

Jesus Our Savior and Redeemer

Q. 84. Why did the Son of God become man?

The Son of God became man in order to be our Savior and Redeemer. God the Father sent His Son to free man from the power of Satan and to make peace between God and man. To do this Jesus became man, to preach His truth about the Kingdom of His Father.

Jesus continued preaching even though the religious leaders of the Jewish people were trying to harm Him. They finally arranged to have Him put to death by the Romans because He claimed to be God. By His freely offered sacrificial death on the Cross, Jesus became our Savior.

Sacred Scripture

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” *Luke 4:18-21*

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. *John 1:10-13*

For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. *Galatians 2:19-20*

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. *1 Peter 2:21*

Catechism of the Catholic Church

608 After agreeing to baptize him along with the sinners, John the Baptist looked at Jesus and pointed him out as the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”¹ By doing so, he reveals that Jesus is at the same time the suffering Servant who silently allows himself to be led to the slaughter and who bears the sin of the multitudes, and also the Paschal Lamb, the symbol of Israel’s redemption at the first Passover.² Christ’s whole life expresses his mission: “to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”³

Splendor of Truth

Called to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, “the true light that enlightens everyone” (Jn 1:9), people become “light in the Lord” and “children of light” (Eph 5:8), and are made holy by “obedience to the truth” (1 Pet 1:22). (*section 1*)

Vatican Council II

After God had spoken many times and in various ways through the prophets, “in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son” (Hebrews 1:1-2). For he sent his Son, the eternal Word who

For commentaries on each question with Cardinal Arinze, Sr. John Vianney and Fr. Straub (in Spanish), see Appendix E.

enlightens all men, to dwell among men and to tell them about the inner life of God. *Divine Revelation, 4*

Summary Prayer

Jesus, we acknowledge You as our Savior and Redeemer because, as God made man, You preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and gave Yourself up to death out of love for Your Father and for us. You freed all creatures from the slavery of sin, and You made peace between God and man. We thank You for Your love for all mankind, and for each and every one of us in particular. We, too, wish to give our lives to You in faithful service. All glory and honor be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Catechism by Diagram

#J2-436



Salvation through Christ. God (triangle) saved all men (man drowning) through His Son (monogram), Who came to earth to suffer and die for our sins. He brings us salvation through His Church (boat), especially through the sacraments (lifesaver), to save us from eternal death. In the Church, Christ is the source of grace and eternal life.

Q. 85. What do we mean when we say that Jesus is our Savior?

Jesus is our Savior because through Him all mankind can be saved from the slavery of sin and be saved for everlasting life with God.

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St. Paul refers to sin as a slavery. Jesus Christ is our Savior because He saved us from sin. St. Paul said, “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:15-16), and “Stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1).

Sacred Scripture

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. *Romans 8:19-21*

So Jesus again said to them, “...I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture... I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” *John 10:7-11*

#E19_3-7



Catechism of the Catholic Church

549 By freeing some individuals from the earthly evils of hunger, injustice, illness, and death,¹ Jesus performed messianic signs. Nevertheless he did not come to abolish all evils here below,² but to free men from the gravest slavery, sin, which thwarts them in their vocation as God’s sons and causes all forms of human bondage.³

Vatican Council II

However, in order to establish a relationship of peace and communion with himself, and in order to bring about brotherly union among men, and they [sic] sinners, God decided to enter into the history of mankind in a new and definitive manner, by sending his own Son in human flesh, so that through him he might snatch men from the power of darkness and of Satan (cf. Col. 1:13; Acts 10:38). *Missionary Activity, 3*

Through preaching and the celebration of the sacraments, of which the holy Eucharist is the center and summit, missionary activity makes Christ present, he who is the author of salvation. *Missionary Activity, 9*

Summary Prayer

Praise to You, our Savior. By Your death You have opened for us the way of salvation. Guide Your people to walk in Your ways. Teach them to see Your Passion in their sufferings, and to show to others Your power to save. To You be all honor and glory now and forever. Amen.

Q. 86. Is there any other Savior besides Jesus?

There is no salvation in anyone but Jesus Christ, nor has there ever been, nor will there ever be.

By his own power no one is freed from the slavery of sin. Scripture says that there is no salvation in anyone else but Christ Jesus (cf. Acts 4:12). Until Jesus died upon the Cross and paid the price for man's sin, no human soul could enter heaven.

St. Paul says, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

The mystery of Christ appears in the history of men and of the world—a history subject to sin—not only as the mystery of the Incarnation, but also as the mystery of salvation and redemption. God the Father so loved sinners that He gave His Son, reconciling the world to Himself. Christ, in His boundless love, freely underwent His Passion and death because of the sins of all men, so that all might attain salvation.

Our Lord's life shows God's own love for us because all that He said and did, His whole life and death, was for the sake of others. He spent His life teaching men the truth about His Father and about themselves; He shared their lives and suffering, and He healed their illnesses. He did all this out of love for them and for His Father, Who called Him to this service. The life of Jesus shows us in a human way that God's life is a life of love. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are forever giving Themselves to each other. Having received from Jesus a perfect human life of love, the Father now gives His own life to people who turn to Him in faith.

Sacred Scripture

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also, henceforth you know him and have seen him. *John 14:6-7*

We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

Catechism of the Catholic Church

430 Jesus means in Hebrew: "God saves." At the annunciation, the angel Gabriel gave him the name Jesus as his proper name, which expresses both his identity and his mission.¹ Since God alone can forgive sins, it is God who, in Jesus his eternal Son made man, "will save his

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people from their sins.”²² In Jesus, God recapitulates all of his history of salvation on behalf of men.

Vatican Council II

Christ, whom the Father sanctified or consecrated and sent into the world, “gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds” (Tit. 2:14), and in this way through his passion entered into his glory. *Priests, 12*

Summary Prayer

Jesus, we believe that there is no salvation in anyone but You. You are the Word through Whom God made the universe; You are the Savior He sent to redeem us. By the power of the Holy Spirit, You took flesh and were born of the Virgin Mary. For our sake You opened Your arms on the Cross; You put an end to death and revealed the Resurrection. In this You fulfilled Your Father’s will and won for Him a holy people.

Savior of mankind, You destroyed death, and by rising again, restored life. Sanctify Your people, redeemed by Your blood. Give us a greater share in Your Passion through a deeper spirit of repentance, so that we may share the glory of Your Resurrection.

As You offered Your body on the Cross, Your perfect sacrifice fulfilled all others. As You gave Yourself into the hands of Your heavenly Father for our salvation, You showed Yourself to be the Priest and the Lamb of Sacrifice. Sustain us by Your love, for You offered Yourself as a perfect sacrifice on the Cross, and You are Lord forever.

By Your blood, You have set all men free and saved us from death. Continue Your work of love within us. By constantly celebrating the mystery of our salvation, which is re-enacted in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, may we reach the eternal life it promises. All glory and honor be unto You now and forever. Amen.

Q. 87. How did Jesus Christ redeem us?

By His death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ redeemed us from slavery to sin and Satan. To “redeem” means to buy back something that has been lost, sold or given away. Because of original sin and our personal sins, we were slaves of the devil. But Jesus freed us, giving us the freedom of the children of God, for, by His Resurrection, He destroyed death and gave us the life of grace.

Jesus obeyed the will of His Father by delivering Himself up for us by means of His Passion and death. Afterwards He raised Himself up from the dead, in order to redeem us and make us acceptable to the Father. He is the Messiah, God’s own Son. He said that He did these things so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled and that His Father’s will would be accomplished.

Through sin, man had lost his birthright of eternal union with God—eternal happiness in Heaven. The Son of God made man gave that birthright back to us, by

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offering Himself to His heavenly Father as a victim for our redemption. The Old Testament sacrifices were only symbols of the new sacrifice of the Lamb—the Lamb of God—Who was sacrificed to give worthy honor and reparation to His Father. That is why He is called the Redeemer and why His work is called the work of redemption.



He offered His life for love of us and for the glory of His Father. He did His Father's will to honor Him and to make people happy forever in God's Kingdom. The Father now gives His own divine life of grace to people who turn to Him in faith.

By sinning, man failed to love God, but Christ's work of redemption was an act of infinitely perfect love and obedience, which made up His whole life on earth. His infancy spent in Egypt and His thirty years at home in Nazareth were as much a part of our redemption as were the three years of His active life and His death. His death on the Cross was the climax of His earthly lifetime of obedience to the will of the Father.

Whatever God does is of infinite value. Because Christ is God, the very least of His works or sufferings is enough to make up for man's sins. But in the plan of the Father, His Son would carry His act of perfect obedience to the point of giving Himself up to death on Calvary.

Sacred Scripture

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony to which was borne at the proper time.
1 Timothy 2:5-6

You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. *1 Peter 1:18-19*

Catechism by Diagram

#J2-394



Jesus, The Redeemer. Out of love for His Father and for us, Jesus gave Himself up to suffering (pillar of scourging) and death (Calvary), having been crucified by the Romans (Roman banner). The sun was darkened and there was an earthquake (break in line of Mt. Calvary). Christ rose from the dead (tomb), destroying death by His death and Resurrection, and gave us life so as to become children of God. He created in Himself a new humanity.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

561 “The whole of Christ’s life was a continual teaching: his silences, his miracles, his gestures, his prayer, his love for people, his special affection for the little and the poor, his acceptance of the total sacrifice on the Cross for the redemption of the world, and his Resurrection are the actualization of his word and the fulfillment of Revelation.”²¹

Splendor of Truth

Furthermore, Jesus reveals by his whole life, and not only by his words, that freedom is acquired in love, that is, in the gift of self. The one who says: “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn 15:13), freely goes out to meet his Passion (cf. Mt 26:46), and in obedience to the Father gives his life on the Cross for all men (cf. Phil 2:6-11). Contemplation of Jesus Crucified is thus the highroad which the Church must tread every day if she wishes to understand the full meaning of freedom: the gift of self in service to God and one’s brethren. (*section 87*)

Vatican Council II

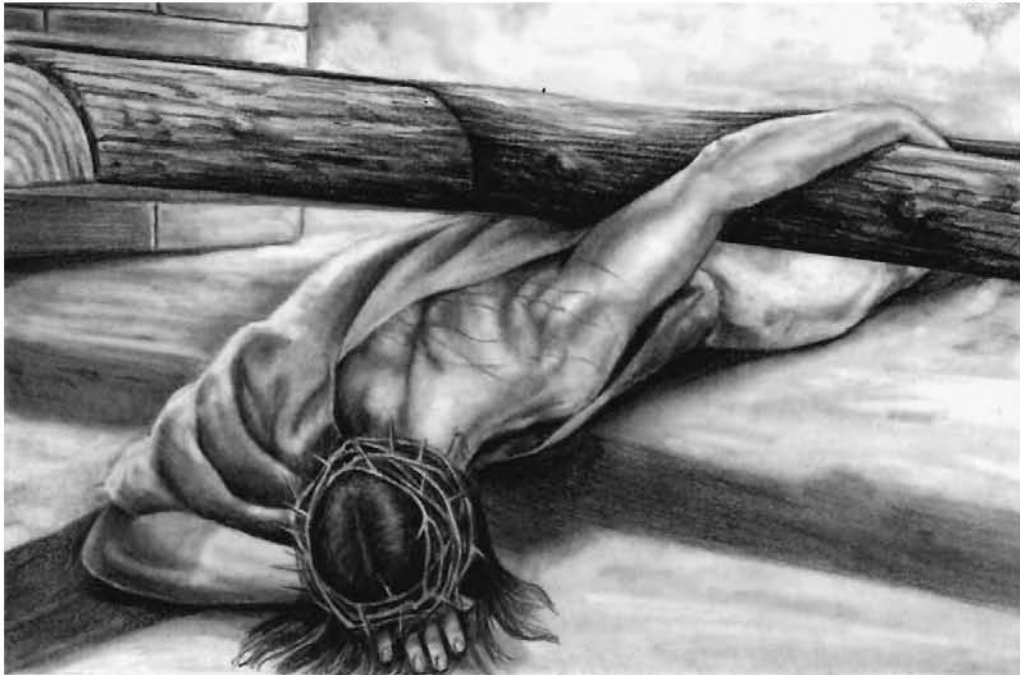
The Lord himself came to free and strengthen man, renewing him inwardly and casting out the “prince of this world” (Jn. 12:31), who held bondage of sin. For sin brought man to a lower state, forcing him away from the completeness that is his to attain. *Modern World, 13*

Summary Prayer

Jesus, we believe that by Your death and Resurrection You redeemed mankind from slavery to sin and the devil. There is no salvation in anyone but You.

Your Father loved the world so much that He gave You, His only Son, to free us from the ancient power of sin and from death. Help us who wait for Your coming, and lead us to true liberty. In Your Father's plan of salvation, You accepted the Cross and freed us from the power of the enemy. Your Father decreed that man should be saved through the wood of the Cross. The tree of man's defeat was replaced by the wood of the Cross, a tree of victory; where life was lost, there life has been restored through You. May we come to share in the glory of Your Resurrection. We ask this in Your most powerful and holy Name. Amen.

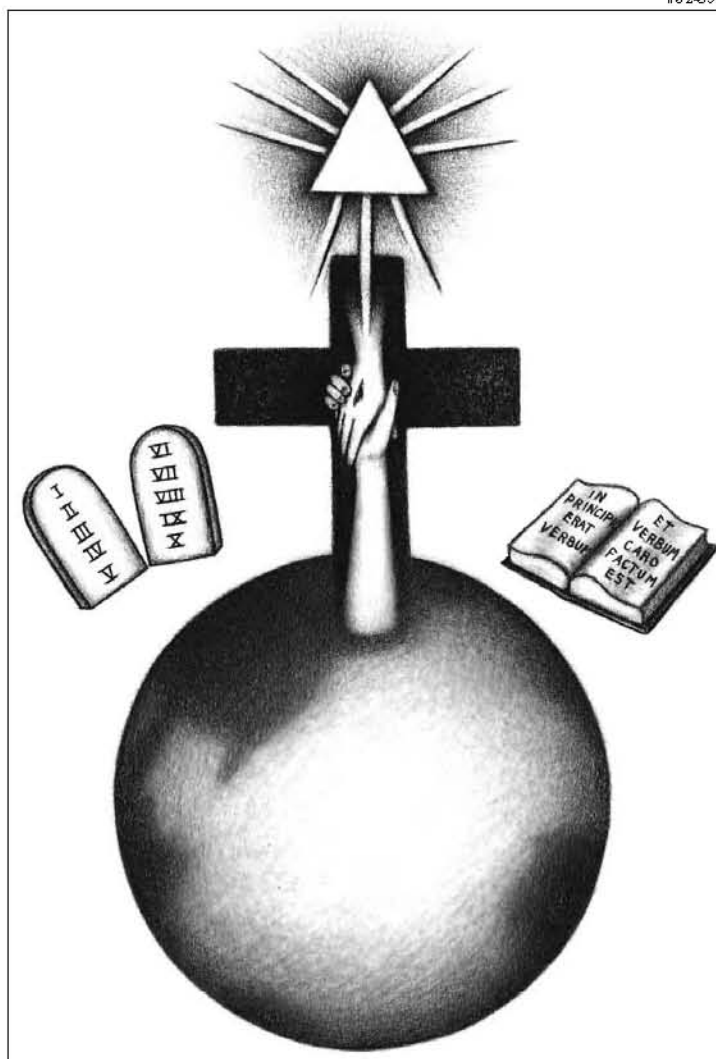
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**Doctrine • Moral • Worship Exercise** (see Appendix B for answer key)

1. By becoming man and offering His sacrificial death on the Cross, Jesus became our Savior. From what did Jesus save us? For what did He save us?
2. How can you cooperate with the saving act of Jesus' death and Resurrection? Write out two specific things that you will do to cooperate with Him in your daily life.
3. Thank Jesus for freeing you from the slavery of sin. Express your gratitude by continually cooperating with His saving act.

Catechism by Diagram

#J2-395



Reconciliation between God and Man. God (triangle) so loved mankind that He gave His Son. Jesus came into the world as God made man, to be its Savior and Redeemer. He came as our Brother to teach us and to show us what it means to love God and to belong to Him (handshake). This was done through His life on earth and His death on Calvary (cross) and through His glorious Resurrection. Christ fulfilled Old Testament prophecy and history, fulfilling the covenant (tablets of commandments) of God with His people through the Incarnation (Gospel verse translated from Latin: “In the beginning was the Word... the Word was made flesh.”). In this way, God reconciled the world to Himself.

Chapter Summary Prayer

Jesus, Mediator of the New Covenant, in the Sacrifice of the Mass may we come to You, find salvation in the sprinkling of Your Blood, and draw closer to the Kingdom where You are Lord forever.

You renew us with the food and drink of salvation in Holy Communion. May Your Blood be for us a fountain of water springing up to eternal life. Through this sacrament defend us from those who threaten us with evil, for You have set us free and saved us from death by Your Precious Blood. Hear us during times of trouble and protect us by the power of Your Name, that we who share Your struggle on earth, may merit a share in Your victory.

Lord Jesus, Redeemer of all and Author of our salvation, by Your sacrificial death, You conquered death. Hear the prayers of Your family and lift us from our slavery to evil, that we may be redeemed by You and see Your Father's glory. Teach us to seek for imperishable goods and to have confidence in Your Blood, poured out as the price of our redemption.

Lord Jesus, You have revealed Your justice to all nations. We stood condemned, but You came to be judged in our place. Send Your saving power to us, and, when You come in glory, bring Your mercy to those for whom You were condemned. To You be all power, honor and glory. Amen.

Family Wisdom Library: Chapter 22

See Appendix A for more references.

Q. 84. Why did the Son of God become man?

*Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), Vatican II, sect. 3, 4;
Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), Vatican II, sect. 3, 11, 48;
Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy), Vatican II, sect. 5;
Gospel of Life, John Paul II, sect. 2, 28;
Mother of the Redeemer, John Paul II, sect. 1;
On Evangelization in the Modern World, Paul VI, sect. 8;
On the Dignity and Vocation of Women, John Paul II, sect. 3-4;
On Reconciliation and Penance, John Paul II, sect. 7;
On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World, John Paul II, sect. 50;
On Human Work, John Paul II, sect. 26;
On the Hundredth Anniversary of Rerum Novarum, John Paul II, sect. 25;
Redeemer of Man, John Paul II, sect. 9;
The Relationship Between Faith and Reason, John Paul II, sect. 80;
Splendor of Truth, John Paul II, sect. 1.*

Q. 85. What do we mean when we say that Jesus is our Savior?

*Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), Vatican II, sect. 3, 4;
Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), Vatican II, sect. 3, 11, 48;
Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy), Vatican II, sect. 5;
On the Dignity and Vocation of Women, John Paul II, sect. 4;
On Evangelization in the Modern World, Paul VI, sect. 33-34;
On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World, John Paul II, sect. 24;
On the Hundredth Anniversary of Rerum Novarum, John Paul II, sect. 55;
On Reconciliation and Penance, John Paul II, sect. 7;
Redeemer of Man, John Paul II, sect. 9;
The Relationship Between Faith and Reason, John Paul II, sect. 80;
Rich in Mercy, John Paul II, sect. 7-8.*

Q. 86. Is there any other Savior besides Jesus?

*Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), Vatican II, sect. 3, 4;
Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), Vatican II, sect. 3, 11;
Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy), Vatican II, sect. 5;
Redeemer of Man, John Paul II, sect. 7-8;
Splendor of Truth, John Paul II, sect. 1.*

Q. 87. How did Jesus Christ redeem us?

*Dei Verbum (Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation), Vatican II, sect. 3, 4;
Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), Vatican II, sect. 2, 3, 11, 48;
Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy), Vatican II, sect. 5;
Gospel of Life, John Paul II, sect. 82;*

Guardian of the Redeemer, John Paul II, sect. 7-9;
On the Dignity and Vocation of Women, John Paul II, sect. 3-4, 11-12;
On Evangelization in the Modern World, Paul VI, sect. 33-34;
On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World, John Paul II, sect. 24, 40;
Redeemer of Man, John Paul II, sect. 8;
The Relationship Between Faith and Reason, John Paul II, sect. 80;
Splendor of Truth, John Paul II, sect. 18, 85.

#R3_4-15



Thought Provokers

Please see Appendix C for the answers.

- Q. 84: What does Jesus' obedience to his earthly parents teach us?
- Q. 85: Reflect on the following words of St. Paul: "Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:7–8).
- Q. 86: A. Is there any other Savior than Jesus Christ?
B. What does the Catholic Church mean when it refers to being saved?
- Q. 87: What is meant when it is said that Jesus redeemed us?