

What is my identity? - Daniel Bishop

12 Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. **13** He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **14** in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

COLOSSIANS Chapter 1 verses 12-14

- **Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us:** The Greek word used for Qualified is *hikanoo* - according to the Strong's (G2427) means 'to enable / qualify or make able'. It was the Lord God who enabled the redemption plan and He was the only one able to reconcile man to God.
- **To be partakers of the inheritance of the saints:** Once we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we receive an inheritance. We have not earned it or deserve it. It is a free gift from God
- **He has delivered us from the power of darkness:** Christians have been **delivered** from Satan's power. The word has the idea of a rescue by a sovereign power.
- Another place where this same phrase **power of darkness** is used is in **Luke 22.53**, - Jesus said **When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness.**
- Jesus defeated the power of darkness at the cross and delivered us from the power of Satan, amen!
- **And conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love:** the word **conveyed** in Greek *metistemi* (Strong's G3179) had a special significance in the ancient world. When one empire conquered another, the custom was to take the population of the defeated empire and transfer it completely to the conqueror's land. We see this when Israel was taken to Babylon.
- **1 chronicles 9.1** **So all Israel was enrolled by genealogies; and behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel. And Judah was carried away into exile to Babylon for their unfaithfulness.**
- **Conveyed** is also where we get the word - *conveyancing* from. If you have ever sold a house, you will have heard this legal word. Conveyancing is defined as 'the legal transfer of property from one owner to another'.
- Paul is using this word to illustrate the 'legality' of what occurred when we got saved - It is in this sense that Paul says: 'we have been conveyed into God's Kingdom'. Everything we were has gone and we are now in Christ and have a new home and identity. **We have been conveyed into the Kingdom of the Son of His love. Amen!**
- **The Son of His love In whom we have redemption through His blood: Redemption**, another big word ! has the idea of release by a legal ransom. The price for our release was paid by the blood of Jesus.

The Greek word for redemption is *apolytrolos* which means 'a ransom paid in full' or 'to take back that which was taken by paying a ransom' (Strong's G629).

- The Oxford Dictionary describes the word **redemption** as: 'the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt.'

- What does that mean? Let me give you a visual demonstration of what it means to redeem something. Here is a picture of my son, I love him very much. When I saw him for the first time when he was born, I cried and loved him the moment I saw him. I would be willing to do what ever it took to keep him safe. Now if someone took him from me, I would be incensed and I would never tolerate being separated from him. So much so that I would pay whatever price was asked to get him back. If I pay the ransom price and then take him back, I have redeemed him [**I have taken back that which was originally mine in the first place**].

- The Gospel is the largest ever redeeming rescue mission the world has ever known. Nothing comes close! God made man in His image to walk with man in the garden. To commune with him for all time. God didn't just make man from the dust but he breathed into his nostrils face to face.

Yet man sinned in the garden and as such, was condemned. However, the Almighty initiates immediately the largest rescue plan to redeem man back to God. **Genesis 3.15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head!** Referring to the Lord Jesus bruising Satan's head.

Then, the Almighty becomes flesh and enters the world and was bruised by His own creation. Spat on, kicked, punched, beaten and crucified because of Love.

Why did Jesus have to die? Because **without the shedding of blood is no remission of sin**. A perfect, sinless blood ransom had to be paid. No man was or could be worthy to pay the blood ransom. Only the creator of all things was worthy. The Lord Jesus was willing to take our punishment for sin on the cross to redeem us back to Him because of Love.

Revelation 5 says:

¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. ⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." ⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. ⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

**"You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,**

GOD'S PROMISES *for* YOUR KINGDOM INHERITANCE

WE ARE A REDEEMED PEOPLE. AMEN! Jesus is worthy and He took our punishment and our debt because even when we were still sinners, Christ died for us, the ungodly.

In summary verses 14-19 say to us:

What is my / our identity? The world asks itself a huge question who am I?

Who am I?. **Colossians** tells us '*who I am*' and '*who you are*' if you are born again.

- **I / We have been qualified to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light**
- **I / We have been delivered from the power of darkness**
- **I / We have been conveyed into the Kingdom of the Son of His love**
- **I / We have redemption through His blood**
- **I / We have forgiveness of sin**

That is who we are in Christ. We are sons of the Most High God and our identity is NOT our jobs / our family name / our reputation / our education.

Our identity is Yeshua Christ Jesus, Amen!!

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BRIDGE LANE
LONDON - UK