

WHY JESUS?

Why did God choose Jesus? The only way that the world of people can be saved from their own sins is that God would accept a substitute (a sacrifice) to carry the penalty of the world's sin. The penalty for sin is death, and not just physical death, but eternal death, which is eternal ruin. The Creator of mankind wished to save his creation from the penalty. He needed a substitute for the entire world of every generation.

Hello, I'm Larry Murdock.

Why would God accept a substitute for your penalty? Why would He allow someone else to take your place? Furthermore, in God's estimation, who could be that big a substitute, so as to carry the penalty for every human in every generation? Throughout the Old Testament God called this kind of transaction, "redemption." Why then would God "redeem" sinners? David gave the answer in a song, when he wrote, "Rise up; come to our help! Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love!" ([Psalm 44:26 ESV.](#)) For the sake of God's steadfast love, ah yes, that is the reason that God wishes to redeem us. God's love is steadfast; it cannot turn loose! Jesus' apostle John said it this way, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son." ([John 3:16.](#))

You see, only a sacrifice from God Himself could satisfy the demands of God's Justice. This is the reason God chose Jesus. Jesus is described in several ways by the prophets of the Bible. For instance, Isaiah describes Jesus with these words, "his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." ([Isaiah 9:6 ESV.](#)) Jesus' apostle John called him the Word who was in the beginning with God, was himself God, and was the agent who created the world and human kind. In fact, John wrote that "without him was not anything made that was made." ([John 1:3 ESV.](#))

Jesus' apostle Paul wrote to some Christians and told them they should be "giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light." (The word "light" refers to Heaven.) How did the Father do this? Paul continues, "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom (in the Son, Jesus) we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God,

the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:12-17 ESV.)

God chose Jesus because of WHO He was! “To which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’? Or again, ‘I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son’?” When God brought His son into the world, he said, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” Who are the angels compared with the Son of God? There is no comparison. God can make his angels “winds” or “a flame of fire.” But to His Son God said, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” (Hebrews 1:8-9 ESV.)

In this elevated position, appointed by the heavenly Father, Jesus “is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and [Jesus] upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins [by the sacrifice of Himself], [Jesus] sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.” (Hebrews 1:3-4 ESV.) Of course, the name Jesus has inherited is the title “Son of God.” He is also called the “lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29.)

Yes, God chose Jesus because of WHO he was. But it was Jesus who agreed to go for God. That’s right. Jesus came to the earth voluntarily to be the world’s substitute and to pay the penalty for sin. Jesus said, “For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” (John 10:17-18 ESV.) Jesus also said, “Greater love has no one than this that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” (John 15:13-14 ESV.) Jesus has laid down his life voluntarily, and then He took it up again.

The apostle Paul put it this way, “though [Jesus] was in the form of God, [he] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing,

taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:6-11 ESV.)

Yes, God chose Jesus, but Jesus shared God’s love for mankind and was willing to come to our rescue. I personally believe that God and Jesus had a conversation about the redemption of mankind. And I believe that that conversation is reflected in the call of Isaiah the prophet. Isaiah was a priest. He was serving in the temple in Jerusalem in the year that King Uzziah died when suddenly Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. Isaiah said that the train of the Lord’s robe filled the temple. “Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me,” Isaiah said, “having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." And [then] I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." (Isaiah 6:1-8 ESV.) Something like this conversation must have transpired between God and Jesus. Jesus volunteered for the job of saving us.

Friends, does any other religion in the world offer a Savior like Jesus? It is not said of anyone else in the world that He is the only begotten Son of God. It is not said of anyone else in the world that He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Yes, this is the one who suffered for the sins of the people. This is the man of whom the prophet spoke, the man who “was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. [But] Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten

by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.” The words of Isaiah, 700 years before Jesus came to earth. ([Isaiah 53:3-11 ESV](#))

When a black from Ethiopia was reading those words a stranger approached his chariot and asked, “do you understand what you are reading?” The Ethiopian humbly replied, “how can I unless someone guides me?” So, the man invited Philip, a servant of Jesus, to come up into the chariot and explain Isaiah 53. Philip began at the same scripture and preached Jesus to the Ethiopian. They then came to a certain water and the man asked, “See, here is water, what keeps me from being baptized? Philip answered, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The man replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” And the man commanded his chariot driver to stop, and “they both went down into the water,” both Philip and the Ethiopian, and Philip baptized him. (Acts 8:30-40.)

Friend, do you need to be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins, by the command of Jesus Christ?