

# Shalom Messianic Congregation

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The Authority of Jesus



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## INTRODUCTION

Philippians 2:10–11

*<sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth <sup>11</sup> And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (KJV).*

In this verse from Philippians it says that the three realms of existence will bow down to Him. The three realms are:

Heavenly beings-who love and know who He is.

Earthly beings- who have a choice to know and love Him or not.

Demonic beings-who know who He is but do not love Him

Those who realize who Jesus is and love him, also adore, worship, and bow down to His majesty. Heavenly or celestial beings knew who Jesus was before He appeared on the earth. This is described in chapters 4 and 5 of the book of Revelation. In chapter four the throne room of God the Father is described, and the main focus is God who is sitting on the throne. Also present in the throne room of God are the Seven Spirits, the twenty-four Elders and the four living creatures, also known as the Cherubim. Whereas in chapter four the central character was God the Father, in chapter five it is God the Son, and He is called “a Lamb”, and “the Lamb” (Revelation 5:6,8,12,13). There are also millions of angels who have entered the throne room that weren’t there or described in chapter four. At the beginning of chapter five, it did not appear that anyone was qualified to open “a book written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals” (which is the title deed to the earth) held in the right hand of God the Father (Revelation 5:1). It is a sealed document, rolled like a scroll that requires the seals to be broken as it is opened and unrolled. The lack of anyone meeting the qualifications required to take the command to open the book implies that one must at least be deity-worthy. It is finally realized that because of Christ’s sacrifice (which has fulfilled the Law), He is worthy to open the book. As God the Son, He fulfills the deity quality and receives the legal right to carry out the Great Tribulation on earth.

## THE GOEL

The Old Testament contains important information for us to know in order to truly understand why Christ is the only one qualified to receive the title deed book to the earth and start the Great Tribulation. He is the Goel for all believers on earth from the time of Adam and Eve right through into the future when the Great Tribulation begins. What is the Goel? Goel is the Hebrew word for redeemer. The verb form means “to redeem, act as kinsman-redeemer, avenge, revenge, ransom, do the part of a kinsman” (Strong’s Concordance, number 1350). Note the word “kinsman”, it modifies the word “redeemer” as

being one in which there is a blood relationship, or one who is tied to the redeemer role in the closest possible way.

Based on Old Testament Law, the Goel as a noun is the one who acts in the role of the kinsman redeemer, and there are three instances where Jesus Christ qualifies as the Goel, and these instances are described in the Old Testament Law (also called the Mosaic Law).

#### HE IS THE GOEL AS OUR AVENGER OF BLOOD.

Within the Mosaic penal code was the principle of retribution for murder. It is different than vengeance. Vengeance belongs to God. Vengeance is killing someone because you hate him or her or because they have harmed you in some way. That's not what God allows. The only thing He allows (in one narrow sense) is if somebody killed a family member, the nearest kinsman that is a brother could be the avenger of blood and was justified in killing the manslayer in retaliation for their taking the life of one of the immediate family – particularly another brother. For example under the Mosaic Law, if a male Hebrew had a brother who was killed by another person, the living brother had the legal right to avenge the death by killing the manslayer, but only if it was first degree or premeditated murder.

The Mosaic Law did provide for legal retaliation. Later the Romans called it “Lex Talionis” and it is the legal principle upon which retaliation was justified. Even our legal system has it today, but the individual does not go off and kill somebody. They present the case to our court system that has a systematic way of dealing with the issue. As a believer you could forgive the person, but the manslayer is still responsible for what they did. The Mosaic Law gave the following directions for the kinsman redeemer acting as the avenger of blood:

The willful murderer was to be put to death, without permission or compensation, by the nearest kin of the deceased. In this narrow sense the blood avenger was limited to only killing the manslayer if the crime was first degree, or premeditated murder (Deuteronomy 19:11-13).

The law of retaliation (Lex Talionis) was not to go beyond the immediate offender (2 Kings 14:6; 2 Chronicles 25:4). In other words, there were a lot of things the avenger of blood could not do. For example, he could not go out and kill the manslayer's family, or he could not steal all the manslayer's money.

If the individual committed second degree murder, or manslaughter, then he could flee from the blood avenger and take refuge in one of the Cities of Refuge (Numbers 35; Deuteronomy 19:2-9). Note the interesting aspect of that - he could stay there without harm and be protected until the High Priest died. But, if he left before the High Priest died, then he was subject to being killed by the blood avenger if the avenger was still nearby looking for him. When the High Priest died, then the blood avenger lost his legal right to kill the manslayer for murdering his kinsman.

There are important parallels to Jesus who is our High Priest, but also our Goel, the avenger of blood. He died so that we can be redeemed from the spiritual (and sometimes physical) death that results from our sins. All sin leads to death, which of us is not guilty of sin? (See Romans 8 for an extensive discussion of why we are saved from death because of our sins by believing in Jesus as our Savior.) Remember, Satan brought sin and death into this world. Satan committed premeditated, first-degree murder by taking both the spiritual and physical life of Adam and Eve, and of every human being born since the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve would have lived forever if they had not been tempted to sin by Satan. Because Jesus the Son was born as a human baby (which makes Him our brother), He is our kinsman and the avenger of blood for all who believe. He will completely destroy Satan who is the “manslayer “ of the human race. When Jesus died, if you believe in Him as your Savior, you are released from the death penalty of sin, just like the one who was able to flee to a City of Refuge and then able to go free after the death of the High Priest. So Jesus Christ fulfills the role of the High Priest and the blood avenger. It’s awesome to see how this works out!

#### HE IS OUR GOEL IN THE LAW OF LEVIRATE MARRIAGE

Moses gave clear instructions for the Law of Levirate Marriage (Deuteronomy 25:5-10). The idea was to carry on the family line of the individual that died within the nation Israel. Essentially, the Law of the Levirate marriage was this: If a married brother dies with no male offspring, it would be his closest surviving brother’s obligation to marry the deceased’s widow. The widow was unable to go out and marry a stranger. That was against the law. The firstborn son of this union took the surname of the deceased thus continuing the deceased’s name in the family register so that it might not perish out of the nation of Israel. This action labeled the surviving brother as the kinsman redeemer, the first instance of two in which this title is used. (The second use of kinsman redeemer is in regards to redeeming property of a near relative, and will be covered in the next section.)

If a brother did not wish to take his deceased brother’s wife as his own, she had the right to legally cite him for rejecting the marriage before the city elders (the decision makers). This required the woman and the brother-in-law to go to the center of the city square where the city elders were to be found, and the brother-in-law would remove his sandal, which signified that he gave up all claim to the deceased brother’s estate. If he were to marry her, he got the brother’s estate. If he did not carry out the law, she could spit in his face. Spitting in someone’s face was an act of humiliation and it still is today.

We see this Levirate law in action in the story of Judah and Tamar in Genesis chapter 38. In summary this is what happened: Onan was one of Judah’s sons. Onan dies without any children and Tamar his wife comes to her father-in-law Judah and says, “I need a husband.” Judah had one more son who was a youth, and Judah says, “I’ll give you him when he’s old enough.” And she says, “OK, I’ll wait”, but Judah never gave her that son. So what the Lord did was to bring Tamar to Judah some years later, dressed as a prostitute and enticed him into a sexual relationship. Before she would have intercourse with him, he said, “What do you want for payment?” She said, “Why don’t you give me your signet ring and your staff in the mean time, until you come back and give me what I am owed.” Judah agrees to do that, they have intercourse, and Judah returns to his home. But when he sends his friend

to find her with the agreed payment, she is not there. Three months later, she is pregnant and the word goes out that Tamar has been having intercourse outside of marriage and she's now pregnant. Judah is the man of retribution and demands "Who is she to do this? Under the law she needs to be stoned to death." So they bring Tamar before him but he doesn't recognize her as the harlot he had intercourse several months ago. He asks her "How could you do this?" She holds up his jewelry and staff and said she was pregnant "by this man." Obviously Judah is not willing to let the situation go any farther, and realizes he was the one who had committed the wrong against her by not following through on his promise to have her married to Onan's brother. Tamar had twin boys, one of whom was Perez. It was through Perez that the family line was kept flowing through the generations leading to the birth of the Lord Jesus. This subterfuge and dishonesty could have been avoided if Judah honored the law of Levirate marriage. But Judah did not honor the Law, and the Lord intervened to keep the family line alive that would produce our Lord. The Law of Levirate Marriage and how relates to Christ as our redeemer is also explained in the book of Ruth, which is covered in the next section in more detail.

#### HE IS OUR GOEL AS THE KINSMAN REDEEMER

To redeem means to "buy back", "to take from", and "to make right." In addition to the Goel being the blood avenger, and the redeemer in the Levirate Marriage, Moses also gave the following instructions for the Goel to redeem property of a relative (Leviticus 25:23-28; 48-49). In the case of redeeming property, the redeemer was also called the kinsman redeemer. Land is very important to the Jews, and the Promised Land is extremely important. The property given to the Jews that encompassed the Promised Land was to be their permanent possess because it is God's permanent possession:

Leviticus 25:23

*<sup>23</sup>"The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you [Israel] are but aliens and sojourners with Me (KJV)."*

Within the Nation of Israel provision was made for a poor person to sell their property, or himself into slavery for seven years to someone else instead of paying them money. However, they always had the ability to buy the property or themselves back if they came into enough money to pay the original debt. It's a different system of real estate than what we have; it's more like a tenant-leaser relationship. Even within the tribes, if the property was moving from one tribe to another, the original owner never lost it. They held a permanent deed to the property and in essence when they "sold" the property they were getting a "lease-hold" arrangement wherein they were giving up the land for some temporary money. There were specific practices to be followed so this would be worked out (Leviticus 25:50-55). One could sell their property, and ideally if the nearest of kin had the willingness and the ability to buy it back, their nearest of kin could buy it back for them.

Leviticus 25:25

*<sup>25</sup>"If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold. (KJV)"*

It is the Goel, the same person that can perform the Levirate marriage, who can take somebody out of slavery and redeem land. In this case, the kinsman redeemer was essentially a rich benefactor. If a family member was forced into slavery, his redeemer purchased his freedom. When debt threatened to overwhelm him, the kinsman stepped in to redeem the family member's homestead and let the family live.

In terms of redeeming land, there were specific instructions to be followed to determine the cost paid by the redeemer. The redeemer did not pay more than the original price, and the number of years that the property had been in the possession of other person was taken off the redeeming price to determine the value of the property. In the case of family members selling themselves into slavery to pay off a debt, the price was affected by the remaining years left of the original seven years of indenture. Usury or interest was not to be charged amongst the Jews at all. At the end of seven 7-year cycles ( $7 \times 7 = 49$  years), the fiftieth year is called the Jubilee Year, and all land went back to the original tribe that owned it, no matter who owed what now.

We see the concept of the Kinsman-Redeemer or Goel acted out in the book of Ruth. Elimelech, was a Jewish man who sold his land and moved his wife, Naomi, and their two sons to Moab to live since there was an extreme famine in the land of Israel. In Moab both of his sons married a gentile woman, and one of them was named Ruth. Jewish men were not to marry out of the faith but this story has a purpose. In time, Elimelech, and both his sons died. Naomi and her daughter's-in-laws had lost their husbands, and now they were all widows. Naomi tells her daughter-in-laws to return to their families in Moab, however Ruth wants to stay with her because she loves Naomi and does not want to leave her. Ruth tells Naomi:

Ruth 1:16-17

*<sup>16</sup>"Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.<sup>17</sup>"Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me (KJV)."*

Naomi had become bitter over her situation, and decides to return to Israel since the famine had abated, and Ruth goes with her. They travel back to the Bethlehem, the hometown of Naomi and her husband. Ruth meets Boaz, a relative of Naomi's husband while gleaning grain in his field. She tells Naomi of the kindness Boaz had shown her. Naomi realizes a union with Boaz is a way for Ruth to have a family and be happy. She also knows of the kinsman redeemer directions in the Mosaic Law. So she instructed Ruth in what to do, and how to set in motion the kinsman redeemer responsibility to activate the Goel's responsibility to redeem her dead husband's land and marry Ruth. Ruth does as Naomi instructed, and Boaz is receptive to the idea but realizes there is another man who is a closer kin than Boaz to Naomi's dead husband, Elimelech. Boaz approaches this relative about redeeming the land for Naomi. The relative agreed to buy the land back until he found out that Ruth, a gentile woman he would also have to marry, came with the package. In Israel, that was forbidden – the Jews did not marry Gentiles. If they did, there was going to be a lot

of problems for them socially. They were going to be outcasts unless that person converted. It still would be a tough marriage because the Jews would always view them as being an “outsider” even if they converted. The nearer kinsman backs out, because he felt this redemption was going to harm his inheritance, and agrees to let Boaz assume the kinsman redeemer role for the family of Elimelech. Boaz now becomes the nearest of kin and he has the privilege of redeeming Naomi’s land and Ruth with it. So he marries Ruth and he takes the land.

In summary, Boaz was nearest of kin to her deceased husband (Ruth 2:1). He was able to redeem by paying the price of redemption (Ruth 2:1), and he was willing to redeem the land (Ruth 4:4). Boaz was to become the kinsman redeemer, or the Goel. It’s a beautiful love story too, but the central thread through this is showing us the role of the kinsman redeemer. Boaz, whose name is on one of the pillars of the Temple, became foundational in the family line that would bring the Lord Jesus Christ’s body into the world. That is what makes this story so beautiful. This story is a picture of the Christ and His Church.

What did Christ do? The Church is the gentile Bride of Christ. He brought the Gentiles into the Church. Christ is a Jew. The Jews and the Gentiles are one in the Church. Christ is our Goel, our Kinsman Redeemer. That’s one of the reasons why he qualifies to take this title deed book to the earth back.

## CONCLUSION

Because He’s the only one who’s truly “worthy”, He takes the title deed of the earth from God the Father:

Revelation 5:8

*<sup>8</sup> And when he had taken the book, the four living creatures and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints (KJV).*

Now we see the celestial beings and the elders (raptured Church) bowing down before Him. They are holding the repository of the saint’s prayers that are waiting to be acted upon by God. God treats our prayers seriously, and they go directly to the Throne Room of God where God will act upon them.

Revelation 5:13-14

*13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever (KJV).*

This chapter of Revelation closes with the three realms of creation bowing down to Him. The creatures in Heaven, on the earth and under the earth all acknowledge Him by bowing

down and confessing His name. While He was on this earth the demons also knew who He was:

Matthew 8:28-34

*<sup>28</sup> And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with demons, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. <sup>29</sup> And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? <sup>30</sup> And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. <sup>31</sup> So the demons besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. <sup>32</sup> And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters. <sup>33</sup> And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the demons. <sup>34</sup> And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts (KJV).*

All in Heaven, on earth and under the earth will bow down to Him and confess His name. Only those on the earth have the choice to do it now while it is still today. The other realms are already bowing down to Him. Those who do not accept His Lordship today will when they meet Him face-to-face.

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