



Hosea 13:14: “I will RANSOM them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction!”

WHAT is the greatest gift you have ever received?



A gift does not have to be expensive to be important. After all, the true value of a gift is not necessarily measured in terms of money. Rather, when a gift brings you happiness or fills a real need in your life, it has added a great value to you personally.

² Of the many gifts you could ever hope to receive, there is one that stands out above all others. It is the gift from God to mankind. Heavenly Father has given us many things in nature, but his greatest gift to us is the ransom sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ (Matthew 20:28). The ransom is the most valuable gift you could possibly receive, for it can bring you untold happiness and can fill your most important needs. The ransom is really the greatest expression of God’s love for you.

WHAT IS RANSOM?

The word RANSOM is translated from the Greek word Antilutron, meaning ‘an equivalent, corresponding price.

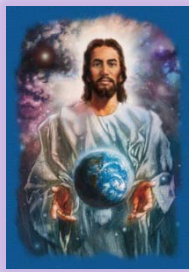
³ In simple words, the ransom is God’s means to deliver, or save, humankind from sin and death (Ephesians 1:7). To grasp the meaning of this Bible teaching, we need to think back to what happened in the Garden of Eden. Only if we understand what Adam lost when he sinned can we appreciate why the ransom is such a valuable gift to us.

⁴ When he created Adam, Father God gave him something truly precious- **a perfect human life.** Consider what that meant for Adam. Made with a perfect body and mind, he would never get sick, grow old, or die. As a perfect human, he had a special relationship with God. The Bible says that Adam was a “Son of God” (Luke 3:38). So Adam enjoyed a close relationship with God, like that of a son with a loving father. God communicated with his earthly son, giving

Adam satisfying assignments of work and letting him know what was expected of him. –Genesis 1:28-30; 2:16, 17.

⁵ Adam was made “in God’s image” (Genesis 1:27). That did not mean that Adam resembled God in appearance. **God is an invisible Spirit** (John 4:24). So God does not have a body of flesh and blood. Being made in God’s image meant that Adam was created with qualities like those of God, including love, wisdom, justice, and power. Adam was like his Father in another important way in that he possessed free will. Hence, Adam was not like a machine that can perform only what it is designed or programmed to do. Instead, he could make personal decisions, choosing between right and wrong. If he had chosen to obey God, he would have lived forever in Paradise on earth.

⁶ Clearly, then, when Adam disobeyed God and was condemned to death, he paid a very high price. His sin cost him his perfect human life with all its blessings (Genesis 3:17-19). Sadly, Adam lost this precious life not only for himself but also for his future offspring. God’s Word says: “Through one man [Adam] sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned” (Romans 5:12). Yes, all of us have inherited sin from Adam. Hence, the Bible says that he “sold” himself and his offspring into slavery to sin and death (Romans 7:14). There was no hope for Adam or Eve because they willfully chose to disobey God. But what about their offspring, including us?



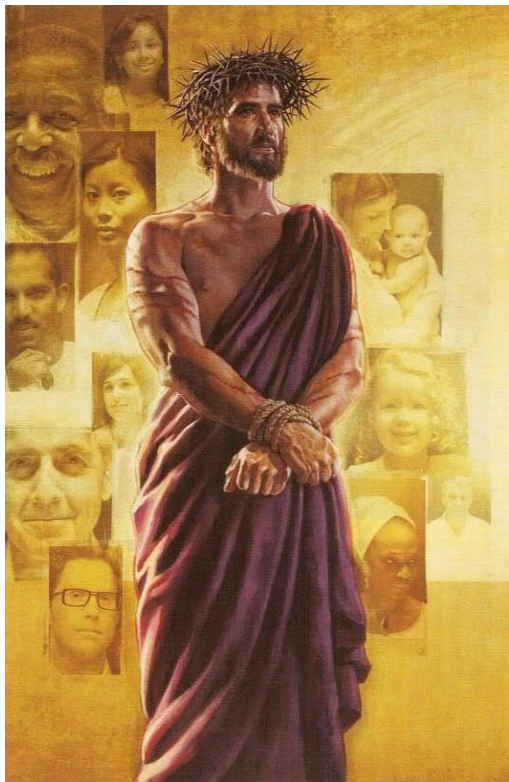
⁷ God came to mankind’s rescue by means of the ransom. What is a ransom? The idea of a ransom basically involves two things. First, a ransom is the price paid to bring about a release or to buy something back. It might be compared to the price paid for the release of a prisoner of war. Second, a ransom is the price that covers, or pays, the cost of something (insurance).

It is similar to the price paid to cover the damages caused by an injury. For example, if a person causes an accident, he would have to pay an amount that fully corresponds to, or equals, the value of what was damaged. Spiritual insurance was made by God, expecting in case of Adam’s disobedience to his word and that was the sacrifice of his only Son’s life from heaven.

⁸ How would it be possible to cover the enormous loss that Adam inflicted on all of us and to release us from slavery of sin and death? Let us consider the ransom that God provided and what this can mean for you.

HOW DID RANSOM PROVIDE THE SAFETY

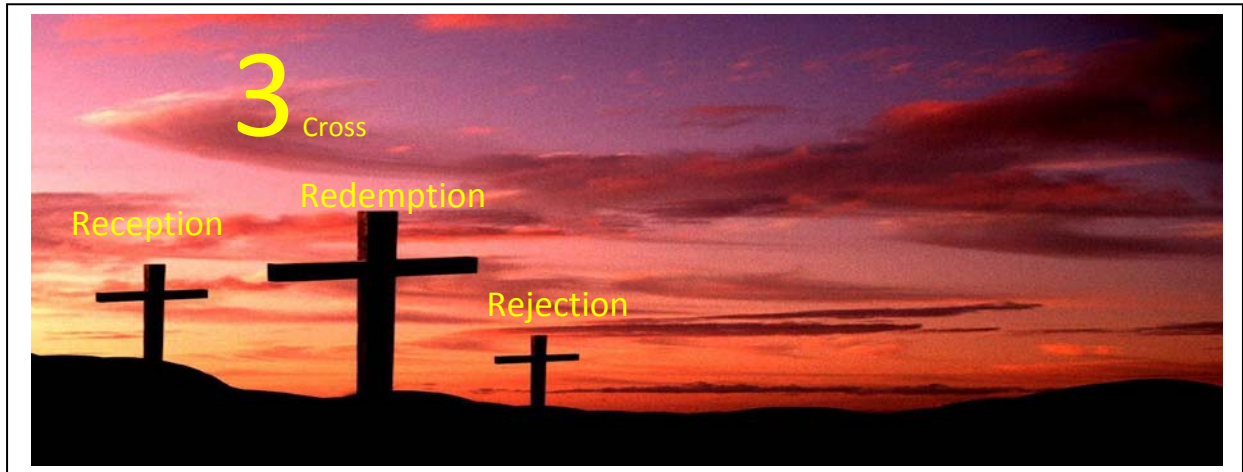
⁹ Since a perfect human life was lost, no imperfect human life could ever buy it back (Psalm 49:7, 8). What is needed is a ransom equal in value to what was lost. This is in harmony with the principle of perfect justice found in God’s Word, which says: “Soul will be for soul.” (Deuteronomy 19:21). So, what would cover the value of the perfect human soul, or life, that Adam lost? Another perfect human life was the “corresponding ransom” that was required (1st Timothy 2:6).



¹⁰ How did Lord God provide the ransom? God sent his Son Jesus Christ to the earth. But God did not send just any spirit creature. He sent the one most precious to him, his only-begotten Son (1 John 4:9, 10). Willingly, this Son left his heavenly home (Philippians 2:7). God performed a miracle when he transferred the life of his only Son to the womb of Mary. By means of God’s Holy Spirit, Jesus was born as a perfect human and was not under the penalty of sin (Luke 1:35).

¹¹ How could one man serve as a ransom for many, in fact, millions of humans? Well, how did humans numbering into the millions come to be sinners in the first place? Recall that by sinning, Adam lost the precious possession of perfect human life. Hence, he could not pass it on to his offspring. Instead, he could pass on only sin and death. Jesus, whom the Bible calls “the last Adam,” had a perfect human life, and he never sinned (1 Corinthians 15:45).

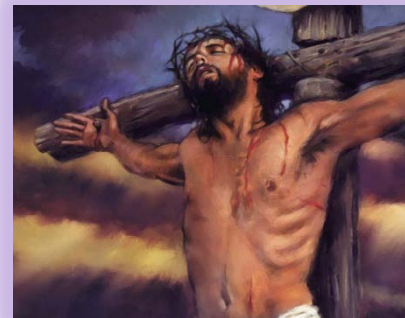
From one man how the death has come to all the human lives, similarly from Christ Jesus, the righteousness of God comes into those, who believe him and trust him as the Son of God. The grace of God brings righteous thinking, knowledge of God and accepting heart in us. Transformation begins as the result of God’s grace. The devil, who is the enemy to Godly system, did not permit Jesus easily to set a path for us to be redeemed. Jesus had to go through an unbearable suffering path to establish the salvation on earth.



In a sense, Jesus stepped into Adam’s place in order to save us. By sacrificing, or giving up, his perfect life in flawless obedience to God, Jesus paid the price for Adam’s sin. Jesus thus brought hope to Adam’s offspring (Romans 5:19; 1 Corinthians 15: 21, 22).

¹² The Bible describes in detail the suffering that Jesus endured before his death. He experienced harsh whipping, cruel impalement, and an agonizing death on a torture stake (John 19:1, 16-18, 30). Why was it necessary for Jesus to suffer so much? By enduring faithfully in spite of great suffering, Jesus gave the best possible answer to Satan’s challenge. Jesus proved that a perfect man possessing free will could keep perfect integrity to God no matter what the Devil did. God must have rejoiced greatly over the faithfulness of his dear Son! –Proverbs 27:11.

¹³ How was the ransom paid? On the 14th day of the Jewish month Nisan in 33 C.E., God allowed his perfect and sinless Son to be executed. Jesus thus sacrificed his perfect human life “once for all time” (Hebrews 10:10). On the third day after Jesus died, Father God raised him back to spirit life. In heaven, Jesus had presented to God, the value of his perfect



human life sacrificed as a ransom in exchange for Adam’s offspring (Hebrews 9:24). God accepted the value of Jesus’ sacrifice as the ransom needed to deliver mankind from slavery to sin and death (Romans 3:23, 24).

In Jesus death we get the eternal life, a life that is perfect, which Adam had lost.

WHAT DOES THIS RANSOM CAN DO FOR YOU

¹⁴ Despite our sinful condition, we can enjoy priceless blessings because of the ransom. Let us consider some of the present and future benefits of this greatest gift from God.



¹⁵ ***The forgiveness of sins.*** Because of inherited imperfection, we have a real struggle to do what is right. All of us sin either in word or in deed. But by means of Jesus’ ransom sacrifice, we can receive “the forgiveness of our sins” (Colossians 1:13, 14). To gain that forgiveness, however, we must be truly repentant. We must also humbly appeal to Father, asking his forgiveness on the basis of our faith in the ransom sacrifice of his Son (1 John 1:8, 9). God wants to forgive our mistakes, why should we still reluctant to receive this invaluable gift?

¹⁶ ***A clean conscience before God.*** A guilty conscience can easily lead to hopelessness and make us feel worthless. Forgiveness is made available to us by the ransom, therefore, God kindly enables us to worship him with a clean conscience despite our imperfection (Hebrews 9:13, 14). This makes it possible for us to have freeness of speech with God. Hence, we can freely approach him in prayer (Hebrews 4:14-16). Maintaining a clean conscience gives peace of mind, promotes self-respect, and contributes to happiness.



¹⁷ ***The hope of everlasting life on a paradise earth.*** “The wages sin pays is death,” says Romans 6:23. The same verse adds: “But the gift God gives is everlasting life by Christ Jesus our Lord.” We become heir to the blessings of the coming earthly Paradise (Revelation 21:3, 4). All those future blessings, including everlasting life in perfect health, are made possible because Jesus died for us. To receive those blessings, we need to show that we appreciate the gift of the ransom.



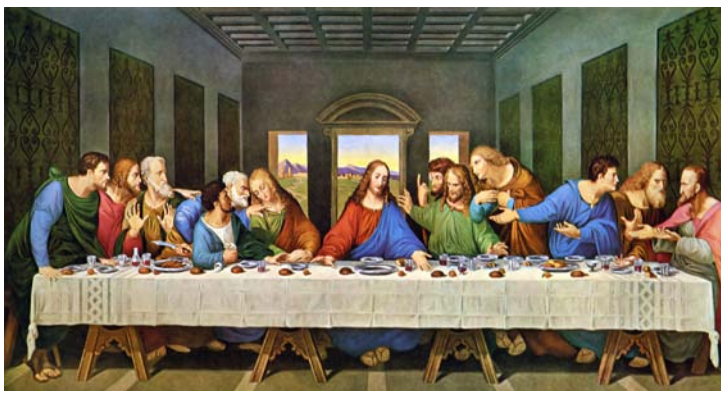
HOW CAN YOU SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION?

¹⁸ Why should we be deeply grateful to Lord for the ransom? Well, a gift is especially precious when it involves a sacrifice of time, effort, or expense on the part of the giver. Our heart is touched when we see that a gift is an expression of the giver’s genuine love for us. The ransom is the most precious of all gifts, for God made the greatest sacrifice ever in providing it. “God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son,” says John 3:16. The ransom is the most outstanding evidence of God’s love for us. It is also proof of Jesus’ love, for he willingly gave his life on our behalf (John 15:13). The gift of the ransom should therefore convince us that Father God and his Son love all of us truthfully (Galatians 2:20).

¹⁹ How, then, can you demonstrate that you appreciate God’s gift of the ransom? To begin with, *get to know more about the Great Giver, God.* (John 17:3) A study of the Bible will help you to do that. As you grow in knowledge of Lord Jesus, your love for him will deepen. In turn, that love will make you want to please him (1 John 5:3).



²⁰ ***Exercise your faith in Jesus’ ransom sacrifice.*** Jesus himself said: “He that exercises faith in the Son has everlasting life” (John 3:36). How can we exercise faith in Jesus? Such faith is not shown by words alone. “Faith without works is dead,” says James 2:26. Yes, true faith is proved by “works,” that is, by our actions. One way to show that we have faith in Jesus is by doing our best to imitate him not just in what we say but also in what we do (John 13:15).



²¹ ***Attend the annual observance of the Lord’s Evening Meal.*** On the evening of Nisan 14, 33 C.E., Jesus introduced a special observance that the Bible calls “the Lord’s evening meal” (1 Corinthians 11:20; Matthew 26:26-28).

This observance is also called the Memorial of Christ’s death. Jesus instituted it to help his apostles and all true Christians after them to bear in mind

that by means of his death as a perfect human, he gave his soul or life, as a ransom. Regarding this observance, Jesus commanded: “Keep doing this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19). Observing the Memorial reminds us of the great love shown by the Son of God in connection with the ransom. We can show our appreciation for the ransom by participating truthfully in the Lord’s Supper.

²² God’s provision of the ransom is indeed an invaluable gift (2 Corinthians 9:14, 15).

-Amen



From the Scriptures, we see that Jesus is:

- ✝ **The Son of God.**
- ✝ **Superior to the angels.**
- ✝ **Heir to all things.**
- ✝ **The One who made the universe.**
- ✝ **The radiance of God's Glory.**
- ✝ **The exact representation of invisible God.**
- ✝ **The One who sustains all things by His powerful Word.**
- ✝ **God's sacrifice that bought our purification from sin.**
- ✝ **Now sitting at the right hand of God in Heaven.**

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