

THE KINSMAN-REDEEMER

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ... ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-3,14

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:14-17

I. The need for a kinsman-redeemer

- A. A kinsman-redeemer was someone who redeemed what was lost. This could be the other person's property, their freedom, or even their name.
- B. The law of the kinsman-redeemer is given in Leviticus 25:23–34, and the law governing levirate marriage is found in Deuteronomy 25:5-10. The purpose of these laws was to

preserve the name, and protect the property, of families in Israel.

C. The kinsman-redeemer, as Goel, might be called upon to exact revenge on someone who may have killed their relative.

II. The qualifications of a kinsman-redeemer / Four requirements

A. You had to be kin. There had to be an actual relational tie; you had to be of the same kind.

B. You had to be willing. If the person was not willing, they could not be forced to redeem another.

C. You had to be able to redeem. Willingness alone wasn't enough. If you didn't have the financial means to pay the redemption, then you could not be the kinsman-redeemer.

D. You had to pay the full price. Unless the complete price was paid, there was no redemption.

III. Christ our kinsman-redeemer / Jesus met all the requirements necessary to be our kinsman-redeemer.

A. Christ became like us, because the kinsman-redeemer was to be of like kind. "This would require the infinite God assuming human flesh. (John 1:1,14)

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B. He was willing to do it! Jesus is a loving and willing redeemer. (Philippians 2:5-8; John 10:18)

[Phl 2:5-8 NIV] ⁵ *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death-- even death on a cross!*

[Jhn 10:18 NIV] ¹⁸ *“No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”*

- C. Jesus was able to redeem. Willingness alone, without the ability to redeem, would mean no redemption at all.
(Romans 5:18,19)

¹⁸ *Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

- D. Jesus paid the complete price for our redemption.
(Titus 2:14)

¹⁴ *who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*