



## **Advanced Bible Correspondence Course**

### **Lesson 6: The Deliverance of Man**

#### **LORD'S DAY 6**

**Q. 16. WHY MUST HE BE VERY MAN, AND ALSO PERFECTLY RIGHTEOUS?**

**ANSWER: BECAUSE THE JUSTICE OF GOD REQUIRES THAT THE SAME HUMAN NATURE WHICH HATH SINNED, SHOULD LIKEWISE MAKE SATISFACTION FOR SIN (A); AND ONE, WHO IS HIMSELF A SINNER, CANNOT SATISFY FOR OTHERS (B).**

**(A)EZEKIEL 18:4, 20; ROMANS 5:18; I CORINTHIANS 15:21; HEBREWS 2:14-16;**

**(B)HEBREWS 7:26-27; PSALM 49:7; I PETER 3:18**

#### **The Mediator: very man and perfectly righteous**

If a Mediator can be found, then He must in the first place be a true man, must be very man. He must be one of us in order to take our place. He must be man to bear the punishment which man deserved. God demands and requires this. God is too righteous to punish an angel or an animal for the sin man has committed. *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4).*

At the same time, He must be a righteous man: a man who is guiltless himself, who has not committed any sin, and on whom the guilt of Adam's sin does not rest. One who is guilty himself cannot pay for somebody else's guilt. That is only possible by a righteous, that is, a guiltless person.

As a righteous man, he must also provide the perfect obedience which God demands. In that way, he must merit eternal life for us.

**Q. 17. WHY MUST HE IN ONE PERSON BE ALSO VERY GOD?**

**ANSWER: THAT HE MIGHT, BY THE POWER OF HIS GODHEAD (A) SUSTAIN IN HIS HUMAN NATURE (B), THE BURDEN OF GOD'S WRATH (C); AND MIGHT OBTAIN FOR, AND RESTORE TO US, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LIFE (D).**

**(A)ISAIAH 9:5, 63:3; (B)ISAIAH 53:4, 11; (C)DEUTERONOMY 4:24; NAHUM 1:6;**

**PSALM 130:3; (D)ISAIAH 53:5, 11**

#### **The Mediator: also very God**

Man cannot bear the tremendous wrath of God against sin. Therefore the Mediator must also be God. Within a short time He must bear the wrath of God, the eternal punishment, unto the end. Only in this way can He satisfy the requirement of God's justice.

The Mediator bears the punishment only through His suffering in His human nature. However, He can only bear this immense burden if His human nature is upheld by His divine nature. He would succumb under the burden if He were not also God. The Mediator must also be God to be able to conquer death. He must be able by His divine power to rise from the dead.

He must also be God to be able, through His Spirit, to raise sinners from spiritual death, and to give them the righteousness merited by Him. Then God imputes to sinners the righteousness of this Mediator, His perfect obedience to God's law, as if they themselves had been perfectly obedient. Then God sees sinners as being without sin, having a right to eternal life. They receive back in the Mediator what they lost in Adam: peace with God. Because He is man and eternal God at the same time, His merits have an infinite value. Therefore a great multitude, which no one can number, will receive forgiveness of sins and peace with God. (Revelation 7:9) The Mediator must also give them renewal of life. The Holy Spirit applies the merits of the Mediator. The Spirit bestows His treasures in heart and life. In order to do this the Spirit comes to dwell in the hearts of those whom He makes spiritually alive, those whom He regenerates. He works faith in them and gives them new strength, so that they themselves will also live again according to God's Law.

Finally, the Mediator must, through His Spirit, also grant the believers eternal life. The apostle Peter says of this Mediator: *"Him has God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins"* (Acts 5:31).

**Q. 18. WHO THEN IS THAT MEDIATOR, WHO IS IN ONE PERSON BOTH VERY GOD (A), AND A REAL (B) RIGHTEOUS (C) MAN?**

**ANSWER: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (D): "WHO OF GOD IS MADE UNTO US WISDOM, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND SANCTIFICATION, AND REDEMPTION (E)".**

- (A) I JOHN 5:20; ROMANS 9:5, 8:3; GALATIANS 4:4; ISAIAH 9:6; JEREMIAH 23:6;
- (B) LUKE 1:42, 2:6-7; ROMANS 1:3, 9:5; PHILIPPIANS 2:7; HEBREWS 2:14, 16-17;
- (C) ISAIAH 53:9, 11; JEREMIAH 23:5; LUKE 1:35; JOHN 8:46, HEBREWS 4:15, 7:26;
- (D) I TIMOTHY 2:5; MATTHEW 1:23; I TIMOTHY 3:16; LUKE 2:11; HEBREWS 2:9;
- (E) I CORINTHIANS 1:30

### **The Mediator: the Lord Jesus Christ**

Then the Name of the Mediator and Deliverer appears: Our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Son of God, who Himself is very and true God, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit is the one, Triune God, three Persons, who together are the one God. They are three, and still *one*: a divine mystery, which we cannot understand.

The Son of God did not remain God, but also assumed our human nature, the nature, which was weakened by Adam's sin, subject to suffering and death. In this way He truly became one of us. And yet He could say: *"Which of you convinces Me of sin?"* (John 8:46). Who dares to say that I have as much as one sin? The sin of Adam could not be imputed to Him, like it was imputed to all men (Lord's Day 3). He was

not conceived and born in sin, for He was born in a miraculous way: born of the virgin Mary (Lord's Day 14). He is God and man, and that at the same time: in one Person.

### **Prophet, Priest and King**

God the Father gave Christ. He was given unto wisdom: to teach. He teaches us everything that is in God's Word, the Bible. He teaches us to believe this and by faith to live according to the Word of God. How does He do that? By His Spirit, Christ enlightens spiritually blind and foolish sinners. They learn to know God in His goodness and holiness, themselves in their sinfulness and lost state, and Christ in the atoning power of His suffering. That is the work of Christ as Prophet.

He is given unto righteousness. Because of Jesus' suffering and death, they receive forgiveness of sins. That is the work of Christ as Priest.

He is given unto sanctification: all the good works of Christ are imputed to them as if they themselves had done them. Then the believers are also renewed by the Holy Spirit, so they will love God anew and desire to live according to God's law. That is the work of Christ as King.

He is given unto complete redemption: deliverance from sin, death, devil, and hell. It is all marvelous, yet still an entire reality and no myth!

### **Q. 19. WHENCE KNOWEST THOU THIS?**

**ANSWER: FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL, WHICH GOD HIMSELF FIRST REVEALED IN PARADISE (A); AND AFTERWARDS PUBLISHED BY THE PATRIARCHS (B) AND PROPHETS (C), AND REPRESENTED BY THE SACRIFICES AND OTHER CEREMONIES OF THE LAW (D); AND LASTLY, HAS FULFILLED IT BY HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (E).**

**(A) GENESIS 3:15; (B) GENESIS 22:18, 12:3, 49:10; (C) ISAIAH 53, 42:1-4, 43:25, 49:5; JEREMIAH 23:5-6, 31:32-33, 32:39-41; MICAH 7:18-20; ACTS 10:43, 3:22-24; ROMANS 1:2; HEBREWS 1:1; (D) HEBREWS 10:1&7; COLOSSIANS 2:7; JOHN 5:46; (E) ROMANS 10:4; GALATIANS 4:4, 3:24; COLOSSIANS 2:17**

### **The gospel promise in the Old and New Testament**

This is the gospel: that in Christ complete redemption and eternal salvation is possible for sinners. The word "gospel" means "glad tidings". The gospel is contained in the New Testament, but also in the Old Testament. Already in the first pages of the Bible, we read that Adam and Eve were driven out of Paradise, but also that God promised them deliverance in the "mother promise": *"And I will put enmity between thee (the devil) and the woman, and between thy seed (all the devils) and her Seed (Christ); It (Christ) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel"* (Genesis 3:15). By His suffering and death (then His heel was bruised) and by His resurrection Christ would bruise Satan's heel and deliver His children. That is the "mother promise".

This promise was proclaimed and repeatedly passed on by men but also by God Himself. In this way the promise also came to the patriarchs, the forefathers of the

people of Israel: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Time and again the promise was also repeated by God's prophets (people called by God to be His messengers). This is the audible gospel.

In His goodness, God also showed something of it in the sacrificial offerings and other ceremonies which He had commanded. These were the solemn religious performances (such as the cleansing rituals) in the time of the Old Testament. The offerings typified the bearing of punishment by Jesus Christ. The cleansing rituals pointed to the renewing of life. That is the visible gospel.

Finally, the Promised One did come! In Him all promises have become reality. The big question is, for whom has He come, and how do we share in what He merited?

### **Questions:**

1. a. *Why must the mediator be very man?*

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b. *Why must he also be a righteous man?*

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c. *Can you prove from the Bible that He is very man? (Matthew 26:36-46; John 4; John 11:5&19)*

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2. a. *Why must the Mediator be true God?*

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b. *How can you prove from the Bible that Christ is true God? (Matthew 3; John 2; John 4:1-30, 43-54)*

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3. *What does Christ do as Prophet, and as Priest, and as King?*

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4. a. *Write out what we call the "mother promise".*

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b. *What is the meaning of this promise?*

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