

Title: JESUS, OUR PROPITIATOR

Key texts: John 3:14, 1 John 2:1-2

Many crucial ideas are explained in John 3, revealing the global plan of God and how God will accomplish it, including the role of Jesus as Saviour.

Christ alone is the means of salvation for the entire world. Those who reject Jesus reject God.

Nicodemus, came to Jesus by night possibly to have a one-on-one, heart-to-heart talk with Him, to understand His perspective, His theology and where the source of His wisdom and miraculous power were coming from.

Jewish basic belief

By strictly following the law and doing good deeds, one may attain salvation.

But Jesus said, *“he who is born of the flesh is flesh and he who is born of the Spirit is Spirit”*.

Because of one man’s sin, sin entered the world, and we were all affected and infected with this virus or venom called sin.

*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
No one is righteous, no not even one.*

It means, that **in** and **of** ourselves, as human beings born into sin, we can never please nor experience God.

We need to be born again!

The Bible is so clear, *there is nothing good in the flesh or the flesh profits nothing.*

John 6:63 (NLT) – *The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing.*

What is the remedy and the antidote for sin?

By believing in Jesus, who was sent to die on the cross for us.

It is not by following the Torah and by doing good deeds but by putting our life and our faith on Him and to be totally sold out and firmly believe on Jesus, the Lord and Saviour of the world.

John 3:14 (NIV) – *Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up.*

Read **Numbers 21:4-9.**

Because of their **sin** against God, people were bitten by venomous snakes and became **sick** and the end result was **death**.

God is giving us a clue on what God will do to bring judgment to the serpent and restore us back to God.

The Son of Man must be lifted up!

The OT is the shadow of the NT.

The Book of Colossians puts it this way...

Colossians 2:17 - *These are a shadow (symbolic) of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.*

3 big questions in life:

- *Why there is so much sin in the world?*
- *Why do we get sick or experience sickness?*
- *Why do we need to die?*

Is there an answer, a remedy, an antidote to these????

Not until we understand Jesus' coming, we will have an ongoing problems and questions on these 3 realities of life.

Col. 2:17 The reality... is found in Christ!

Which means, the reality, the answer to all our questions about SIN, SICKNESS AND DEATH can only be found in Christ.

Jesus on the cross unleashed the final judgment to Satan himself (*The serpent bruised his heel, but Jesus crushed his head*) and gave the antidote and answer to sin, sickness and death.

a. How did Jesus deal with sin?

By becoming sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21)

b. How did Jesus deal with sickness?

By carrying our diseases, our infirmity and nailing them on the cross (Isa 53:4-5; 1 Pet. 2:24)

c. How did Jesus deal with death?

By dying on the cross on our behalf (1 Cor. 15:3; Rom. 5:6-8; 2 Tim. 1:10; Jn. 3:16)

If we were to put everything in one word for what Jesus did on the cross on our behalf, that word would be **PROPITIATION**.

On the cross, Jesus became our propitiator!

1 John 2:1-2 says, “*My little children, these things I write to you... we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*”

He Himself is the propitiation for our sins...

Propitiation ...

- *An act of regaining the favour of someone*
- *To pacify or turn away someone's wrath*
- *To satisfy a debt by paying the full amount that is owed*

Jesus is the propitiation for our sins because sin is offensive to God. Because of sin, we were far removed from the very presence of a holy and righteous God.

Romans 1:18 says, “*... the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...*”

Jesus...

- took upon Himself the wrath of God
- took all our sins and the penalty and consequences of our sins
- paid all our sins in full by His own blood

Through the finished work of Christ ...

- **We regain the favour of God**

We are now called children of God destined to receive God's blessings and promises.

We can spend eternity with God the Father

- **Jesus pacifies and turns away God's wrath**

He sees Jesus in you for He is the propitiator who absorbed the heat of God's wrath in order to protect you and take you to your God given purpose and destination.

- **His death satisfies our debt by paying the full amount**

By giving His own sinless life, His body to be hanged on the cross and His sinless blood to be poured out for you and me.

Jesus, our propitiator!