

Turning to face the small bundle of cloth in the wooden box, Zechariah continued, his voice soft but penetrating, "This baby grew to be a man and then was killed for teaching the Truth – but in killing Him they only fulfilled the Sovereign's plan – for He died that we might live. He took our place so that we might have forgiveness for our rebellion against our Creator. But he did not stay dead! That is what sets the Redeemer apart from all other religious leaders. Three days later he *rose from the dead*, was seen by hundreds, and then visibly ascended back into the heavens. Now all who call upon the Name of the Redeemer shall be saved. Today is the Day of Salvation. He who has ears, let him hear!" Then silence fell upon the group.

Josiah turned to his friend Scott and saw a tear slowly trailing down his cheek. Scott looked at Josiah and spoke with an uncanny boldness loud enough for the entire group to hear, "Josiah". He paused, letting this new name for his friend linger in the air, "I know I don't know a lot about this Redeemer, but I know enough. I know there is one true God, the Sovereign, as you have told me many times. I know that he made me and that I owe Him my life and allegiance. If he loved me enough to come and die for me then I want to offer my life back to him in return – at any cost. How do I do that?"

His own eyes welling up in tears, Josiah responded, "It seems you already have. We call it the Yielding when you surrender your life to your Creator, accept his payment for your disobedience, and make it your aim to live a life dedicated to following His ways."

"Then I Yield," Scott said simply. And the weight of his resolve could be felt throughout the cave.

"Welcome my friend, welcome to the family of the redeemed." Josiah said with an air of authority that could have come from an elder. "And because you climbed a tree to see the Redeemer, your Remnant name will be Zacheus! But we'll just call you Zach for short."

"Zach will do just fine," he said with a huge smile as he turned to Amy who nearly knocked him over with her enthusiastic hug. "We knew you'd be our brother soon!" she said hardly able to contain her joy.

The rest of the evening was filled with singing and such joyous celebration that several times Josiah marveled that no one discovered their meeting place, but all too soon he turned to his friends and reminded them that they did need to be getting home. Before they left, Scott, or rather, Zach, was coached by the elders in some things he needed to know in order to keep the Remnant safe while remained living within the WNC system. As they walked home, Josiah and Amy filled their friend in on so many of the adventures they had enjoyed being a part of the Remnant. When it came time for the friends to part, Josiah looked at Scott with a deeply felt smile and simply said to his old friend, who was now his new friend in the Remnant, "*Seek the Sovereign, and prepare for adventure!*"



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