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5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The Ransom

In both the Old Testament and New Testament the Hebrew and Greek words for “ransom” are cast against the background of helplessness. Each finds human beings captured, held captive by the power of forces they cannot overcome. Only by the intervention of a third party can bondage be broken and the person freed.

In the Old Testament, the price for redeeming, the ransom, was paid for slaves (Leviticus 19:20), for captives (Isaiah 45:13), and for the ransom of a life (Exodus 32:30). In the New Testament, the ransom provided by Jesus Christ and His work on the cross, liberates the believer from the misery and penalty of their sins (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45). (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon)

A “ransom” is a price paid to redeem, loose, free and release. Redemption does not involve a price paid to Satan. Rather, the ransom is offered to God—to satisfy His justice and wrath against sin (Romans 5:9). The price paid was Christ’s own life—as a blood atonement (Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22). This, then, is the meaning of the cross: Christ subjected Himself to the divine punishment against sin on our behalf (Isaiah 53:4-5). Suffering the brunt of divine wrath in the place of sinners was the “cup” He spoke of having to drink, and the baptism He was preparing to undergo (Matthew 20:22).

New Testament passages make it clear that Jesus’ life is the price of redemption (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45). The redemption price, the “precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect,” was paid to release people from “the empty way of life” received from the forefathers (1 Peter 1:18-20 NLT). Redemption is a release “from all wickedness” (Titus 2:14 NIV). The redemption that Jesus accomplished by his blood is an eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:12), intended to so cleanse us that we may “serve the living and true God” (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

Thus, redemption in the New Testament focuses on the condition of the believer, who had been locked in a wicked and empty way of life, and on the price of redemption, the blood of Christ. It also focuses on the result of redemption, a commitment by the believer to serve God (1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 Corinthians 6:20 KJV).

The redeemed believer is given a place in the family of God and is called to live a life that reflects the rule and reign of God (Romans 8:12-14).

Conclusions: Only the Scriptures, of all the world’s religious writings, portrays the relationship between human beings and God in terms of redemption. Redemption reveals a helpless humanity; and redemption affirms a God whose love drives Him to

take part by paying the price needed to win our release from Satan, sin, and the flesh (the fallen part of our humanity).

In the forgiveness made possible by the ransom of Christ, God kindly enables us to worship Him with a clean conscience despite our imperfections (Romans 4:5; Hebrews 9:13-14). The ransom is the most outstanding evidence of God's love for us —
“⁸But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's wrath through him!” (Romans 5:8-9 NLT; KJV).

Questions

1 Read John 3:16.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
- John 3:16

God has given us many things, but His greatest gift is the ransom sacrifice provided through Jesus Christ.

True or False

2 Read Romans 4:25 (CEV).

“God gave Jesus to die for our sins, and he raised him to life, so that we would be made acceptable to God.” - Romans 4:25 (CEV)

God accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the ransom needed to deliver mankind from slavery to sin and death.

True or False

3 Read Romans 7:21.

"I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me."

- Romans 7:21

Read Colossians 1:14.

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." - Colossians 1:14

Because of inherited imperfection, we have a real struggle to do what is right. All of us sin either in word or in deed. By means of Jesus' ransom sacrifice, we can receive:

- A. God's wrath
- B. the forgiveness of our sins
- C. more time to ponder things

4 Read 2 Timothy 1:10 (NIV).

"but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." - 2 Timothy 1:10 (NIV)

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In the New Testament who is the third party that liberates the believer from sin and death?

- A. the devil
- B. God and His Son Jesus Christ
- C. your mother-in-law

5 Read 1 Thessalonians 1:9.

*“For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;”
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9*

The result of redemption is a commitment by the believer to serve God.

True or False

6 Read Acts 2:38.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” - Acts 2:38

Read Acts 16:30-34.

“³⁰And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? ³¹And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. ³²And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. ³⁴And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.” - Acts 16:30-34

Read Acts 2:41.

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” - Acts 2:41

Read Acts 2:21.

“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” - Acts 2:21

To receive the forgiveness that the ransom provides, we must:

- A. repent
- B. believe on the Lord Jesus Christ
- C. be baptized and call on His Name

Answer Key

1 Read John 3:16.

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True

2 Read Romans 4:25 (CEV).

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We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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