

Q21. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?
A21. **The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.**

Scripture References: Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 2:5; John 1:1, 14, 10:30; Galatians 4:4; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 7:24-25, 13:81; Luke 1:35

DQ1: Who is God's elect?

DQ2: Why does God's elect need a redeemer?

DQ3: What is the role of the Redeemer of God's elect?

DQ4: What is the name of the Redeemer of God's elect?

DQ5: Is there any other redeemer other than the One appointed by God?

DQ6: What is the title/office of the Redeemer of God's elect?

DQ7: What is the relationship between the Redeemer of God's elect and God?

DQ8: In what form did the Redeemer of God's elect come into this world?

DQ9: How many different natures does the Redeemer of God's elect have?

DQ10: What are the natures of the Redeemer of God's elect?

Notes:

To this point, we have been looking at ugliness and misery of sin and how sin drove man to a faraway place from God. Yet, it is now time for us to learn how God, so amazingly opened an opportunity for man to receive a new life through God's covenant of grace even though man only deserved death and destruction. God had all along prepared a way for His elect to be redeemed.

God's redemptive touch could only save God's elect. The certainty of election is not based upon one's decision but by God's call. Only those who we will persevere and overcome this world shall be counted as God's elect. The wonderful thing is that it is God who provides His elect with the prerequisite strength and power of God to persevere and overcome.

Redemption of sinners is solely by God's grace and ministry. And, God does not willy-nilly redeem His elect. God, in order to bring His elect into redemption, by necessity, will satisfy the requirements of His nature perfectly, i.e., His justice and righteousness, and, at the same time, establish the sinful man, who has betrayed and has been covered with sin as red as crimson tide, as a just and righteous man, a new creation. This is no easy task, which makes it impossible for man to save himself. This is why God's elect needs a Redeemer.

The Redeemer must be able to fulfill the requirements of God's nature and to wash away the sin of man completely. The Redeemer could not be anyone that man could have possibly imagined. The Redeemer had to be someone unique and special. The name of this unique and special Redeemer is Jesus of Nazareth.

There is no one, other than Jesus of Nazareth, who could possibly be the Redeemer. We will learn more about Him. There is no one like Jesus of Nazareth because no one has the special natures that He has, making Him uniquely qualify for the work of redemption.

We generally express that, it is because Jesus took on our sins, we received forgiveness and redemption. This is not at all incorrect. However, it is not complete in so far as describing our redemption. The fact that Jesus of Nazareth has become our Redeemer is not only because He took on our sins and extended God's forgiveness. Redemption is made possible because Jesus of Nazareth was able to fully satisfy the requirements of God, i.e., His justice and His love. This is a more complete explanation of our redemption.

God's love or God's justice alone will not be able to explain the role of a Redeemer. How are God's love, on the one hand, and God's justice, on the other hand, fully satisfied? This is a very difficult question to answer for man. Only God could answer the question. And the answer is found in the person, nature and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth because, in Jesus, God's love and justice is perfectly harmonized and expressed.

Jesus of Nazareth has a very special title and held a very special office. His title is descriptive of His being, position and function. What is the title? It is "Christ." When we say "Jesus Christ," we are really saying Jesus is the Christ because "Christ" is His title. What does "Christ" mean? And, what is the significance of His title?

"Christ" is a Greek word used in the New Testament. The Hebrew counterpart is "Messiah." Jesus is His name but Christ is His office, the office of the Messiah. What does "Messiah" mean? It means "The Anointed One" or uniquely "Appointed One." We will study further regarding this office.

Jesus is a very special and unique person. He came to this world as the Son of God. But, Jesus was not created by God nor did He owe His being and existence from God. He is God! For detailed explanation, please refer to our study on the trinity.

So, why is Jesus referred as the Son of God? The reference to Jesus as the Son of God has very special meaning. We need to understand the meaning briefly. First, "the Son of God" reflects a love relationship. Second, "the Son of God" reflects a legal relationship. Understanding these two explanations will greatly enhance our ability understand why God sent His Son to this world. God desired to express His love for us through the relationship between Him and His Son. God, through this relationship, also desired to express how He wanted to establish God's elect as co-heirs with Jesus Christ. In Biblical context, a "son-ship" is a necessity for receiving inheritance.

Many are confused by the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. They ask: how could the Son of God be the Father? While it is impossible to understand the fact that the Son of God is God and is equal with the Father, the Bible makes it clear that the Son and Father are one and the same.

Jesus is perfect and complete God and is indeed one with the Father. It would not be an understatement to say that it is this truth that nailed Jesus to the cross. For the Jews of the day of Jesus, it was not intellectually and logically possible to accept or acknowledge that Jesus and God were one. Even today, the situation has not change very much. Many are still unable to believe in Jesus because we claim that Jesus is God. We claim Jesus to be God because the Bible claims and declare it to be true. The Bible is the evidence of Jesus' deity.

We need to pause here to understand a very important distinction. The world demand "explanation" or "understanding." The Bible gives "evidence" and declares it to be true. While the world wants to know how Jesus could be God, the Bible says He is. There is a fundamental difference.

It is possible to evidence something without being able to explain it. Truth is not explained but evidenced. Christians are to evidence God, not to make God understood by others. The explanations are too limiting to be able to give understanding. While we can talk about God, we cannot make anyone to have a true relationship with God. Christians often fall into a trap of overly explaining God. But, Christians should focus their attention more on declaring God's Word, the truth, than explaining about God.

We know from the Scripture that Jesus is both perfect God and perfect man. We cannot possibly explain these natures of Jesus fully. Yet, Jesus' natures of deity and humanity are what the Bible teaches and is necessary for Jesus to be the Redeemer. This is an essential fact and reality. If this were not true, Christianity would easily be a false religion. But, as long as the truth of Jesus' natures stands, Christianity would be superior to all other religions and, in fact, be the only true religion that it is.

Without a Redeemer like Jesus Christ, man must work for and earn his salvation on his own. This would make every religion, except for Christianity, a religion of works, not faith. Christianity is not a religion where the demand of fulfilling the demands of God has been left to sinners. Christianity alone can boast a Redeemer God who so loved the world that He gave His own life to save His people.

Sinners received redemption by God's grace in and through a Redeemer in Jesus Christ. He is unique and there is no other redeemer of man. Jesus is both perfect God and perfect man. The Unlimited came into this world in a limited form of man. We call this wonder, God Incarnate.

