

REDEEMER

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"Our Redeemer, the Lord of hosts is His name, The Holy One of Israel." Isaiah 47:4 (NASB)

To redeem something denotes to buy out or purchase - such as a slave with a view to his freedom.

The idea of redemption in the Old Testament takes its start from the thought of property. From the start the word "redemption" throughout the Old Testament is used in the general sense of deliverance. God is the Redeemer of Israel in the sense that He is the Deliverer of Israel.

In the New Testament, the idea of redemption has more a suggestion of ransom. Men are held under the curse of the law, or of sin itself. The Redeemer purchases their deliverance by offering Himself as payment for their redemption. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our, trespasses, according to the riches of His grace." Ephesians 1:7 Christ is Man's Redeemer, purchased plainly by His blood, "Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited

from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ." 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NASB)

"...and all flesh will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob." Isaiah 49:26 (NASB)

The message of this banner is the humanity of Christ. As our redeemer He paid for our sins by His death on the cross. To depict this humanity the fabrics are plain and not brilliant like would be used to denote His Deity.

The dominating brown cross runs through the center of the banner. The lettering on the cross is a fabric, which shows different color when moved in the light. There is some black, which denotes mourning and is a sign of humiliation; and green, which signifies growth; and gold which is symbolic of purity and righteousness.

The crown of thorns is sewn in green and brown. Brown is associated with sorrow representing uncleanness, which depicts us living in our sin. Green is for freshness, vigor and growth, which signify our life after we live for our Redeemer. These two colors are woven together. How often do we go back and forth in our sin life and come back to our Savior with new freshness. Pearls are symbolic of suffering, so there are tiny pearls sewn into the crown as a reminder of the suffering Christ did for us as He wore the crown of thorns.

The red jewels represent the blood our precious Lord shed to pay for our redemption that we might have life eternal.

"May the word of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." Psalm 19:14 (NASB)