

Theme: Question 21: What sort of Redeemer and Mediator is needed to bring us back to God? One who is perfectly righteous, truly human and truly God.

## I. Intro - Anselm *Cur Deus Homo*

- A. Anselm was a theologian who lived from 1033-1109
- B. Archbishop of Canterbury from 1093-1109
- C. Wrote many important theological works
- D. *Cur Deus Homo* - Why the God-Man?
- E. This is what we cover in questions 21-25 of our catechism. Today we will look at Question 21.

## II. Our Great Need: A Redeemer and Mediator

- A. We need a High Priest to represent us before God  
Therefore, since we have **a great high priest** who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have **a high priest** who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then **approach the throne of grace with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:14–16
  - 1. The priests serve as mediators between the sinful people and God
  - 2. The High Priest was the Chief mediator between God and sinful humanity
  - 3. The only access to God was through the Priest and the sacrifices they offered to atone for sin
  - 4. The High Priest's mediation allows us to approach God with confidence

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup> but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is **able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.** Hebrews 7:23–25

- 1. The priest represents the people before God so that they may be redeemed and saved
- 2. The priest intercedes for the people - this is his role as a mediator.

- B. We need a Priestly Mediator because of our sin  
Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. Hebrews 7:27

- 1. The priest was called to sacrifice for sin
- 2. Priests had to sacrifice for their own sin first - then they could offer sacrifices for others
- 3. Sin requires a mediator - but old covenant priests fell short because of their own sin!

## III. The Requirements To Be Our Redeemer and Mediator

- A. The Redeemer must be perfectly righteous  
Question 21: What sort of Redeemer and Mediator is needed to bring us back to God? **One who is perfectly righteous**, truly human and truly God.
  - 1. Any sacrifice for sin must be without fault
  - 2. This is why animals sacrificed under the old covenant could not have and blemishes

3. This is why Hebrews stresses the sinlessness of Jesus

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — **yet was without sin.** Hebrews 4:15

- a. Jesus was tempted - but did not sin
- b. To be our High Priest, Redeemer, and Mediator He had to be sinless.

Such a high priest meets our need — one who is **holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners,** exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made **perfect** forever. Hebrews 7:26–28

- a. He is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners
- b. OT priests had to sacrifice for their own sin - He did not (v27)
- c. OT priests were weak - Jesus is perfect!

B. The Mediator must be truly human and truly God

Question 21: What sort of Redeemer and Mediator is needed to bring us back to God? One who is perfectly righteous, **truly human and truly God.**

- 1. The Mediator must be able to represent both parties
- 2. The Mediator must therefore be able to represent humanity and God
- 3. Hebrews stresses Jesus' humanity and Deity

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus **the Son of God,** let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but **we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are** — yet was without sin. Hebrews 4:14–15

- a. Jesus is the Eternal Son of God (also Heb. 1:1-3)
- b. Jesus became fully and truly human - he was tempted to sin just as we are

For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed **the Son, who has been made perfect forever.** Hebrews 7:28

- a. Jesus is the Son - truly and fully God
- b. Made perfect forever - as a human since He was already perfect in His Deity (also Hebrews 5:8-9)

4. This is why animal sacrifices could never remove sin and had to be repeated over and over

Unlike the other high priests, **he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day,** first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. **He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.** Hebrews 7:27

- a. OT priests offered animals every day
- b. Jesus offered Himself, not an animal, and He only had to be sacrificed once

- c. Animal sacrifices temporarily covered our sin but could never remove them

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming — not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. <sup>2</sup> If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. <sup>3</sup> But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, <sup>4</sup> because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Hebrews 10:1–4

- 1. Animal sacrifices were insufficient - this is why they had to be repeated constantly
- 2. They could not really cleanse the worshippers or make them perfect
- 3. Bulls and goats are not human or God and so it is IMPOSSIBLE for them to take away sins

- 5. Only One Who is truly human and truly God, Who is Perfect and without sin, can serve as our Redeemer and Mediator.

- C. We will unpack these requirements further in the coming weeks, seeing why God's Word teaches these things.

## IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see the importance of a Redeemer-Mediator?

- 1. Some wrongly deny we even need a Redeemer-Mediator
- 2. They think sin is no big deal - a DEADLY error!
- 3. Sin is such a big deal that only the perfectly righteous God-Man can be the Redeemer-Mediator!

- 4. This is why Christianity is not “narrow” in saying Jesus is the only way - He is the ONLY one who can fulfill the requirements to be our Redeemer-Mediator!

- 5. This is why Christmas is such a big deal - only the God-Man can save us!

Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with man to dwell;  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King.

- 6. This is why the Virgin birth, the full Deity and humanity of Christ, His sinlessness are all ESSENTIAL to the faith

- 7. Have you received the work of Jesus in your behalf? Do it today!

- B. The Table of the Redeemer-Mediator

- 1. Through Jesus, we are the redeemed, cleansed, forgiven people of God!
- 2. Through Jesus, we may boldly approach God's Throne and Table to receive grace and help in our time of need
- 3. All who confess Christ, come receive grace and strength for your journey!

## Why the God-Man?

Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:23-28

December 26, 2021

Communion

Revelation 22:21

Teaching keywords: Catechism; Incarnation; Christology; Deity of Christ; Humanity of Christ; 2nd Adam; redemption

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you, the people of God. Go forth, redeemed, forgiven, and blessed, and spread these blessings to others in the name of Christ. Revelation 22:21

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Hebrews 4:14–16

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup> but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. <sup>26</sup> Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever. Hebrews 7:23–28