

*Atahualpa
Couldn't*



but Another Can

In the Andes Mountains lie the remains of the Inca civilization that existed before the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors, and today they constitute a major tourist attraction. For some, such relics evoke feelings of sadness due to the tragedy that befell the Incas and their noble leader Atahualpa.

When Pizarro and his men arrived at the place where Atahualpa had gathered his nobles, as well as many of his people, to receive their illustrious visitors, there was no sign of hostility. But the Spaniards had not come on a courtesy visit, but in search of riches. Through a cunning betrayal, they took the king prisoner, killing thousands of his subjects, and securely imprisoning their victim.

Then, the monarch offered to pay an enormous sum to obtain his freedom. Reaching with his hand to the highest point he could touch on the wall of the cell where he was held, he said he could fill it with gold up to that height. The room measured 16 ft x 19 ft (5 m x 6 m), and the height marked on the wall was 8 ft (2.5 m). He also said that he would fill the adjacent room to the same height with silver. He asked for two months to gather the ransom.

The faithful Peruvians worked tirelessly to bring that enormous quantity from all parts of the Inca realm within the stipulated time, and they succeeded in doing so. The conquistadors, however, did not honor their commitment; instead, they subjected Atahualpa to a horrendous death. His great ransom could not save him.

But we know of another ransom of greater value that was indeed effective in achieving the purpose for which it was paid. Since we were all prisoners of sin and unable to secure our own liberation, the Savior Jesus Christ, in marvelous grace, offered Himself to pay the cost of our redemption through the shedding of His precious blood.

In the Bible, the Apostle Peter wrote to believers in Christ: *“you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot”* (1 Peter 1.18–19 NKJV).

The blood of Jesus Christ, shed at Calvary, is of greater value than all the gold and silver in the entire world. No rite, no saint, no religion, and no work of ours can do what that blood does if the sinner accepts that work for oneself.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the only means to redeem us from all sin and from the condemnation that we all deserve.

In Christ, says the Apostle Paul, *“we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”* (Ephesians 1.7 NKJV). Do you have this redemption? Since when? If not, you can have it now and for eternity.

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