

Jesus Christ is My Kinsman Redeemer and the Avenger of Blood

Man's Potential Destiny: Gen. 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Ps. 8:4-6 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of [earthborn] man that You care for him? ⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet,

Hebrews 2:6-9 quotes Psalm 8 to demonstrate how Jesus fulfills humanity's intended destiny.

What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him?

⁷ Yet for a little while you made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. And set him over the works of Your hands. ⁸ You have put all things in subjection under his feet. Now in putting all things in subjection to man, He left nothing outside his control. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

⁹ But We See Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels,

for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor,

that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Key: Describes Jesus' incarnation. He temporarily set aside His divine status and

took on human form, including vulnerability to death, to represent mankind [2nd Adam]

Heb. 2:10 For it was fitting for God that He, for whose sake are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the author *and* founder of their salvation perfect through suffering [bringing to maturity the human experience necessary for Him to be perfectly equipped for His office as High Priest].

MacClaren: The Captain who comes to make the soldiers like Himself

can only accomplish His purpose by becoming like the soldiers.

But there is a time limit for this inferiority. The present chain of command is temporary.

- God has a destiny for man that will elevate him to king and priest.

Eph. 2:6 And He raised us up together with Him [when we believed],

and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, [because we are] in Christ Jesus.

Consider: Adam and Eve were "murdered" in the Garden of Eden.

Gen. 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it:

for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Rom. 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and Death By Sin:

and so Death Passed Upon All Men, for that all have sinned:

Key: Adam and Eve were alive but when they sinned, they died spiritually.

From that time on, they were dead in their trespasses and sins.

Rom. 6:16 Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey?

You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death,

or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

John 8:34 "Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin."

➤ When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden they became slaves to the power of Sin.

John 8:43 Jesus turns to the Jewish religious leaders and asks them...

Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.

You are of your father the Devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.

He was a MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature;

for he is a liar, and the father of lies."

Jesus calls Satan a murderer and the time phrase "from the beginning" carries us back to Gen. 3. God's promise of death was fulfilled to the letter when Adam and Eve sinned.

Key: At the moment of disobedience, sin and death entered the world. [Rom. 5:12]

Rom. 6:23a The wages of SIN is DEATH

Satan caused sin to infect the world and deceitfully robbed humanity

of both physical and eternal life. His intent was to murder the human race.

This is what Jesus meant when He said, "He [Satan] was a murderer from the beginning."

This act of murder was not limited to taking someone's physical life, but it extends to all that promotes spiritual death and separation from God.

Before the Fall of man, the earth was under the dominion of Adam and Eve.

Satan crept in the perfect environment and craftily deceived them, tempting them to commit sin, and in effect (to use Jesus' words) "murdered" them "in the beginning." [Gen. 3:1-6+]

Having accomplished his goal, Satan, the great usurper, became the ruler, over the world.

Eph. 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The Result Of The Fall Of Man: Lost the following 4 things.

1) Property God Gave The Earth and Its Dominion To Man:

2) Liberty Man Lost His Freedom Or Liberty At The Fall.

John 8:34 Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

Adam sold himself into slavery to sin and Satan. As children of a slave, we are born into slavery.

3) Life In the Garden of Eden God had warned Adam of the consequences of disobedience:

It's clear: Death Is The Consequence Of Sin: Man lost his life. He died spiritually the very moment he disobeyed God. He ultimately died physically because God expelled him

from the Garden of Eden thus denying him access to the Tree Of Life. [Gen 3:24]

4) Legacy - Ability To Produce Godly Offspring

Gen. 1:27 "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him;
male and female created He them."

Given a commission to multiply and to fill the earth, man fell into sin before he could do so.

Result: Man lost his ability to reproduce seed in God's likeness.

Gen. 5:3 "And Adam ... begot a son in his own likeness, after his image..."

Eph. 2:2 We are brought forth into this world as "children of disobedience."

Phillips: Thus man—created by God as his image-bearer, crowned with glory and honor and dominion—became subject to God's curse even to the point of death. That curse marks mankind even now, with all its frustration and futility. Far from reigning over the creation, each and every one of us instead will return to the dust from which we came. This is the problem of mankind: Paradise lost, and with it the dominion and blessing offered by God.

The problem of history: God's creation of mankind, recorded in Genesis 1:26 and poetically celebrated in Psalm 8, has been spoiled by Adam's sin and the resulting curse of death.

- The answer to the problem is unfolded in the rest of Scripture.

When we see that man's fall into sin and death is the great problem of history, it is easier to see the focus of God's redemptive work in the achievement of Jesus Christ. Someday, this honor and the right to rule over the earth will be restored but not until Jesus our Kinsman Redeemer completes His work of redemption and restoration of creation.

In the New Testament, Jesus is identified as the Ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer & Avenger.

Jesus Christ, Our Kinsman Redeemer:

- Will redeem and restore all that man lost when Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden.

Jesus Christ, Our Blood Avenger, will avenge Adam's "murder."

Jesus as the "goel ha-dam": ultimate Kinsman Redeemer & Blood Avenger:
who redeems humanity and brings judgment.

The Devil became our murderer and also the usurper, who took man's ordained role to rule over the earth. He became a "temporary squatter." Although he was given the right and the might over the whole earth, this dominion was to be temporary and he did not receive the "title deed" of the earth.

In Rev. 5, Jesus, functioning as our Kinsman Redeemer, receives the "title deed" of the earth.

Rev. 5:9-10 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; [Church]

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

In Rev. 20, Jesus, as our Blood Avenger, avenges our murder by punishing our murderer, Satan. Rev. 20:1-3 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,
³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Rev. 20:7-10 And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.⁹ And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.¹⁰ And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- Jesus our KINSMAN-REDEEMER becomes our BLOOD AVENGER.

Ruth 2:12 The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.

Hebrews 6:17-20 God also bound Himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that He would never change His mind.¹⁸ So God has given both His promise and His oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, We Who Have Fled To Him For Refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.¹⁹ This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.

- God has forever anchored our souls safely in heaven.
- Just as an anchor holds a ship steady in a storm, hope in God's promises keeps believers secure amidst life's trials

Christ as Sanctuary: Jesus is the ultimate refuge, providing a sacred space for intimacy, rest, and protection from the "raging wind and tempest".

When Israel entered the Promised Land, God gave them a constant reminder of His salvation.

- A strategically placed group of six cities called the Cities of Refuge.
- 3 on either side of the Jordan River were appointed as cities of refuge.

The six "cities of refuge" were Levitical towns set apart so that anyone who had unintentionally killed another might flee there and be protected from execution by the "avenger of blood" until due process could determine guilt or innocence.

The Cities of Refuge were like islands of holiness among the people, where an accused manslayer could grab onto the promise of mercy offered by a just, yet forgiving God.

The meaning of the individual names of the 6 cities speak of what we have in Christ.

According to Joshua 20:7-8: The Six Cities of Refuge were:

West of the Jordan:

Kedesh - Sanctuary in Galilee in the mountains of Naphtali

Shechem - Shoulder; Strength in Mount Ephraim

Hebron, Kirjath Arba - Fellowship in the mountains of Judah

East of the Jordan:

Bezer - Fortress in the wilderness on the plateau of the tribe of Reuben

Ramoth in Gilead - Highly Exalted in the territory of the tribe of Gad

Golan in Bashan - Rejoicing in the territory of the tribe of Manasseh

Left to ourselves we are all spiritual refugees guilty of taking innocent blood. All humanity bears responsibility for Christ's crucifixion because 100% of human sin necessitated His death, making every person, regardless of time or place, a participant in His sacrifice.

Jesus took our place by acting as a substitute,

bearing the penalty of death and divine judgment for human sin on the cross.

II Cor. 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us,

that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Just as a person could seek refuge in the cities set up for that purpose, we flee to Christ for refuge. We run to Christ to escape the danger we are in from the curse and condemnation of the law, from the wrath of God, and from an eternity in hell.

Just as the cities were open to all who fled to them for safety,

it is Christ who provides safety to all who come to Him for refuge from sin and its punishment.

Removal of Condemnation:

Rom. 8:1 Because Jesus paid the debt in full, those in Christ are no longer condemned.

Belief: The cities of refuge are intentionally listed in a specific order.

All men must first go to Jesus as their refuge to be set apart.

Josh. 20:7a So they set apart and consecrated Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali,

#6942 - qadash: To consecrate, sanctify, set apart, make holy

~ 175 occurrences, the verb anchors the Old Testament theology of

holiness and lays the groundwork for New Testament teaching on sanctification.

➤ The words holy, consecrate, and sanctify all mean "set apart"

Kedesh = Holy Place Or Sanctuary: Consecrated, Set Apart: To Sanctify

Truth: When I come to faith in and seek refuge in Jesus Christ, I am born again.

➤ It's foundational to be clear on your identity as a child of God.

Col. 1:13-14 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,

and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son:

In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

II Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:

old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ: it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.

The *life* I now live in the body I live by faith [by adhering to, relying on, and completely trusting] in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. [AMP]

Gal. 4:5b that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Rom. 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;

if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

I Cor. 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: Therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

- Divine Indwelling: The Holy Spirit lives within believers, making the physical body a sacred space.
- Ownership: Because believers were bought with the price of Christ's sacrifice, their bodies are not their own but belong to God

Rom. 12:1-2 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. [Because of His mercy] Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. [NLT]

²And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values], so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you]. [Amplified]

- You should be able to discern God's plan and purpose for you.

Set Apart For God: This concept is deeply rooted in God's Word.

It speaks to the idea of consecration, holiness, and the separation of believers from the world for God's divine purpose.

- This "set-apart" status is not isolation, but a purposeful, sanctified life

Rom. 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

I Thess. 4:3a For this is the will of God, even your sanctification,

- To sanctify something is to set it apart or consecrate it for special use or purpose
- State of separation unto God
- To sanctify a believer is to make him holy.

Key: All believers enter a state of separation when they are born again.

I Cor. 1:30 But it is from Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us

- wisdom from God revealing His plan of salvation and
- righteousness making us acceptable to God and
- sanctification making us holy and setting us apart for God and
- redemption providing our ransom from the penalty for sin.

Heb. 10:10 For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.

Note: This sanctification is a once-forever-separation of believers unto God.

Key: This is my state of holiness before God. It is my positional sanctification. My justification.

- Positionally, I am holy.

This is a work God performs. It is an integral part of our salvation and connection with Christ.

Progressive Sanctification: This is the ongoing, lifelong, and cooperative work of the Holy Spirit, which transforms a person's behavior to match their new, holy position in Christ.



Our sanctification is fully dependent on:

- the Father for holiness belongs to God
- the Son's Sacrifice sets us apart
- the Holy Spirit's Work in and through us

The same Spirit who calls us to Christ and empowers us to serve also transforms us to reflect Christ more and more.

Progressive or Experiential Sanctification is the effect of obedience to God's Word in my life.

II Pet. 3:18 Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is an exhortation to continuous spiritual development, rather than remaining stagnant in faith.

Key: Progressive sanctification is to be pursued earnestly by the believer.

Heb. 12:14 Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

Embrace The Call to Holiness

I Thess. 4:7 For God has not called us to uncleanness, but unto holiness.

I Pet. 1:15-16 But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation [conduct]: ¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Eph. 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Has God chosen people to be placed in Christ or has God chosen individuals who are in Christ?

Has God predetermined people to be in Christ or

has God chosen a predetermined end for those who are in Christ?

Ephesians 1: "He chose us to be in Christ" or "He chose us in Christ?"

Eph. 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are at Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: [NASB]

Paul's audience is "the faithful in Christ Jesus."

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

- Everything God has for the believer is in Christ. Your position is in Christ.

Key: Just as...He now lists the spiritual blessings for those in Christ in v.4-14

Eph. 1:4 According as He hath chosen [elect] us [the faithful in Christ] in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be Holy And Without Blame BEFORE Him in love:

Question: Does Paul mean that God has chosen certain individuals to believe before they were born? OR

Has God chosen whoever is in Him by faith to be holy and blameless? [predetermined end]

This passage is not about God predetermining which individuals will be in Christ and which will not. It is about God predetermining what will become of those who are in Christ through faith.

Predestination is not about God causing someone to believe while passing by the rest.

It is about the destiny God has set for those who are IN HIM. It is set beforehand.

Key Point: Those IN CHRIST are predestined to be holy and blameless.

Key: Being chosen is connected to purpose: priesthood, worship, witness.

Embrace the Life of Purposeful Separation

II Tim.2:21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these *things* [which are dishonorable—disobedient, sinful], he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified [set apart for a special purpose and], useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. [Amplified]

- Of all the vessels God can choose to serve His most sacred purposes, He is searching, examining, and selecting those who have willfully undergone the testing process of purity, separation, and sanctification.

Col. 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

- a deliberate choice to align our thoughts, desires, and actions with God's Word.

Embrace a New Sacred Identity

I Pet. 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- With our status as royal priesthood, comes direct access to our God.

Set Apart Through Obedience

I Pet. 1:13-14 So prepare your minds for action, be completely sober [in spirit—steadfast, self-disciplined, spiritually and morally alert], fix your hope completely on the grace [of God] that is coming to you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Live as obedient children [of God]; do not be conformed to the evil desires which governed you in your ignorance [before you knew the requirements and transforming power of the good news regarding salvation].

Embrace a Life of Sanctification

II Cor. 7:1 Because we have these promises, dear friends,

let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit.

And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God. [NLT]

Perfecting holiness in the fear of God: This does not mean achieving sinless perfection instantly, but rather the continuous, lifelong process of becoming more like Christ [sanctification] motivated by deep reverence and awe for God.

In Greek it means bringing a matter through every necessary stage until it stands fully accomplished. What is begun under God must be carried through to a God-honoring finish.

- What God begins is precious and progress is essential.
- Completion brings glory to the One who works all things according to His perfect will.

Boyd Bailey: Spiritual maturity comes over time. It is forged on the anvil of adversity, taught at the hearth of humility and received at the gate of God's grace. True spiritual maturity leads others to love God and obey His commands.

Being conformed to the image of Christ is a transformative, often painful process that involves sharing in the "fellowship of His sufferings" [Phil 3:10] to produce spiritual maturity and future glory. God uses all circumstances, including trials and afflictions that test our faith and fortitude, to conform believers to the likeness of His Son.

- Purposeful Suffering: Suffering is not accidental; it is used by God to cultivate character, hope, and dependence on Him.
- Fellowship with Christ: This involves experiencing trials, persecution, and "being conformed to His death," which allows the life of Jesus to be seen in the believer's body.
- Preparation for Glory: The present, temporary afflictions are producing an eternal weight of glory, aligning with the pattern of Christ's suffering before resurrection.

- Crucifying the Flesh: It requires dying to self and the old life, which is a painful, often daily process.

We learn to view our trials through a lens of hope, recognizing that they serve a purpose in God's divine plan for our lives. I Peter 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

J.C. Ryle: Trials, to speak plainly, is the instrument by which our Father in heaven makes Christians more holy. By trial, He calls out their passive graces and proves whether they can suffer His will as well as do it. He weans them from the world, draws them to Christ, drives them to the Bible and prayer, shows them their own hearts and makes them humble. This is the process by which He purges them and makes them more fruitful.

C.S. Lewis: *The holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness which remains in him.*

We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit and mature into the "fullness of Christ." This is an impossibility for us to achieve in our own strength, wisdom, or power.

Embrace The Power Of The Holy Spirit

II Tim. 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

The Holy Spirit brings believers:

- into the fullness of Christ by indwelling them,
- enabling a continuous, daily transformation into His image, and
- facilitating communion with God.

This process involves replacing fleshly desires with the Fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, and peace—and empowering believers to live in obedience.

Phil. 3:14-15a I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature [pursuing spiritual perfection] should have this attitude.

The first city of refuge, Kedesh, illustrates when we first come to Christ.

We are a new creation set apart with a new identity and purpose. As we yield in obedience to the power of the Holy Spirit, we begin to experience our position in Christ.

We become a sacred, dwelling place for God.

Stay focused. Be zealous. Be diligent. Follow God's plan and purpose for you.