



Sunday April 21, 2019
BIG EASTER SUNDAY : RANSOMED

Ransom Defined

Most of understand the meaning of ransom or redemption price in its normal usage. We can envision a captor holding someone hostage (captive), demanding typically a huge sum of money (or any other demand) for the release of their captives. That sum of money is called a ransom or redemption price.

A ransom or redemption price is what it takes to set the captive free.

The Lord Jesus Himself said:

Matthew 20:28

just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

The apostle Paul stated:

1 Timothy 2:5-6

**5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,
6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,**

Jesus gave His own life as a ransom. He gave Himself as our redemption price.

This was a ransom or exchange of one person for another. This was a redemption of life for life.

The testimony of the ransom to be given in its own times or in due season...which is what we are doing today..as we announce to you that Jesus has given His life as a ransom.

Why and How did Jesus Give His Life As A Ransom?

So why did Jesus have to give His life as a ransom?

How did He do this?

For this we have to consider what the Bible unveils to us.

We have to go back to the beginning, when God created man and woman.

The Bible tells us that God created man and woman, male and female, in His own image and likeness. He created them as His own children (Luke 3:38) and gave them authority, dominion ruler-ship and ownership of this earth (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:5-6; Psalm 115:16). However, God required Adam and Eve to walk in submission to Him. Their authority on earth was dependent on their submission or obedience to Him.

Now, satan, the devil, came and deceived them and got them to disobey and sin against God.

In doing so, Adam committed high treason, and effectively handed over the authority, dominion and ruler-ship of this earth to satan, the devil.



Additionally, Adam and the entire human race came in subjection to satan and his cohorts.

That is why we see several references to satan, being called the god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4), the ruler of this world (John 12:31; John 14:30; John 16:11), and the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2). In fact, when satan tempted Jesus in the three recorded temptations, the Bible states at one point that satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, and said " *All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish*" (Luke 4:5-6). The Lord Jesus did not refute satan's claim.

This affected Adam's race in every possible way.
Sin and wickedness prevailed over every person.
Sickness, poverty, emotional pain, hurt, and every evil that satan could unleash was released on the earth and oppressed people.

Through one man's disobedience, sin came into this world, and death through sin, and death passed on every one because all have sinned (Romans 5:12). Similarly, through one man's disobedience, sin came into this world, and satan and his demonic oppression through sin, and this passed on to every person.

Because of this spiritual transaction, **satan had a legal hold over the entire human race.**
In the judiciary of heaven, Adam and the entire human race were sold into slavery, into bondage and satan had a legal claim over the human race.

One man sold the human race into bondage to satan.

Therefore it would take a man to redeem the human race from bondage to satan.

God would not simply override what Adam had done, because, the authority delegated to Adam was real and God stood by that delegation of authority. The person God delegated authority to, forfeited his authority and handed it over to the devil. So it became necessary for another person to go and get it back.

But the problem was even more complex:

Every person born of Adam's race was born in sin..born a slave to sin. The Bible says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), that there is none who is righteous, not even one (Romans 3:10).

Every person born of Adam's race was born in subjection to satan. The Bible says that the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one (1 John 5:19), and that every person is walking under the influence of the prince of the power of the air and according to the spirit of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2).

So there was a big need.

SINLESS : There had to come a person who is untainted by sin, who will live in perfect obedience to God.

ABOVE SATAN : There had to come a person who live above satan, who will not walk under the influence of the prince of this age or the spirit of disobedience.

And this person alone would be qualified to go and get back what Adam had handed over to satan.



PAY THE PRICE : And this person had to pay the ransom.

The price that had to be paid was the price for sin and disobedience before God and the judiciary of heaven. The only reason satan could legally hold Adam's race as captives was because of the debt of sin and disobedience.

BLOOD AND DEATH : The ransom that had to be paid was death...because the Bible says that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)...but this death was not just physical death...this death was the death for sin... meaning the penalty for all the sins of the world would have to be paid for. The Bible also says that it is blood that makes atonement (payment) for sin (Leviticus 17:11). The shedding of blood signifies that death has occurred, a life has been given, and sin has been paid for.

[NOTE: Very important - the ransom was not paid to the devil, but before God, in heaven].

So in order to set the human race free, in order to ransom the human race from the hand of satan, this one person had to be sinless, had to live above satan and had to carry the penalty of the sins of the whole world...this person's blood had to be shed as the redemption price.

Who could this person be?

Where would such a person come from?

No Other Redemption Price

The Psalmist said:

Psalm 49:6-8

**6 Those who trust in their wealth And boast in the multitude of their riches,
7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him—
8 For the redemption of their souls is costly, And it shall cease forever—**

There is nothing on earth that we can offer as a redemption price.

No amount of sacrifice, no amount of money, riches, etc. can redeem our souls.

The Lord Jesus Himself asked this question:

Mark 8:37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

God Had To Become A Man

There was no human being born since the time of Adam who could qualify.

Many great men and women have lived and died, many noble, many teachers, preachers, pious and religious...yet none of these could qualify...because each one was born in sin, born subject to satan and hence had their own sins to pay for.

There was only one solution.



God had to become a man, be born as a man and live in the confines of a physical human body. He alone could live a sinless life. He alone could live above satan. And this Man could then become the ransom and pay the redemption price for the rest of the human race.

This God who became Man is Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is eternally God. He was God even before creation. He created all things (John 1:1-4). He became a Man and walked on the earth (John 1:14). He walked in the limitations of a human body (Hebrews 2:14a,17a). He was sinless (Hebrews 4:15). He lived above satan. Satan found no place in Him (John 14:30). He taught us about the things of God which is recorded for us in the Bible. He destroyed the works of the devil by healing the sick, casting out demons and setting the captives free.

On the Cross where He was crucified - this Sinless Man, this Man who was above satan - became our ransom. He became our redemption price. The sins of the whole world - the entire human race - was put upon Him. He became the payment for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).

But why would He even do such a thing? Why would the Eternal God - the Creator, the High and Lofty One, even do such a thing as to come into this world in the confines of a human body and live in a world degraded by sin, wickedness and satan. Why?

Because He loves us so much (John 3:16).

Christ's death on the Cross was a display of the immeasurable love that God has for us - for each of us - for you (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10).

SINS PAID : On the Cross the Bible says that Jesus paid for all our sins. He tasted death for every one (Hebrews 2:9).

CURSE REMOVED : He took upon Himself all the consequences of the Fall - all that Adam brought upon the human race through disobedience - sickness of body and mind, pain, emotional hurts, addictions, inclinations to wickedness.

SATAN DEFEATED : Through what He did on the Cross, the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ conquered, destroyed and overthrew satan and all his demonic cohorts (Hebrews 2:14; Colossians 2:14-15; John 12:31; John 16:11).

After His death on the Cross, Jesus was buried in a tomb that was sealed and guarded by Roman soldiers. But on the third day,which is what we remember and celebrate on Easter Sunday.....Jesus Christ rose from the dead, victorious, triumphant over sin, satan and death. Jesus Christ is alive today to ensure freedom, redemption to all!

The Bible tells us that Jesus offered His own blood as a ransom, the redemption price, before God.

Hebrews 9:12

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.



He paid the ransom - the redemption price.

He broke satans hold over the human race.

Now, in the judiciary of heaven, any human person, could walk out free from satan's oppressive grip and be free from all the evil works of satan and his cohorts - buy opting (choosing) to come under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Any person who believes in Jesus Christ, embraces Him as Lord and Saviour - gets redeemed. They come out from under sin and satan.

Listen to some of what the Bible tells us about this powerful work of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Jesus shed His own blood - gave His own life as the redemption price.

What silver and gold, what earthly achievements, sacrifices, piety and religion cannot do - Jesus does for us through His own blood.

Colossians 1:13-14

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus Christ delivers us - sets us free from the captivity of the power of darkness and He translated us into His own Kingdom! This is what happens when any person believes in Jesus Christ, embraces Him as Lord and Saviour.

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

We become God's own purchased - ransomed - possession.

We were bought at a great price - the life of Jesus Christ given for us on the Cross.

Titus 2:14

who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

When Jesus Christ ransoms us - redeems us - we are set free from every sinful deed and we become purified for Himself. He makes us a people who are zealous for good works.

Your Response

This is the great message of the Bible.



You can be ransomed - Jesus Christ can set you free from sin, satan and eternal death.
He lives today to make this happen in the lives of each one who comes to Him, believes in Him
and receives Him as their Lord and saviour.

In His name, satan and his demons tremble and flee.
In His name, sickness and disease is broken off of peoples minds and bodies.
In His name, all the works of the devil are destroyed.
In His name, there is freedom from bondage, addictions and all kinds of enslavements.

Will you receive Jesus Christ.

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday April 21, 2019
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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Matthew 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Psalm 49:6-8; Hebrews 9:12; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Colossians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:20*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, What was the predicament we were in as a result of Adam's sin?

#2, Why did the human race need to be ransomed?

#3, What was the only possible option for the redemption price to be paid?

#4, What happens when we are ransomed - redeemed?

#5, Would you be able to explain this story of redemption in five minutes? Try doing this in groups of two. Provide constructive feedback.



While we know all of these statements are important, which one of these really stands out for you, in the matter of exercising faith in God?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.