

CatClub: Question 23



General recap: We have learnt that a 'Redeemer' is a person who 'buys back' something or someone from whoever owns them. In Egypt, God's people were 'bought back' or 'redeemed' from their slavery to the Egyptians at the cost of the shed blood of a lamb. This was a symbol of what would happen on the cross 1,400 years later where God's people would be 'bought back' or 'redeemed' from their slavery to sin at the cost of the shed blood of Jesus. Last week we learnt why the Redeemer, Jesus, had to be truly human; this week we learn why he had to be truly God.

Q23: Why must the Redeemer be truly God? Answer: **That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective; and also that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death.**

1. Recap on Q21 and 22:

Last week we learnt (i) that Jesus had to be made like us (i.e. human) to be our '**high priest**'. A priest speaks to God on behalf of believers. So Jesus, because he was fully human, was able to represent us sinners before God the Father; we also learnt (ii) that Jesus made '**propitiation**' for the sins of believers, meaning that **he turned away God's anger towards sin**. Jesus was able to do this because he was a **perfect, sinless** human being who kept the whole of God's Law; and (iii) that Jesus suffered temptation, like us, **but never gave in**.

2. Investigation: WHY must Jesus be **truly God**?

The Answer sets out two reasons, focusing on the power of Jesus which came from his divine nature ('divine' means the fact that he was God – God the Son):

(a) Please look up (in the New Testament) 1 Peter chapter 3, verse 18. Here we understand that there is no way that someone who was just a man could bear God the Father's anger against sin on the cross. **In order to bear the weight of that terrible anger, he had to be God as well. He also had to be able to offer a sacrifice of such value that God the Father would be pleased to accept it.**

(b) Please look up (also in the New Testament) Acts chapter 2, verse 24. This verse tells us that Jesus, being divine (God the Son), defeated death (the penalty for sin) and was resurrected to life again. **The result for us as believers is that we can be certain that, though one day we will die (physically), we will then be taken to be with Jesus and enjoy everlasting life with him.**

>>>Next week we find out why the Redeemer, Jesus, had to die...

Today's songs:

'Jesus, Thank You': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHp8eThI2qk>

'See how he loves us': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqYwANCI8uY>

1 Peter 3:18

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...

Acts 2:24

²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.