

# WHY MANKIND NEEDS A RANSOM

## *Note to the speaker:*

Help your audience to understand and appreciate the need for the ransom. Explain its benefits and the blessings we gain now and in the future from this greatest gift of God

### **WHY A RANSOM WAS REQUIRED** (5 min.)

The ransom is God's greatest gift to mankind (*w91 2/15 10*)

It is the foundation of our hope of everlasting life (Joh 3:16)

The ransom became necessary because of the sin of Adam (Ro 5:12)

Adam's imperfect and sinful descendants could neither provide their own deliverance from death nor ransom themselves (Ps 49:7, 8)

Lovingly, God sent his Son to die as ransom (Mr 10:45)

Belief that Jesus died as a ransom in exchange for sinful mankind is fundamental to true Christianity

Yet, nominal Christians in general are often unable to cite the Biblical source of the doctrine or to explain it (*w91 2/15 4*)

True Christians should not only understand this doctrine but also be able to explain it (Eph 3:18)

What is the ransom? Who provides it? To whom is it paid? What are its benefits?

### **HOW CHRISTENDOM CAME TO REJECT THE RANSOM** (5 min.)

Few of Christendom's clergy today believe in ransom doctrine as the Bible teaches it (*w91 2/15 3-7*)

After death of apostles, church leaders became embroiled in theological disputes (Ac 20:29, 30; 2Ti 4:3, 4)

Could not agree on such questions as: To whom was the ransom paid? Why was such payment necessary?

Some theologians taught that the ransom was paid by God to Satan

Some argued that Christ's death was not a ransom or an equal exchange—that justice demanded the death of someone who was “both God and man”

As this theory became widely accepted, the term “ransom” fell into disuse

Today the ransom is not taught in most churches

Catholic and Protestant theologians continue to place tradition and human wisdom above Scripture (Jer 8:9)

In contrast, the *Watchtower* magazine has been an advocate of the ransom for over 100 years (*jv 47-8, 619-21*)

By letting the Scriptures speak for themselves, we can come to a clear understanding of this doctrine

### **A CORRESPONDING RANSOM** (20 min.)

A ransom is a price paid to buy back or to bring about release from some obligation or undesirable circumstance

In Hebrew Scriptures, word for ransom comes from verb meaning “to cover” (*w99 2/15 13-15; w91 2/15 11-12; it-2 733-4*)

A ransom, or covering, must exactly correspond to the thing it covers, either in form or value

Divine justice thus demands ‘soul for soul, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot’ (De 19:21)

To ransom, or cover, the life Adam lost, a corresponding perfect life was required (*w91 2/15 12-13*)

A God-man would not correspond to Adam; the death of such a one would not balance scales of justice

Animal sacrifices were inadequate, since humans are superior (Heb 10:1-4)

No imperfect human could provide ransom (Job 14:4)

Jehovah provided ransom by offering Jesus as “a corresponding ransom for all” (1Ti 2:6; *w91 2/15 13-16*)

Since Jesus exactly corresponded to Adam, not necessary to sacrifice millions of individual humans to correspond to each individual offspring of Adam (Ro 5:19; 1Co 15:21, 22)

Jesus made it possible to nullify the death sentence upon Adam's offspring (Heb 2:9)

The destructive power of sin was thus cut off at its source

To whom, though, was the ransom paid? (*w91 2/15 14*)

Psalms 49:7 clearly shows that the ransom was paid “to God”

Although God both provides and receives the ransom, it is not a pointless, mechanical exchange

God's insistence on payment of the ransom affirmed his unchanging adherence to righteous principles

On Nisan 14, 33 C.E., God allowed his perfect and sinless Son, Jesus, to die on a stake, thus paying the ransom price

On the third day after his death, Jesus was raised from the dead as a mighty spirit creature (Ac 10:40; 1Pe 3:18)

Jesus continued his redemptive work by presenting legal value of his perfect human life to God (Heb 9:11, 12, 24)

Jehovah's acceptance of ransom sacrifice became evident at Pentecost 33 C.E. (Ac 2:1-4)

## **BENEFITS OF THE RANSOM ARRANGEMENT (10 min.)**

By means of the ransom, God can reconcile to himself ‘the things in heaven and upon earth’ (Col 1:14, 20; *w*91 2/15 15-19)

Ransom makes possible “a new covenant” with 144,000 to serve as kings and priests in heaven with Christ (Heb 8:6-13; Re 5:9, 10)

Through them, benefits of ransom gradually applied to mankind during Thousand Year Reign (1Co 15:24-26; Re 21:3, 4)

Ransom also reconciles ‘the things on earth’—those with hope of living forever in Paradise

Already “a great crowd” have ‘washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb’ (Re 7:9-17)

They enjoy being declared righteous as God’s friends, as Abraham was (Jas 2:23)

After surviving great tribulation, they will gradually be “set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God” (Ro 8:21)

Ransom can also benefit us in our daily lives

No need for us to be weighed down with feelings of inadequacy

Jehovah does not view us solely in our damaged, imperfect state; he knows what we can be when the restorative powers of Jesus’ ransom sacrifice are fully applied (*w*90 2/15 23)

If we err, we need to repent and pray for forgiveness on the basis of the ransom (Ac 3:19; 1Pe 3:21; 1Jo 1:9)

Yes, through our High Priest, Jesus, we can ‘approach with freeness of speech to the throne of undeserved kindness for mercy and help at the right time’ (Heb 4:14-16)

## **ACCEPT GOD’S UNDESERVED KINDNESS (5 min.)**

The ransom arrangement provides the ultimate proof of Jehovah’s love for us (Ro 5:8)

Jesus’ love is also made evident by his willingly offering himself as a ransom (Joh 15:13)

All need to show their gratitude to God and Christ for the love displayed

Exercise faith in Jesus’ ransom sacrifice (Joh 3:16; 17:3)

Show heartfelt appreciation for it by zealous service to God (2Co 5:14)

Tell others about this wonderful provision for salvation (Ro 10:10)

Maintain clean conduct (1Pe 1:14-16)

“Thanks to God through Jesus Christ” for this superlative gift—the ransom! (Ro 7:25)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)