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Section: Divine Covenants (Covenant Theology)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q56. What is the Covenant of Redemption?**

The Covenant of Redemption is the plan and decree made before creation between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit to graciously redeem the chosen ones from sin and punishment based on the work required of Jesus. All of creation is set in the context of this divine plan.

* **Introduction**

This covenant sets the stage of all of human history and eternity. This is the foundational covenant that everything else comes from and fits into.

* **All of Creation Is Set In the Context of This Divine Plan**

When we understand the **Covenant of Redemption**, the rest of the story of the Bible and eternity can be properly understood as revealed in holy Scripture.

* **What Is the Covenant of Redemption?**
* **Before creation**

**Ephesians 1:3-12**

*“[God] chose us in [Christ]****before the foundation of the world*** *… he* ***predestined*** *us for adoption … according to the purpose of his will … as a plan for the fullness of time…”*

When time did not yet exist, the Covenant of Redemption was unchangeably decreed and covenanted to within the Triune God.

* **Between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit**

All Persons of the Trinity, in unity, accomplish the same goal, having covenanted to the same plan, honoring the same decree.

While particular roles are highlighted in Scripture, we see the unity of the Godhead in the working of all things, including this Covenant of Redemption.

**Isaiah 42:1-7**

* **To graciously redeem the chosen ones from sin and punishment**

This is the specific decree that the Covenant of Redemption is highlighting, namely, the plan of God to redeem—to save—specific people from sin and penalty for Jesus.

* **Redemption from sin and punishment is needed**

It is the plain teaching of Scripture that we are sinners.

**Romans 3:23**

**1689 Confession of Faith:** “God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass ...”

The fall of mankind into sin was not a surprise to God; rather, it was a part of His eternal, wise, and perfect plan.

* **By the grace of God**

The plan is to “…to graciously redeem…”

Outside of a plan/decree/covenant, God doesn’t have to save anyone.

Salvation is by God’s grace alone.

* **This covenant of redeeming grace is for the chosen ones**

God’s plan is to “…to graciously redeem the chosen ones…”

In eternity past, not based on anything in us or that we would do, God chose us—the ones to be saved—the elect.

**Romans 9:15-16** … “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

Election is what it is, because the God who is who He is, covenanted before time what He covenanted.

* **Based on the work required of Jesus**

The whole plan of God hinges upon and is possible because of the eternal Son of God, who covenanted to enter into time, take on flesh, and complete a mission, an assignment, a covenant work.

Jesus had a work to do on which the whole Covenant of Redemption is dependent and focused.

The Covenant of Redemption required work to be done so that the blessings can be received and enjoyed. Christ HAD to perfectly complete His work.

Therefore, the CoR was a **covenant of works** to Jesus.

Jesus is appointed as a representative—a Federal Head.

* **Covenant of Redemption Further Revealed**

**Ephesians 1:3-11**

**2 Timothy 1:8-10 (NASB)**

**John 10:18**

**Acts 4:27-28**

**Isaiah 53:10**

* **Rewards of the Covenant of Redemption**

Consider the rewards offered **to** Christ Jesus in the Covenant of Redemption, in summary, a kingdom and all that is connected to that, is the reward.

In this, all things are given to Christ, all things are made subject to Christ, for Christ has been raised and is seated at the right hand of God.

**Luke 22:29-30** “… I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom …”

The Kingdom is His reward, the Kingdom and all that is within it, including all creatures.

Ultimately, all of this is about His glory. It’s about the one WHO is to be glorified forever… and that is King Jesus. Jesus prayed in John 17, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, … Father, glorify me in your own presence …”

**Revelation 5:11-13**

* **Application**
* **Worship, Sanctification, Evangelism**

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

* **Bible Reading and Interpretation**

We must keep this Covenant of Redemption in mind as we read the Bible.