

## **HC 18-19- Messiah's Word: Performed and Predicted**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: There are verses that appear to teach that you play a part in your salvation. For example, remember these words, "work out your salvation with fear and trembling?" (Philippians 2:12) Do you really play a part in your salvation? The answer is "no." Your salvation was completely earned by Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul simply meant that you must do works to show you are saved... OTOH, clear passages teach that you are saved by Christ and alone and through faith alone, not of works, otherwise men will boast. (Ephesians 2) The Apostle Peter illustrated this practically: 2Peter 1:5 "*But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue美德, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" **In other words, from your faith you work to prove your faith.** But be clear about this: You do not contribute one iota to your salvation. And this exclusivity of Christ's work is what God wants you to hear about today!

Our headings are: **The Fullness of Christ's Work**, and the **Prediction of Christ's Exclusive Work**.

Our goals are: You will see **that it is the one and same Christ that the Patriarchs had who saves you today, and that you must work to bring this same Christ to those who are lost in darkness that they might be saved.**

### **The Fullness of Christ's Work**

**18 Q. AND WHO IS THIS MEDIATOR— TRUE GOD AND AT THE SAME TIME TRULY HUMAN AND TRULY RIGHTEOUS?**

**A. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who was given us to set us completely free and to make us right with God.**

**1. Christ Jesus was fully human. He was completely pure. He was fully God. He was the only one who was fit to be the Savior of mankind in every possible way. He was the only one who could satisfy God's justice and set you free from God's curses on you.**

**Matthew 1:21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."**

**1Timothys 2: 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,**

**2. Christ Jesus completed that work of saving mankind from sin in fullness. He did not leave the work halfway. He set his face, as Isaiah said, like flint and headed to the cross and completed the job.**

**Isaiah 50:7 "For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.**

**And this work of Christ is retroactively efficient.** It was valid for those who in the past had faith in Christ's coming work. That is why they offered all those sacrifices and participated in all those ceremonies. **Moses talked about a prophet who could come and cause the people to hear him, as opposed to the failure of Moses to even take them to the physical Promised Land. He could not make the people listen to him. David said that a king would come that would save his Bride (Psalm 45) and rule the world (Psalm 2, 110). Abraham looked forward to Christ's salvation. (John 8). Isaiah said that the Messiah would save him...by his stripes条纹...And he used present tense (Isaiah 53). How could Jesus Christ save retroactively? In God's eyes, he knows everything exhaustively and he is not a creature of time as you are. All things exist in God's mind always.**

3. Jesus Christ gained for you, as for all believer of the Old Testament, a clean heart, a clean record and a clean life. You are prisoner of no one. No one has any claim against you, nor can they ever. Christ paid for the sins of your past, present, and future. You are freed forever.  
1Corinthians 1: 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

### **The Prediction of Christ's Exclusive Work**

19 Q. HOW DO YOU COME TO KNOW THIS?

A. The holy gospel tells me. God himself began to reveal the gospel already in Paradise; later, he proclaimed it by the holy patriarchs and prophets, and portrayed it by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law; finally, he fulfilled it through his own dear Son.

1. The prediction of Christ's work started in the Garden of Eden shortly after the Fall. Satan, as represented by the snake, bit the heel of the Lord...as snakes usually do.

Genesis 3: 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

This is called the promise of salvation in seed form. This Seed was promised to Abraham and its fulfillment was clear. Crushing of the Devil's head means complete freedom from his tyranny.

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

1John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

2. The predictions continued after the Fall through the Patriarchs – people like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Genesis 22: 18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Genesis 49: 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

Shiloh was another name for Jesus. When Judah gave birth to him the Jews would still be ruling. After Jesus died, the Jew lost the scepter forever. Now Christ will rule over all the nations.

3. The predictions continued through the prophets...but we will only look at a few, for there are too many to deal with in one sermon. Isaiah 6, 7, 9, 53... for instance. And some more...

Jeremiah 23: 5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Micah 7: 18 Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant 剩余 of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy.

19 He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue 克制 our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea. 20 You will give truth to Jacob And mercy to Abraham, Which You have sworn to our fathers From days of old.

Even the New Testament passages testify that the prophets spoke of Jesus.

Acts 10: 43 "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

Hebrews 1: 1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Even Jesus himself said that the prophets spoke of him.

Luke 24: 25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Dispensationalists who deny that unity of the Bible rob Christ of the glory that rightly belongs to him for his work of saving those in the Old Testament the same powerful way as those in the New Testament and by the same means!

4. The predictions of Christ were seen in the sacrifices and ceremonies of the Old Testament. And they too are too numerous illustrate. Read Leviticus 1-7 to see many of them there. Look at what John said about Moses who wrote at length about the sacrificial system of the Old Testament.

John 5: 46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

Moses believed in Jesus. And consider selected verses from Hebrews 10.

Hebrews 10: 1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness 意识 of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.'" 8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

5. And then all the promises, ceremonies, and sacrifices were all fulfilled when Jesus Christ, fully God, fully pure, and fully man, came to die for the sins of the world.

Romans 10: 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Galatians 4: 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Colossians 2: 16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

6. Roman Catholics and Mormons, who deny the exclusivity of the message of salvation in the Bible alone, are in serious heresy. (Romanists equate tradition with the Bible and Mormons have the Book of Mormons alongside of the Bible.) Remember 2 Timothy 3...God's word is sufficient.

### **Conclusion:**

Only Jesus Christ could remove sins and restore man into a right relationship with the Father. And he did. God predicted in through is holy prophets in the Old Testament and he fulfilled it in the New Testament. He saved people in the Old Testament and the saved people in the New Testament fully-in the same way. It is a double witness.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. What privilege you have to be chosen by the Lord and redeemed through Jesus Christ: Rejoice! He was the only one who could do it and he did!

2. That privilege, however, has responsibilities. Work and worship. Fulfill those responsibilities and enjoy those responsibilities.

3. And consider one important aspect of that work, evangelism. Satan's sting was destroyed on the cross. And God uses you today, by the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, to crush Satan's head. Romans 16:20 "And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen." How well are you working for the destruction of the Devil's work? Are you indifferent...or lazy? Or are you working hard to see God's Word spread?

Finally, God's Word says: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Believing means to receive in your heart the whole life and death of Jesus Christ. You can do nothing to earn your salvation. You simply receive what Christ has done. And there is no salvation outside of Jesus Christ...there never was and never will be. So if you want to be saved, ask God to count Jesus' life and death as yours.

