Why did Jesus suffer a cruel death? This article will answer that question. It will also help us to strengthen our appreciation for the ransom.

(Mark 10:45) For even the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his life as a ransom in exchange for many."

## Paragraph 1

(Romans 5:12) That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because they had all sinned—.

(Romans 5:14) Nevertheless, death ruled as king from Adam down to Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the same way that Adam transgressed, who bears a resemblance to the one who was to come.

(Genesis 3:15) And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring. He will crush your head, and you will strike him in the heel."

(Mark 10:45) For even the Son of man came, not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his life as a ransom in exchange for many."

(John 6:51) I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever; and for a fact, the bread that I will give is my flesh in behalf of the life of the world."

# Paragraph 2

(1 Corinthians 15:22) For just as in Adam all are dying, so also in the Christ all will be made alive.

(Exodus 21:23, 24) But if a fatality does occur, then you must give life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,

(Romans 5:17) For if by the trespass of the one man death ruled as king through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of the undeserved kindness and of the free gift of righteousness rule as kings in life through the one person, Jesus Christ!

(Isaiah 9:6) For a child has been born to us, A son has been given to us; And the rulership will rest on his shoulder. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

(Romans 3:23, 24) For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and it is as a free gift that they are being declared righteous by his undeserved kindness through the release by the ransom paid by Christ Jesus.

# Paragraph 3

(John 14:31) But for the world to know that I love the Father, I am doing just as the Father has commanded me to do. Get up, let us go from here.

(John 15:13) No one has love greater than this, that someone should surrender his life in behalf of his friends.

# Paragraph 4

(Matthew 26:52-54) Then Jesus said to him: "Return your sword to its place, for all those who take up the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father to supply me at this moment more than 12 legions of angels? 54 In that case, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must take place this way?"

(John 18:3) So Judas brought the detachment of soldiers and officers of the chief priests and of the Pharisees and came there with torches and lamps and weapons.

(John 19:1) Pilate then took Jesus and scourged him.

(Matthew 27:32) As they were going out, they found a man of Cy-re'ne named Simon. This man they compelled into service to carry his torture stake.

(Luke 23:32-38) Two other men, criminals, were also being led off to be executed with him. 33 And when they got to the place called Skull, they nailed him to the stake there alongside the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34 But Jesus was saying: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Furthermore, they cast lots to distribute his garments. 35 And the people stood looking on. But the rulers were sneering and saying: "Others he saved; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." 36 Even the soldiers mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine 37 and saying: "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." 38 There was also an inscription over him: "This is the King of the Jews."

(John 19:25) By the torture stake of Jesus, however, there were standing his mother and his mother's sister; Mary the wife of Clo'pas and Mary Mag'da·lene.

(Mark 15:37) But Jesus let out a loud cry and expired.

(Luke 23:46) And Jesus called out with a loud voice and said: "Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit." After he said this, he expired.

(John 10:17, 18) This is why the Father loves me, because I surrender my life, so that I may receive it again. 18 No man takes it away from me, but I surrender it of my own initiative. I have authority to surrender it, and I have authority to receive it again. This commandment I received from my Father."

(John 19:30) When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said: "It has been accomplished!" and bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

#### Paragraph 5

(Matthew 26:64-66) Jesus said to him: "You yourself said it. But I say to you: From now on you will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven." 65 Then the high priest ripped his outer garments, saying: "He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? See! Now you have heard the blasphemy. 66 What is your opinion?" They answered: "He deserves to die."

(Matthew 26:38, 39) Then he said to them: "I am deeply grieved, even to death. Stay here and keep on the watch with me." 39 And going a little way forward, he fell facedown, praying: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me. Yet, not as I will, but as you will."

(Matthew 26:42) Again, a second time, he went off and prayed: "My Father, if it is not possible for this to pass away unless I drink it, let your will take place."

#### Paragraph 6

(Galatians 3:10) All those who depend on works of law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not remain in all the things written in the scroll of the Law by doing them."

(Galatians 3:13) Christ purchased us, releasing us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse instead of us, because it is written: "Accursed is every man hung upon a stake."

(Romans 5:12) That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because they had all sinned—.

(Deuteronomy 21:22, 23) "If a man commits a sin deserving the sentence of death and he has been put to death and you have hung him on a stake, 23 his dead body should not remain all night on the stake. Instead, you should be sure to bury him on that day, because the one hung up is something accursed of God, and you should not defile your land that Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance.

(Deuteronomy 27:26) "'Cursed is the one who will not uphold the words of this Law by carrying them out.' (And all the people will say, 'Amen!')

#### Paragraph 7

(Hebrews 2:17, 18) Consequently, he had to become like his "brothers" in all respects, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, in order to offer a propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the people. 18 Since he himself has suffered when being put to the test, he is able to come to the aid of those who are being put to the test.

(Hebrews 4:14-16) Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold on to our public declaration of him. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tested in all respects as we have, but without sin. 16 Let us, then, approach the throne of undeserved kindness with freeness of speech, so that we may receive mercy and find undeserved kindness to help us at the right time.

(Hebrews 5:7-10) During his life on earth, Christ offered up supplications and also petitions, with strong outcries and tears, to the One who was able to save him out of death, and he was favorably heard for his godly fear. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. 9 And after he had been made perfect, he became responsible for everlasting salvation to all those obeying him, 10 because

he has been designated by God a high priest in the manner of Mel·chiz'e·dek.

## Paragraph 8

(Job 1:9-11) At that Satan answered Jehovah: "Is it for nothing that Job has feared God? 10 Have you not put up a protective hedge around him and his house and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his livestock has spread out in the land. 11 But, for a change, stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your very face."

(Job 2:4, 5) But Satan answered Jehovah: "Skin for skin. A man will give everything that he has for his life. 5 But, for a change, stretch out your hand and strike his bone and flesh, and he will surely curse you to your very face."

## Paragraph 9

(Revelation 1:9) I John, your brother and a sharer with you in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in association with Jesus, was on the island called Pat'mos for speaking about God and bearing witness concerning Jesus.

# Paragraph 10

(1 John 2:1, 2) My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not commit a sin. And yet, if anyone does commit a sin, we have a helper with the Father, Jesus Christ, a righteous one. 2 And he is a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins, yet not for ours only but also for the whole world's.

(Revelation 19:10) At that I fell down before his feet to worship him. But he tells me: "Be careful! Do not do that! I am only a fellow slave of you and of your brothers who have the work of witnessing concerning Jesus. Worship God! For the witness concerning Jesus is what inspires prophecy."

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## Paragraph 11

(Matthew 6:13) And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the wicked one.'

#### Paragraph 12

(1 John 3:16-18) By this we have come to know love, because that one surrendered his life for us, and we are under obligation to surrender our lives for our brothers. 17 But whoever has the material possessions of this world and sees his brother in need and yet refuses to show him compassion, in what way does the love of God remain in him? 18 Little children, we should love, not in word or with the tongue, but in deed and truth.

(Ephesians 4:29) Let a rotten word not come out of your mouth, but only what is good for building up as the need may be, to impart what is beneficial to the hearers.

(Ephesians 4:31-5:2) Put away from yourselves every kind of malicious bitterness, anger, wrath, screaming, and abusive speech, as well as everything injurious. 32 But become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, freely forgiving one another just as God also by Christ freely forgave you.

5 Therefore, become imitators of God, as beloved children, 2 and go on walking in love, just as the Christ also loved us and gave himself for us as an offering and a sacrifice, a sweet fragrance to God.

#### Paragraph 13

(Leviticus 19:18) "'You must not take vengeance nor hold a grudge against the sons of your people, and you must love your fellow man as yourself. I am Jehovah.

(Colossians 3:13) Continue putting up with one another and forgiving one another freely even if

anyone has a cause for complaint against another. Just as Jehovah freely forgave you, you must also do the same.

#### Paragraph 14

(James 5:14-16) Is there anyone sick among you? Let him call the elders of the congregation to him, and let them pray over him, applying oil to him in the name of Jehovah. 15 And the prayer of faith will make the sick one well, and Jehovah will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, openly confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. A righteous man's supplication has a powerful effect.

## Paragraph 17

(1 John 3:8) The one who practices sin originates with the Devil, because the Devil has been sinning from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was made manifest, to break up the works of the Devil.