

The Names of God XIII: YHWH Yasha, Jesus the Savior and Redeemer Part 2.
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Les Miserables

“[No] matter what a waste one has made of one's life, it is ever possible to find some path to redemption, however partial.”— **Charles Frazier, Cold Mountain**

Salvation is rescue from certain doom, redemption is putting a broken situation right.



In the classic novel, Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, Jean Valjean's journey of pain to redemption is because he tried to be a savior. He was sent to prison and hard labor for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his starving nephew. After his failed attempt to be a savior to his nephew, his soul was hardened by the pain of incarceration and while serving his time he faked his death, escaped, and on his journey a friendly priest took him in, though he was an ex-convict in destitute poverty. He assaulted, battered, and stole from the priest. When confronted by police for his crime, the priest wouldn't testify against him but claimed that he'd given him the silverware he'd stolen and brought silver candlesticks and said, "You forgot these." After the police left them, the priest told Valjean, "With these candlesticks I have purchased your soul for God." Valjean walked away seemingly not phased by the priest's kindness. However upon the road he had an attack of repentance and wept from the depth of his soul for mistreating the priest and saw his depravity. He began a new journey on the road to redemption. He made it his life's purpose to serve others with his soul that the priest had purchased for God.

After his repentance, he served his fellow man well, though living under an alias. He succeeded in business, became mayor of his town, used his wealth for good. He discovered that his manager had fired a former employee that had an illegitimate daughter. She was forced into prostitution, and was dying of illnesses. He regretted what his manager did, he didn't know about it. He promised to care for the daughter, Cosette. He had great physical strength. When he was mayor, He lifted a laden cart off a man, saving his life. When a prisoner he had lifted a ship's rigging off a sailor when doing hard labor building a port. Meanwhile, when the justice obsessed policeman, Javert, saw his feat of strength in lifting the cart, he remembered Valjean saving the sailor and was sure that only Valjean could be that strong and was ready to arrest him. Another man claimed to be Valjean and Javert arrested him instead.

The real Valjean told the truth about himself and turned himself in to let the man off, but asked for time to help Cosette get taken care of. Javert said, "No!" So Valjean had to flee so that he could care for Cosette. Upon his journey of fleeing justice he was a savior to those who were helpless along the way, and he raised the orphan he'd pledged to care for. However, with his own past never resolved he was in need of redemption. During the French revolution events led to where Javert caught up to him, but rebels cornered Javert intending to kill the policeman. Valjean saved Javert's life though Javert would still arrest and imprison Valjean. Then Javert, not understanding such mercy over judgment, committed suicide. When things should finally go well, his darling Cosette and her fiance misunderstood and shunned him to a life of loneliness. Only when they found out

things that really happened then did they return to a sick and dying Valjean. They ask if they should call a priest and he looks above and says, "My priest awaits me."

Clive Barker stated in **Days of Magic, Nights of War**, "Any fool can be happy. It takes a man with real heart to make beauty out of the stuff that makes us weep."

Victor Hugo's tale of Valjean is more than an epic of a life of adversity but the story of a man who lived in the triumph of a tested heart. For myself, Les Miserables is the second greatest story and the second greatest book I've ever read. For me of course the greatest story is the thread of salvation and redemption that runs throughout the entire Bible, the greatest book I've ever read. Beyond the powerful and strong Valjean, the eternal salvation and redemption He worked required power that no strongman ever had.

We must understand Jesus as God's name for the savior and also to know that attached to God's name as Savior is the title of redeemer. Jesus, God as savior and redeemer.

An angel told Joseph to take Mary as his wife, "***She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins***" (Matthew 1:21).

Probably, though the Bible or any other document doesn't say so, Jesus' name in Hebrew was Yahoshua/Joshua, and in Aramaic, the language Jews spoke in Israel in His time, Yeshua means, "Yahweh saves."

Many who've known Jesus as savior must come to know Him as redeemer for those who have left the savior for a less meaningful existence, and have fallen into too much of what makes one weep. There are many who have been raised in a believing home, some who once were certain that they believed in the Lord, but wandered. Life may unravel, spiritual hunger may almost disappear, and other pursuits take the place of pursuing God. Though He is savior, they need restoration or redemption of life's meaning, purpose, and restoring order to one's world.

In this study about Jesus, Savior, the meaning of His name but also, to extend it to **Jesus the redeemer** from the text of Isaiah 60:16, "***and you shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.***" I've come to the conviction, that everyone is helpless in sin and needs Jesus as savior, but many who have known Him as savior or *known of* Him as savior are in a unique place where He is crouching at their door to become their redeemer at the slightest whisper of their recognition and willingness to call upon Him. And for those who want redemption, He has the power to work it out.

Redeemer

There are those who have had a relationship with the savior and have wandered from Him, abandoned Him, or gave up with Him. All of us need a savior but to live out the life of a saved person, we also need a redeemer. A redeemer restores what was once lost and makes right what is wrong. Redemption is an old and ancient word and concept. The lost soul that needs a savior and the wandered soul that needs a redeemer must discover or rediscover God. Many believe in God, but don't always believe in His redeeming power to put things right for them. It means that lots of saved people are living unredeemed, powerless lives.

The Redeemer and His redemption is for the person who has accepted Jesus Christ, because all have and can wander. God's name is Savior in Jesus, but as Isaiah 60:16 declared, He is also the redeemer.

As Redeemer in the Old Testament, He avenges wrongs, frees from slavery, provides

resurrection, ransoms captivity, and gets His people out of trouble.

In the New Testament as Redeemer He pays the ransom to forgive sin and removes curses and generational sin. And He promises to use His mighty power to make it happen in real time for those who want it.

It is important for those who know Yahweh Yasha (who has saved) also know Him as redeemer.

1 . The Old Testament Redeemer right wrongs, frees from slavery, keeps a family alive and rescues from trouble.

The redeemer is an ancient and deep concept in scripture, in Hebrew it is the *goel*, or, “the redeeming one.” Because the redeeming one was usually a family member, often English bibles translate *goel* as “close relative” or “kinsman redeemer.” In ancient Israel, one had to redeem one of his own when they were in a troubled situation taking what was a disaster and putting it right. The title of, “redeemer” is most often used for God.

Avenger

However, the redeemer, as a human being in Israel had specific roles. One was an avenger, where *goel* is often translated as, “**avenger of blood**” in English bibles, hunting down the killer of a close relative, usually a brother (Numbers 35:5-30).

Restorer

A redeemer, once again *goel* translated, “close relative” would buy a relative out of slavery or buy back family land that was sold off because of debt (Leviticus 25:4-49).

The Unthinkable that Leads to a Mystery

In one Torah passage redemption called a man to do the unthinkable. If a man died and had property but no heirs, his closest relative was to make the man’s wife pregnant and the child would be reckoned to the dead one to continue his line. Deuteronomy 25:5-6, commands to make an exception to the ten commandments. In what would normally be adultery, a man had to lie with his sister-in-law to give her a child in the name of his dead brother to keep his brother’s name and family line alive. If there were no brother it would be the closest male relative as Boaz was in the story of Ruth. If one wouldn’t do that duty the widow was to publicly disgrace and spit in the relative’s face. In Genesis 38:3-10, a man named Onan laid with his sister in law but withdrew before he could impregnate her, using her for pleasure rather than redemption. God killed him on the spot.

God made it a priority that a man’s family line continue, and if he died without children, it would be necessary to literally as said in the King James Bible, “**to raise up the name of the dead**” (Ruth 4:5). Remove the words, “the name of” in Ruth 4:5, and you have, “to raise the dead.” It’s a prophetic act. It points to Jesus, the Messiah, who was mocked and murdered, yet He rose from the dead. It is a prophetic law pointing to the eternal covenant of Christ’s resurrection as more important even than the holy but earthly covenant of marriage because it defies death. It’s what Boaz did with Ruth to maintain the family line which led to King David, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. In that case, Boaz was the *goel*, translated as the “**kinsman redeemer,**” (Book of Ruth).

God as Goel

Otherwise, God is called literally, “The redeeming one.” Job in his horrific ordeal looked to God as redeemer, “**For I know that my Redeemer (goel) lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. 26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and**

not another. My heart faints within me!” (Job 19:25-27).

Throughout the Old Testament Yahweh is Redeemer. For anyone in a mess of a situation, Yahweh promises redemption, ***“who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy”*** (Psalm 103:3-4). In Lamentations 3:58, a man who was wronged cried out, ***“You have taken up my cause Oh Lord, You have redeemed my life.”***

If we were wronged, a victim, denied and deprived, He makes it right for us. Often He does so by giving purpose to our pain that begs the question, “Why, Lord?” In the same way, Jesus as a victim, as one who suffered and was even made to be guilty of sin He didn’t commit, used His pain and death to save helpless sinners. Often God makes things right through a person who has suffered horrible injustice yet uses their pain to reach out to others in pain and bring them to Jesus. If we are slaves, to addiction, thought patterns, bad relationships, any repeated sin, He sets free. If we are living like the walking dead, He gives new life, resurrection power to start fresh. He will redeem.

2 . Christ as Redeemer ransomed that which was lost, robbed, and given away recklessly.

apolutro or lutro

In the New Testament, the title “redeemer” really doesn’t appear, but the action to redeem and the act of redemption come from 2 words which describe it. One, *apolutro* or *lutro*, means “to ransom” or pay a price to set free. The ransom brings “justification” or a “not guilty verdict according to Romans 3:24 ***“redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*** Ephesians 1:7 ***“We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of trespasses.”***

It says our ransom price is Jesus’ blood and it buys forgiveness of sins. 1 Peter 1:18-19 says that His blood ransomed us from family sins previously passed down through generations. Yes, redemption in Jesus’ blood is capable of obliterating family patterns of sin that have come down through the generations, ***“knowing that you were ransomed (apolutro) from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”***

Luke 21:27 and 28 speak of Jesus’ return, ***“the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory...raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near,”*** meaning our ransom is complete when Jesus returns, called the ***“day of redemption”*** in Ephesians 4:30 and it’s the Holy Spirit’s seal that prepares the believer for it. That day will bring, ***“the redemption of our bodies”*** (Romans 8:23). The mortal and flawed human body will be ransomed by resurrection to immortality and no longer a captive to disease, decay, or wear and tear. Redemption will bring immortality at the great and coming resurrection at Jesus’ return!

Exagerazo

Another word, *exagerazo*, (*ex-* out of, *agorazo-* going to market) means to remove something or someone available to anyone from the marketplace by paying for it. Context would suggest the slave market. God redeems a soul that before was available to any who would want to handle and own it. In redeeming, He will take it out of the marketplace of lifestyles, world views, relationships, and any other purpose. It is redemption from things that have dominion over the soul. He releases the one redeemed that was a slave, for Himself and the freedom He give, ***“So if the Son sets you free, you***

will be free indeed” (John 8:36).

Two times this word refers to the law which enslaves, meaning those redeemed were removed from the curse of law which points to human failure. **“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”** (Galatians 3:13) In this case redemption is a curse breaker because Jesus bore the curse in His death, and of course it evaporated away in His resurrection.

The next occurrence of *exagorazo* is an amazing sequence to where the redeemed one is taken out of the law’s slave market of shame and failure into a relationship of family, **“to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”** (Galatians 4:5-6). The word “Abba” is like saying, “daddy” or “papa.” He redeemed those from the law by making them God’s children, destined to inherit everything, no longer under law like those who are subject to the law and its harsh requirements and punishment for failure to keep it, and by the way, all have failed.


To those adopted as children of the Father, no shame, no guilt, but relationship replaces religion for the one who has been purchased and removed from the slave market to become a treasure to the ransom. Jesus paid the ransom by His blood and removed any who believe from the market of shame, accusation, and from the law to make them His own heirs of the greatest fortune in eternity.

3 . As savior and redeemer He is mighty.

Notice the verse in Isaiah 60:16 **“and you shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob”** not only calls Him Savior and Redeemer, but **“mighty.”** What it means is that one may have made Him *savior*, but may still be in slavery to sin, living a life of death in the old way instead of resurrection, acting like a kidnapped captive instead of one who is set free. His role of redeemer is powerful enough to put things right and in order *because the ransom has already been paid*. Maybe one is stuck in religion or living by obligation, duty, doing what one feels one has to instead of serving God from a liberated and joyful heart. Redemption means it’s time to *stop living in religion instead of relationship*. He can and will make the changes of redemption, that’s why He’s called, **“mighty.”** But it applies when anyone is *willing* to live like someone for whom things have been set right, set free from slavery, given new life, ransomed, and removed from the market of shame.

Break Every Chain

The name of Jesus
can and will break every chain.
The secret is to want the chain broken.



The name of Jesus can and will break every chain. *The secret is to want the chain broken.* If one has reached the point saying, “I want my chains broken!” then for that helpless person, God is mighty, there is power.

Most people just don’t get it when it comes to the power of God, and they choose puny experiences of trying to fill their lives with attempts at satisfaction that leave them empty and purposeless. People seek adrenalin, intoxication, competition, security, identity (whether a gang, family, religion, or some kind of association), a sense of purpose and destiny, or just survival to bring satisfaction, order, and meaning to life. If a person would dare to really believe that Jesus’

walk away from death, from a corpse to the most powerful person ever to take on human existence not only happened in history but can become a reality for them, then the power of redemption, the redeemer who is **“mighty”** can replace all of those, in this life and more important, for eternity.

Experience the Holy Spirit

To experience New Testament redemption, that power comes through experiencing the Holy Spirit. It's not something one who is a believer has to look for in some remote corner, conjure up, or find some mesmerizing guru. It is available to every believer, it's closer than nearby, it's the Holy Spirit, who is God, dwelling within. It means no longer assuming and believing that one's own power of the will, any system, special activities or disciplines, tricks, or even medication can provide redemption that makes order out of disorder, and brings peace and purpose. Those may be part of a support structure for life change, but not redemption.

Empowered

The work of the Holy Spirit empowers a redeemed believer in Jesus, **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you”** (Acts 1:8), yet the believer must make being filled with the Holy Spirit a life pursuit, **“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit”** (Ephesians 5:18). The work of the Holy Spirit's power results in transformation of one's character from works of the flesh to signs of the Spirit, described as fruit, **“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”** (Galatians 5:18-23).

We Really do Need Power

A city guy had made his fortune, retired early, and bought land in the forest. He decided he'd build his own house with the trees on his land. He asked the owner of the local country hardware store what he needed to clear the trees to build his retirement cabin- and that money was no object. The owner showed him a top of the line Husqvarna chain saw that could cut about 20 trees in an 8 hour day. The city guy said, “Done!” bought the saw, and returned at the end of the next day, exhausted and angry. He slammed the saw on the counter, “Liar! You told me I'd cut 20 trees. I worked 8 hours and barely got through 6 inches of one tree!” The owner said, “I'm so sorry, let's see what's wrong.” He started the saw, BABABABAvrrrooooBABABA! The city guy dropped his jaw, stood confused and asked, *“What's that noise?”*

He worked all day to cut a tree with his saw using his own power and never turned on the powerful motor given to the saw. Yes it's a joke, but what is sad, is too often we use our own power to do God's work instead of the amazing power of the Holy Spirit.

The Power of the Holy Spirit

In the New Testament Ephesians 5:18-20 gives instructions on how to be filled with the Holy Spirit, **“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for**

everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

To experience the power of the Spirit one must be *filled* with the Spirit. The way to be filled with the Spirit is by laying aside intoxication, passages from the Psalms, some good old hymns- why not sing *Amazing Grace* and *Crown Him With Many Crowns* several times a day? Then comes spiritual songs, or songs of the spirit, our worship choruses, music born from the day to day walk with God in our place and our time. Then comes thanksgiving. How about a day filled with thank you prayers shot up to God like fireworks at a 4th of July festival? It's about praising and thanking God and in so doing the Holy Spirit fills and overflows from such a sober, praising, and thankful person. But the command to be filled isn't a one time thing. The verb for "fill" *plyroo*, is a clear command (imperative) in the present tense which means continually going on rather than the aorist tense which is a one time action. One who regularly praises and thanks God has access to spiritual chain breaking power. It's not just being filled with the Holy Spirit in a special spiritual moment, but staying filled with the Spirit throughout the day.

How can this redemption become real for one who is saved, loves Jesus, but is frustrated?

First, recognize that for a believer, reality is the spiritual life. Is one's relationship with God what comes first? Turn to God to live as a spiritual person before being a here and now person. Jesus said, ***“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness”*** (Matthew 6:33). It means to change priorities so that first, one is about making God one's king, a relationship of majesty and yes, obedience. It does mean every day, making conscious choices to respond, “What can I obey today and what will I not disobey?” But it's not for the sake of following rules, but from a relationship with the king, and saying yes to Him, and doing it. Then comes His righteousness, doing it right. Righteousness can only begin by faith (Romans 5:1), but it means people of faith do the right things and say, “no” to the wrong things. From that point, Jesus will be not only savior but redeemer.

Mine Twice!



A great story to tell the meaning of redemption is “Mine twice!” A little boy asked His father to make him a wooden sailboat. In the workshop the father sanded, shaped, set up sails with fishing line, stained and finished a fine miniature sailboat. When the boy took it to the pond a breeze blew it off and someone at the other end ran off with it. The child grieved. His father kept an eye out. He saw it in a pawn shop. He told the owner of the store he made the boat and it was his son's lost toy. The owner said he'd have to buy it to get it back. The father paid a good price and handed it to his overjoyed son who said, “It was mine once. It was lost. And now it's mine twice!” That is how God sees us because of the price of Jesus' blood. We were made in His image. We were His. But we became lost in sin. He paid the high price, the price of Jesus' blood and redeemed us. And the redeemed ones are His twice!

Danish Philosopher Soren Kierkegaard described the work of redemption this way, “God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say. Yes, to be sure, but he does what is still more wonderful: he makes saints out of sinners.”— **Soren Kierkegaard, The Journals of Kierkegaard**

The tale of Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables* is epic. If it were true, he was for his time and his place a savior to those whom he kept from death, and he found his own redemption.

His heart was locked in a hard, selfish, and bitter passion which came from 19 years of institutional abuse in a beyond cruel prison system. In his moment of brokenness he allowed his eyes to open and see that he was a mirror of the evil that was done to him. The heavy heart, tears in his eyes, and deep regret led to a new path in life, a new way to think, and a new passion to make himself right, do right, and make everything better for those around him, and he spent his life on earth travelling the road to redemption. But if Valjean fixed everything for everyone, his time was the late 18th and early 19th centuries. If they'd lived real lives, not just in a well told tale, all of Victor Hugo's characters would be long dead by now. He really didn't save but he did extend the lives of the sailor and man under the cart. Those whom he helped would also be long dead now, though their brief appearance on earth had some relief due to this man's change of heart.

Unlike Valjean, Jesus Christ was always completely innocent. His life on earth was only about alleviating human suffering and straightening the twisted aftermath of evil. But in His death He accomplished much more. If he was only a here and now savior and redeemer He would only make his mark in this life. Jesus became a savior and redeemer for here and now but even more so, *for eternity*. In *The Unabridged Devil's Dictionary*, Ambrose Bierce recorded this entry: "**Redemption, n.** Deliverance of sinners from the penalty of their sin through their murder of the deity against whom they sinned. The doctrine of Redemption is the fundamental mystery of our holy religions, and whoso believeth in it shall not perish, but have everlasting life in which to try to understand it."