

THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING AND DEATH

A. THE FIRST STEP: JESUS CHRIST BECAME A HUMAN BEING

1. God became a human being.

Read John 1:1,14-18; John 14:7-10; Philippians 2:5-7; 1 John 1:1.

2. He came to people in the world.

Read Matthew 8:14-15; Luke 7:20-23; Acts 10:37-43.

Summary.

B. THE SECOND STEP: JESUS CHRIST BECAME A SERVANT

1. Becoming a servant.

Read. Mark 10:42-45.

2. Serving causes suffering.

Read Luke 5:29-32; Luke 7:18-22; Luke 19:7,10; John 13:4-5,12-15.

Summary.

C. THE THIRD STEP: JESUS CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS

Philippians 2:5-8

1. A sacrifice is absolutely necessary.

- The Old Testament sacrifices pointed to the absolute necessity of atonement.

Read Leviticus 20:26; Leviticus 4:1-7,20 and Hebrews 9:16-22.

- The Old Testament sacrifices were imperfect and therefore temporary.

Read Hebrews 9:7-10; Hebrews 10:1-4.

2. The perfect sacrifice must fulfil four conditions.

- First condition: The perfect sacrifice must be a *human*.

Read Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 9:23-26.

- Second condition: The perfect sacrifice must die *willingly*.

Read John 10:17-18; John 15:13.

- Third condition: The perfect sacrifice must be *sinless*.

Read Romans 3:23; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:26-27.

- Fourth condition: The perfect sacrifice must be *God's choice* for the task.

Read 1 Peter 1:18-20; Matthew 3:16-17; John 1:29-34; John 3:16.

3. The unique characteristics of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Read Hebrews 9:12-14,24-26.

- The first unique characteristic: Jesus Christ is the high priest who works *in heaven*.
- Second unique characteristic: Jesus Christ is the high priest who *sacrificed himself*.
- Third unique characteristic: Jesus Christ is the high priest who *sacrificed only once*.

4. The purpose of the sacrifice of atonement of Christ.

- The death of Jesus Christ *justifies* believers.

Read Romans 5:6-10; 1 Peter 2:24.

- The death of Jesus Christ *reconciles* believers.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21; 1 Peter 3:18.

- The death of Jesus Christ *purifies* believers.

Read Genesis 3:8-10,21; Galatians 3:27.

- The death of Jesus Christ *sanctifies* believers.

Read Hebrews 10:10,14.

5. The manner in which Christ died.

- Jesus died on a cross in order to take the curse away.

Read Galatians 3:10-11; Galatians 3:12-14.

- The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was a fulfilment of prophecy.

Read Psalm 22:16-18; Isaiah 53:5-6.

Summary.

D. THE FOURTH STEP: JESUS CHRIST WAS RESURRECTED FROM THE DEAD

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a fact.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.

2. The importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- Then God would not have accepted Christ's work of salvation by his life on earth and his death on the cross.

Read Romans 1:2-4.

- Then faith in Jesus Christ would have been absolutely meaningless.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-20.

3. The benefits of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for believers.

Discuss. What are the two great benefits of the resurrection of Jesus Christ for believers?

Read Romans 6:3-14.

- Believers receive a regenerated human spirit!
- Believers receive a transformed human body!

Summary.

E. THE FIFTH STEP: JESUS CHRIST ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN

1. The present authority of Jesus Christ.

Read Luke 24:50-51; Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:18-23; Philippians 2:9-11.

2. The present task of Jesus Christ.

Every person, who believes in Jesus Christ, can have the following assurances:

- John 3:16. Hebrews 4:15-16; 7:23-25.
- Philippians 1:6.
- Romans 8:28-39.
- 1 Corinthians 15:25; Matthew 22:44; Revelation 17:14.

Summary.

Summary. The 5 steps through which Jesus Christ as Mediator solved the problem of suffering and death:

1. Jesus Christ became *a human being* in order to reveal God and to identify himself completely with the suffering and needs of people on earth.
2. Jesus Christ became *a servant* in order to seek what is lost and to heal what is broken.
3. Jesus Christ *died on the cross* in order to take away the problem (sins) and the resulting consequence (separation from God).
4. Jesus Christ *was resurrected from the dead* in order to guarantee a new spiritual life on this present earth and a new glorified body on the future new earth.
5. Jesus Christ *ascended into heaven* in order to rule the universe in the interest of the Christian Church and to apply his completed work of salvation in the lives of individual people on earth.

ASSIGNMENT FOR THE NEXT SESSION

1. During the next week, read the Bible passages again. Consider what the Bible says about the solution to the problem of suffering and death.
2. During the next week, consider the following question: "What do you think would be an appropriate response to God for everything he has done for you?" We will discuss this during the next session.