanity is pointing towards Jesus, and we have to be in him to be a part of his family. Though we live in this world, we live as Christians, shining the light of Jesus Christ. We are made to glow, grow, and glorify for Him in our lives. Jesus is the answer to the mystery that existed in humanity. As we live out our lives, we head to one of two destinations.

### ***The Destiny – two places [Revelation 20-22]***

Revelation 20:14 says that a life apart from Christ results in being thrown into the Lake of Fire in hell.

Jesus is coming soon and will bring recompense for everything that has been done. He is the beginning and the end. The two families made up two kingdoms and two races made up Adam the sinner, and the second Adam, Jesus Christ. These destinies last forever.

The centrality of the human race is Jesus Christ. There is a wonderful poem about Jesus:  
“Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He

never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of His divine manhood. While still a young man, the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying—and that was his coat. When he was dead He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life.”

### **Applications: the core values**

#### ***Word***

We need to read, memorize, meditate, and understand the Word of God because the whole Bible is Redemptive History. The more we read, the more we understand and the more we see the Bible. When we read, we see things from His perspective and have the greatest wisdom. We will know how to live through the Word of God.

#### ***Prayer***

We need to pray because even if we know God’s Word, it does not mean we have the power to live it. As we pray, the Word of God is digested in our hearts and becomes incarnate through the essence of our beings. Through our prayers, God gives us everything we need in Jesus Christ so that we can live out our life maximally for His glory. The power that we receive is called grace through the Word and prayer.

#### ***Grace***

God will give you strength and power to live every day for His glory through the Word of God and prayer. One of my favorite passages in the Bible, Lamentations 3:22-23 states that His steadfast love never ceases; His grace and mercy (*hesed* kindness) is new every morning for He is faithful to us. Every morning He gives us grace to live for Him every day. Every day we live out our calling.

#### ***Calling***

There are three spheres: our family, work (school), and local church. These are important because when we make decisions in life we choose based on how these three callings are affected. Ephesians 4, 5, and 6 say that these are daily callings we have every day. We are called to be missionaries by being faithful in all these spheres. By His grace, He gives us power to live faithfully.

***Church***

God uses the church of Jesus Christ to strengthen one another, and expand His kingdom in this world and in our local communities. Always be a part of the local church because we need to do this together through different communities throughout the world. These local churches make up the universal Church of Jesus Christ, which is made up of all the believers from Adam to the last person born on this earth.

***Redemptive history***

Our stories are part of history and Redemptive History.

***Kingdom worker***

God will produce every one of us as Kingdom Workers so that anywhere we go in this world we will be participating in His Redemptive History. As we read and understand, we expand His kingdom and participate in His History.