

Open: 134 I My Cross Have Taken, verses 1-2

Close: 134 I My Cross Have Taken, verses 3-5

Love from Sr Karen and Mahomet Brethren

First, the question... What is Merit?

Merit is defined as - worth, value, excellence, a commendable quality

Then, what **has** merit, worth, value, excellence, commendable quality – in God's sight and plan?

To begin answering this, we must go back to Adam.

Adam was created a perfect human being in the image of God. He was given a simple law. Adam broke God's law and was condemned by God to "dying thou shalt die."

At this point, divine justice was satisfied. This dying condition was inherited by all mankind, and all mankind became children of God's wrath. (Eph 2:3)

But God, in his wisdom, wanted to provide mankind an opportunity to learn righteousness and be reconciled to him through the kingdom on earth.

Isa 26:9 ...when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

But before this opportunity to learn righteousness, God required that an exact corresponding price be paid to Justice for Adam's sin...

Deu 19:21 And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

So, no fallen man could be a substitute for the perfect Adam who sinned, so God tells us...

Psa 49:7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

God arranged that his only begotten, would be made flesh as the exact corresponding price for Adam...

Heb 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering [of bulls and goats] thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Jesus would die in Adam's place and eventually release all mankind from God's wrath – of "dying thou shalt die" so that the learning and reconciling process could begin.

1Pe 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.

Three main things are necessary to accomplish God's intentions for mankind:

1. The Ransom Price to release Adam and mankind from God's wrath.
2. A Divine Life-Giver for the fallen, dead race
3. The Dominion of Earth to legally return mankind's home

## **#1 – The Ransom**

First, we want to see the merit that is necessary to ultimately satisfy divine justice to release mankind from the sentence of death. This is the ransom.

This simply required that a perfect man, as the exact corresponding price for Adam, would die in Adam's place.

### **R4618**

**“The Ransom, or corresponding price which our Lord Jesus gave, consisted in his being the Perfect Man with all the rights of Adam and in these being surrendered or given up to death regardless of whether his death would be an easy or a painful one.”**

So, to provide the ransom-price, Jesus could have offered himself in an easy, peaceful death, which would have legally satisfied divine justice.

Providing the ransom-price in this manner would release mankind from Adamic condemnation, but would provide no mediator to stand between God and fallen mankind. Mankind would sin again, and then be individually condemned forever by God's justice.

God planned for a divine mediator to complete the purchase of Mankind from God's justice for a significant restitution period to allow for a full resurrection or "re-standing" to human perfection, and thus be able to stand before God's merciless justice.

## **#2 – Divine Life-Giver and Mediator**

In this 7<sup>th</sup> epochal day (of 7000 years), God is resting...

Gen 2:3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

God would not be the divine life-giver for restored mankind.

**But who could be granted the divine nature?** This is the ultimate creative act. Once it is granted, it can't be taken back. The intended recipient must be thoroughly tested for fidelity and absolute faithfulness to God and righteousness, even in the face of severe opposition and death.

God's plan was to give this opportunity to his only begotten son, who was made flesh, made of a woman, made under the law.

Joh 1:14 And the Word (Logos) was made flesh, and dwelt among us...

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

For this feature of God's plan severe testing was necessary...

Isa 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him (Jesus); he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin,

## R4618

“He (God) put severe tests upon this One who would be the Redeemer of mankind, to prove his character, but also to manifest to us and to angels and to all creatures the wonderful obedience of the Lord Jesus and his **worthiness** of the high exaltation to the divine nature and all the glorious offices to be accorded him.”

“It was necessary that Christ should suffer that he might enter into his glory-- hence his sufferings were permitted for the **testing**, the **proving** of himself.”

Look at Lev 8 – consecration of the priesthood...

This shows the covenant or contract between the individual consecrating and God himself.

For a contract to be valid – there must be “mutual consideration” which means that something of value must pass from each party to the other party.

As in buying a car on time... Party A gets the car from Party B, and Party B gets the payments from Party A.

Value passes in both directions between the parties.

We will first look at Jesus consecration pictured by Aaron.

Aaron [representing Jesus] laid his hand [showing that it represents him] on the bullock [representing his human perfection], “for the sin offering.” The bullock was slain, showing that the death of the flesh is reckoned by God as happening at the moment of consecration.

The blood was placed on the horns of the brazen altar – showing that this earthly sacrifice is made acceptable by reason of the shed blood (the life given).

The organs of the bullock – picturing the best powers - were then burned on the brazen altar – and the hide hoofs and dung were burned outside the camp – showing that those in the world will see this sacrifice as a wasted life, reprehensible stench.

This type pictures the severe testing that Jesus would go through to fulfill his part in the contract. But there is more to the covenant – this contract.

Aaron placed his hand on the ram for burnt offering [again showing that it represents him] – which was burnt whole showing God's acceptance of Jesus' part in this sin-offering contract.

Aaron then placed his hand on the ram of consecration [again showing that it represents him]. This ram showed what effect the sacrifice would have upon Jesus. This shows God's part – his responsibilities - in the contract... the things that God would provide and do. The ram was slain and its blood was put on:

the right ear – showing hearing of faith

the right thumb – do with thy might what thy hands find to do in God's service

The right toe – walk in newness of life

Showing how God sanctified Jesus, as Jesus sanctified himself.

The ram's organs and fat were placed on Aaron's hands to be waved before Moses. This showed how Jesus' best powers were to be continually offered with zeal.

Onto this wave offering Moses [representing God] placed:

Unleavened cake – indicating purity, justification

Unleavened cake mingled with oil – indwelling of God’s holy spirit - sanctification

Wafer – EGPP – including the promise of the divine nature - glorification

2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness

2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature

This was waved until Moses took it off Aaron’s hands – showing that the consecration is never laid down until God would say, “It is enough, come up higher.”

The details of this covenant or contract showed that Jesus’ sacrifice would not be easy, but extremely difficult to test and demonstrate his faithfulness to God and righteousness, that he could be entrusted with the divine nature.

Three and one half years later, Jesus was on the cross fulfilling the final features of his covenant of sacrifice, his part in the sin-offering, when he said:

Luk 23:46 Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit:

Joh 19:30 "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.



Jesus knew the difficulties of his consecration from the Levitical types, but would say to this:

Psa 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

He also understood the present and future joy...

Heb 12:2 who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding the shame,

Isa 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great

## **The Merit of Jesus' Sacrifice was in the Hands of Justice at Jesus death.**

### **Q571:3**

“Our Lord deposited the merit of His sacrifice in the Father's hands on the cross when He said, "Into Thy hands I commit my spirit." Luk 23:46

It was not yet applied or imputed to anything or anyone. It belonged to our Lord to do with as he would. (At this point he was still in the tomb.)”

## **Why was Jesus raised from the dead?**

Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Php 2:9 Wherefore [on this account] God also hath highly exalted him,

Act 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

But Why?

### E149p2

“After proving his own fidelity to the Father, on account of which he was immediately afterward highly exalted to the divine nature, and the right hand, place of favor, with the Majesty on high.”

Jesus had completed his part of the contract, shown in Lev 8. God then completed His part by resurrecting Jesus to the divine nature, shown in the wafer.

**Jesus ascended to the Father for the disposition of the merit of the Ransom-Price.**

### E442

“His death was the ransom-price, but his providing the ransom-price did not give justification.”

Jesus had the right to **decide** what to do with the ransom-price which was still his.

He did this during his ascension to the Father, in accordance with the Father's will

**Jesus imputes the merit of the ransom to the church at Pentecost and throughout the Gospel Age.**

### E442

"He ascended up on high," there to appear in the presence of God **for us**. He then and there imputed to the Church **the merit of his ransom sacrifice.**

This was necessary for our justification.

Rom 4:24 ...for us also, to whom it shall be **imputed**, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

Rom 4:25 Who was delivered for our offenses, and **was raised again for our justification**.

**Body of Christ justified by the merit of the ransom – to enter into the covenant with God shown in Lev 8**

### R4618

“He has appropriated the **merit of that ransom-price** to the Church, **imputing** this merit to them during this Gospel Age, to cover their Adamic sins and to make good, to

compensate for, the imperfection of their mortal bodies, thus enabling them to present sacrifices which God can and will accept through the merit of their Advocate.”

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh [in consecration] unto the Father, but by me.

1Pe 3:18 For Christ also hath once **suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God...**

**Our** covenant of sacrifice is also shown in Lev 8.

In Lev 8:14-36 Aaron and his sons did everything together and identically. Showing that we enter into the exact same covenant as Jesus.

Lev 8:14 And he brought the bullock for the sin offering: and **Aaron and his sons** laid their hands upon the head of the bullock for the sin offering.

### **T41p3**

“Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head” of it, thus saying, This sacrifice represents us.”

Each member of the body of Christ has the merit of Christ’s ransom sacrifice imputed to him at the point of consecration and is seen by God as a perfect human being... pictured in the bullock.

We consecrate our flesh to death as our blood goes on the horns of the brazen altar.

Our best powers are consumed on the brazen altar and our sacrificing is also seen as a stench by the world – just as Jesus' was.

We wave our wave offering as Jesus did – until we are told “it is enough.”

We are counted as part of Jesus' body and sacrifice. This is why Jesus said to Saul...

Act 9:4 Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

We are given the wafer – the EGPP – and the promise of the divine nature upon **meeting the requirements of our covenant**.

Those who **fulfill** their consecration vows will be raised to the divine nature with Jesus.

Php 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and **the fellowship of his sufferings**, being made conformable unto his death;

Php 3:11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

2Pe 1:4 ...that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature

## R5180

“The Church which God has been calling out of the world since the day of Pentecost is required to **prove her loyalty and faithfulness and worthiness** of sharing in the First Resurrection,”

Those who fail to fulfill their covenant of sacrifice will not receive the divine nature.

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

At best, these are pictured by the Scapegoat, the Great Company, who draw back from sacrifice.

Rev 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple...

This helps to show the value, or merit in our part of the sin-offering, as seen by God.

## Q680

“If any draw back from the sufferings, then he will also be drawing back from the crown of glory, and he shall not reign with Christ (`Heb 10:38`).”

The Great Company, pictured by the scapegoat, draws back from voluntary, joyful sacrifice, is no part of the sin offering, and does not receive the divine nature. They receive life, but fail the test for the divine nature.

### The Little Flock shares in the Lord's Cup

Joh 18:11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

#### **R5180**

"The cup which the Father gave to Him of suffering and ignominy was a test to prove his faithfulness and loyalty. The same cup he has passed on to his followers, saying, "Drink ye all of it."

Mat 20:23 ... Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with:

### Church shares in this sin-offering – The Lord's Cup

In Lev 16 the Day of Atonement Sacrifices...

#### **T66**

"As the goat filled up that which was behind of the sin-offering, completing the sacrifice begun by the bullock, so does the "little flock," following after Jesus, "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ." (Col 1:24)"

“...we, as members of his Body, are granted a share in the sufferings of Christ, that we may ultimately share his glory...”

### **We must Develop proper fruitage along the way**

Joh 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified [honored], that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

In this way, we are showing our family resemblance to our Father!

### **Jesus – an example to the Church in their part of His sin offering**

We must follow our Example:

1Pe 2:23 ... when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

As Paul said:



1Co 4:12 And labor, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

In the type of Lev 8,

Lev 8:14 ... Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the bullock for the sin offering

But, antitypically, not at the same time.

Jesus was the forerunner in this sin-offering, and provides a precious and unique example for us to follow...

As Paul said...

1Co 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

Heb 12:1 ...let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

And as Jesus said through John...

Rev 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

### The Merit of the Sin-Offering

It was because Jesus completed his part of the sin-offering, that God raised him to the divine nature. Jesus had fulfilled his covenant of sacrifice, something of great value, of great merit in God's eyes.

Rev 5:12 ...Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.

We must also complete our part in the sin-offering. This has no value in releasing mankind from the penalty of Adams sin, but it has great value, great merit in God's eyes. When each one completes his part in the sin-offering, he will also be raised to the divine nature, because of fulfilling his covenant of sacrifice.

### When does the Sin-Offering begin and end?

#### Q660

“The Offering for sin [sin-offering] began when Jesus presented Himself at Jordan. He will ultimately finish the work of sacrifice when the last member of the Body of Christ shall have tasted death and shall have passed beyond the veil.”

“It included in the type also the presentation of the blood of these animals to Jehovah God, as shown by the high priest's taking first the blood of the bullock, and afterwards the blood of the Lord's goat, into the Most Holy, and sprinkling the blood upon the Mercy Seat and before the Mercy Seat eastward. When this had been accomplished, the sin-offering was ended.”

### **What about dominion? – 3<sup>rd</sup> thing necessary to fully restore mankind and his home**

Mic 4:8 And thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion;

Adam lost dominion because he broke God's law. Jesus was tested until death to fully keep God's law. Because he kept the law, the scepter went to him at his resurrection.

Gen 49:10 The scepter [right to rule and have dominion] shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come [Jesus Glorified]; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

### **B85**

“Thus... by obeying the Law perfectly ...our Lord Jesus became heir of all the blessings promised in that Law Covenant made with Israel at Mount Sinai; and thus also

he was proved to be THE SEED OF ABRAHAM to whom the entire Abrahamic promise now applied. Our Lord thus secured to himself the scepter (the promised right or authority of earth's dominion)”

### **Ransom Merit applied to Justice for the World**

1Ti 2:5 ...the man Christ Jesus;

1Ti 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

1Jn 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

#### **Q572**

“The application of the ransom price is never to be made to the world. It is the Father that condemned. ...It will all be presented to God to Justice, not to man at all.”

#### **T125**

“When, therefore, the High Priest would give a ransom for sinners, it is to Justice it must be paid. Hence the appropriateness of the ceremony of sprinkling the blood upon the "Mercy Seat"--the PROPITIATORY.”

#### **R5972**

“Thus the entire merit of Jesus, designed for Adam and his race, merely passes through the Church Class, the consecrated ones, on its way to Adam and his race. The

full measure of His merit as the **Ransom-price** passes on to humanity to give Adam and his family Restitution privileges for a thousand years.

## **The Ransom Work**

We've talked about the ransom-price and the sin-offering ending at the completion of the church, but this allows the ransom work to proceed.

### **R5872**

“Manifestly, then, it will require the entire **thousand years of Messiah's Kingdom** to ransom, to deliver, to set free, from the power of sin and death, Adam and all his children. Consequently, the **Ransom work**, which began more than eighteen centuries ago, **is still to be accomplished.**”

### **R5050 – Sin-Offering- Application of the Ransom**

“The term Sin-Offering is used to represent the modus operandi by which this Ransom-price will be used for the recovery of mankind. It shows the actual application of the Ransom-price on behalf of mankind in (1) securing their release from condemnation and (2) permitting the glorious New Covenant arrangement to go into effect.”

Again, the sin-offering is complete when all the blood is brought into the Most Holy and sprinkled on the propitiatory. (Q660)

## The Grand Outcome

### R5050

“The grand outcome of the redemptive work will be seen in the end of the Millennial Age, when as a result of the application of the Ransom price there will be Christ and the Bride on the divine plane, the Great Company on the spirit plane, the Ancient Worthies in their perfected condition and the whole world of mankind restored to the perfection lost in Eden.”

## Summary Comments

We have looked at what has Merit (worth, value, excellence, a commendable quality) in God’s plan.

The Merit of the Ransom is provided by Jesus alone and satisfies Justice to release mankind from the Adamic curse.

The Merit of the Sin-Offering is seen by God as fulfillment of the covenant of sacrifice by Jesus and each of his body members to be raised to the Divine Nature to become the Divine Mediator between God and Man..

### R4426

“We are to remember that the Sin-Offerings are not Ransom sacrifices.”

The ransom-price was provided by Jesus alone through his death.

The application of the ransom-price, shown by the final blood of the sin-offering being poured on the propitiatory in the Most Holy, purchases Adam and all mankind out of condemnation by divine justice, and provides the Divine Mediator to reconcile mankind to God.

The “ransom-work” takes the entire thousand years through 2874 to achieve its intended ends.