NCFCA Apologetics Preparation for Monument Members

Season 22 Monument Release #5



Directions: Work through the source material in this download to help you understand this week’s selection of apologetics prompts. This release addresses approximately 5% of the total number of prompts you will need to be prepared for in your next tournament, so keep up the studying from week to week to ensure your knowledge in Apologetics. This week’s prompts are:

WHO IS JESUS?

25. What is the Incarnation of Christ and why is it significant?

26. What is the deity of Christ and why is it significant?

27. What is the humanity of Christ and why is it significant?

28. What evidence supports the historical existence of Jesus?

29. What is the resurrection of Jesus and why is it significant?

30. What evidence supports Jesus as the promised Messiah?

31. In what ways did Jesus fulfill His role as prophet?\*

32. In what ways did Jesus fulfill His role as priest?\*

33. In what ways did Jesus fulfill His role as king?\*

34. What passages show that Jesus claimed to be God?\*

35. What is Christ's atonement and why is it significant?

\*This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. A worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

For a list of all the prompts for the year and all other downloads for NCFCA apologetics, visit your download page at <https://club.monumentmembers.com/ncfca-apologetics/download-category/ncfca-apologetics>.

Incarnation *by Luis Garcia*

What is the Incarnation of Christ and why is it significant?

Bible Verses

Psalm 111:9

Isaiah 7:14

John 1:1-5, 14; 10:30

Galatians 4:4-6

Philippians 2:5-11

Colossians 1:13-23

1 Timothy 3:16

Hebrews 4:14-16

Recommendations

*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, Book 2-Chapter 4 & Book 4-Chapter 5

*Miracles* by C.S. Lewis, Chapter 14

http://carm.org/dictionary-incarnation

http://www.thegracetabernacle.org/quotes/Jesus\_Christ-Birth-Incarnation.htm

Commentary

As C.S. Lewis points out, the Incarnation was one of the greatest miracles executed by God. Maybe that is why the Pharisees had such a tough time swallowing the concept of Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God. The point of this topic is to show the power and awe we are struck with in knowing that God truly humbled Himself for us. We were the ones needing humbling, as we were prideful, blind, depraved, criminals. Yet, God took the initiative in becoming one of us, “an Obstinate Toy Soldier” as Lewis put it in *Mere Christianity*. However, one of the key points to make within this topic is why does Jesus need to be both God and man. What is the purpose and beauty of this facet of Jesus’ nature?

Deity of Christ *by Joshua Johnson*

What is the deity of Christ and why is it significant?

Bible Verses

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6

Micah 5:2

Matthew 16:13-17

Mark 14:60-62

John 8:57-58; 13:3; 14:10-11; 17:20-23; 18:33-37

Colossians 1:15-19

Hebrews 1:2-3; Hebrews 13:8

(Because Jesus is one with the Father, here are a few verses revealing His omniscience)

Matthew 9:4

Mark 14:30

Luke 11:17

John 6:64

Quotations

“Jesus is the God whom we can approach without pride and before whom we can humble ourselves without despair.” –Blaise Pascal

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ This is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic – on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg – or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” –C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“This man we are talking about either was (and is) just what He said or else a lunatic, or something worse. Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God. God has landed on this enemy-occupied world in human form.” –C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Recommendations

*Mere Christianity*, Book 2-Chapter 4

The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask, Chapter 4

*More Than a Carpenter* by Josh McDowell & Sean McDowell, Chapter 3

*Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem, Chapter 14

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-Son-of-God.html>

<http://www.gotquestions.org/is-Jesus-God.html>

<http://www.gotquestions.org/deity-of-Christ.html>

<http://www.gotquestions.org/I-AM.html>

<http://crossexamined.org/the-trinity-defended/>

<http://thecripplegate.com/did-the-early-church-affirm-jesus-deity/>

<http://seanmcdowell.org/blog/putting-jesus-in-his-place>

Commentary

The fact that Jesus Christ is God means that He is divine and that He possesses divine attributes. He is the one true God; God incarnate. This relates to the topic of the Trinity: there is One God who exists as three distinct persons. Jesus is the second person of the Trinity, and therefore He is God. Here are several truths to consider when examining Christ’s deity.

The words Christ spoke are God’s words (John 3:34). When Jesus spoke, He spoke with authority, power, and love. He used His words to cast out demons, heal the sick, and speak the truth. These all reflect the power of God.

Furthermore, Jesus could forgive sins (Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26; 7:36-50). For Jesus to publically forgive the sins of men and women was remarkable because the Jews believed only God could forgive sins. Yet by publically forgiving people, Jesus demonstrated that He was and is God.

Additionally, Jesus created the universe (John 1:18). John declares that “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:3). God is the author and finisher of creation, and because Christ is God, He is the author and finisher of creation.

Moreover, Jesus referred to Himself as “I Am” (John 8:58). This statement is first mentioned in the book of Exodus where God the Father declares to Moses that when the Israelites ask who sent him, reply with “I Am.” That phrase “I Am” in the Hebrew refers to “Yahweh,” the covenant name of God. By using the exact same phrase, Christ was declaring that He is God. And when the Jews heard Him say this, they knew what He meant; they knew the meaning of the phrase “I Am.” And their response was either praise and adoration or anger and rage (the Pharisees).

Probably the greatest significance point you can mention is that if Christ were not God, there would be no one capable of saving us from our sins. No sinful person can save another. Therefore, a blameless, perfect man is needed to save us. And because Jesus was man *and* God, He was the only one capable of delivering us. He bridges the gap between God the Father and humanity through His death and resurrection, providing salvation for all people. Therefore, He deserves our worship and praise.

Overall, I would encourage you to look through the resources under “Recommendations” for further understanding and analysis of the deity of Christ. I particularly loved Sean McDowell’s article, as He breaks down the concept simply and with incredible clarity.

Blessings as you explain what if means for Jesus to be God and why this matters to the Christian faith!

Humanity of Christ *by Luis Garcia*

What is the humanity of Christ and why is it significant?

## Bible Verses

Matthew 4:7

John 10:32-39

Colossians 2:9

(Refer to Category 5, Definitions 4-5 for more Passages)

## Quotations

“Because the Son of God became Man, because He is the Mediator, for that reason alone the only true relation we can have with him is to follow him…Only the Mediator, the God-Man, can call men to follow him.” –Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Jesus is not two people (God and man). He is one Person: the God-man.” –Sam Storms

“The humanity of the son of God grants us the gift of a brother.” –Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Wouldn’t it be better to let him speak for himself? Jesus steps into the scene. He reaches to a four-hundred-year-old prophecy to tell us why he’s come. He quotes from Isaiah 61:1…Everything else he says and does finds its place under this banner. I am here to give you back your heart and set you free.” –John Eldredge

## Commentary

Jesus is both God and man, something that’s difficult to explain. The simple answer to the question “how is this possible?” is that God is all-powerful, so He can turn Himself into a man if He wants to. When addressing this question, it’s advised that you spend only two to three minutes explaining how it is possible for Jesus to be both God and man, and why no other human will become God, and spend the rest of your speaking time on the significance of the fact that Jesus is both God and man.

Historical Jesus *by John Bush*

*What evidence supports the historical existence of Jesus?*

**Bible Verses**

2 Peter 1:16
1 John 1:1
1 Corinthians 15:2-4

**Quotations**

“I don’t think there’s any serious historian who doubts the existence of Jesus....We have more evidence for Jesus than we have for almost anybody from his time period.” - Bart Ehrman

“...Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus…” - Tacitus

“… [N]o pagans and Jews who opposed Christianity denied Jesus’ historicity or even questioned it.” - Robert Van Voorst

“If we apply to the New Testament, as we should, the same sort of criteria as we should apply to other ancient writings containing historical material, we can no more reject Jesus’ existence than we can reject the existence of a mass of pagan personages whose reality as historical figures is never questioned.” - Michael Grant

“The Christians . . . worship a man to this day–the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account. . . . [It] was impressed on them by their original lawgiver that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws.” - Lucian of Samosata

**Recommendations**

“The Evidence for Jesus” by William Lane Craig, <http://www.reasonablefaith.org/the-evidence-for-jesus>

“Did Jesus Really Exist?” by Michael Houdiman, <http://www.gotquestions.org/did-Jesus-exist.html>

“Did Jesus Exist? Searching the Evidence Beyond the Bible” by Lawrence Mykitiuk, <http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/jesus-historical-jesus/did-jesus-exist/>

<http://thedevineevidence.com/jesus_history.html>

**Commentary**

Bart Ehrman, former evangelical Christian and now professed Agnostic affirmed in his recent book, *Did Jesus Exist* that, “One of the *most* *certain facts of history* is that Jesus was crucified on orders of the Roman prefect of Judea, Pontius Pilate.” There is not a single person with a doctoral degree teaching at an accredited institution in the field of history, archaeology, or textual criticism who denies the existence of Jesus Christ. The quoted section of this briefing relates the thoughts of several historians, none of whom are Christians, each affirming the overwhelming evidence for the existence of a man named Jesus of Nazareth. So why is this even a question in our league? Recent years have seen the rise of a movement called the “New Atheism.” While atheists in previous decades tended to be restricted to academia and had little cultural power, a new strain of atheistic apologists have arisen in the decades, particularly well represented by Christopher Hitchens, Richard Dawkins, and Sam Harris. While denying the historical existence of Christ is too radical even for these anti-Christian apologists, a small-sub section called “mythicists” have begun to call into the question the very historical existence of Jesus. How can we as Christians counter the claims of this new threat to the faith?

Fortunately, the historical evidence is unambiguous. We have clear evidence from Jewish sources, Roman sources, and historically reliable Christian sources that Jesus of Nazareth is a historical personage who lived towards the beginning of the first millennium and was crucified by the Roman ruler of Judea, Pontius Pilate. The first of these is the Jewish testimony represented by careful historian Flavius Josephus. Josephus, as a Jew, would have no desire to bolster Christianity’s claims. Despite this, he makes mention of Jesus Christ in two passages of his work. While there is some scholarly doubt that the first is original, the second is clear of such skepticism. In his book *Antiquities,* he writes, “...[the Jewish high priest Ananus] assembled a council of judges, and brought before it *the brother of Jesus, the so-called Christ, whose name was James*, together with some others, and having accused them as lawbreakers, he delivered them over to be stoned.” (Antiquities, XX 9:1)This passage not only testifies to the existence of Jesus, but makes reference to his brother James, a man also mentioned in Scripture itself. (Gal. 1:19; Matthew 13:55) The multiple attestations to not only Christ’s existence but also the precise nature of his family relationships provide a powerful argument for His existence in history.

The Roman Empire governed an enormous area of the world, ranging from the British isles all the way to the Crimean peninsula on the shores of the Black Sea. Because of its breadth and constant political machinations, little Judea was generally of little interest to Roman historians. Despite this factor, we have several references to Jesus from the corpus of first and second century Roman historical work. One of the most trusted chroniclers of the first century in Rome, Tacitus, records in his Annals that, “Christus, the founder of the [Christian] name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius.” (Annals XV, 44) Here we have attestation to the Scriptural record of Christ’s death under the Roman governor of Judea. Tacitus was exceptionally careful as a historian, which is why he cautiously distinguishes between hearsay and confirmed accounts 70 times in his *History.* Another Roman historian, Suetonius, references how, “As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, [Claudius] expelled them from Rome.” Some skeptics dispute whether it is truly making reference to Christ based on the misspelling noting that Chrestus was a common Greek name. This is answered on a couple counts. First, the Latin grammar makes evident that it is a reference to a *title,* and not a name, so it couldn’t be a particular Gentile like the skeptics argue. Second, early Church writings reference this misspelling, and some even use it themselves for Jesus (Tertullian, *Apology*, Chapter III; Justin Martyr, *First Apology*, IV) Finally, Chrestus was a Gentile and not a Jewish name. If what the skeptics are arguing is true, you have a very stretched plausibility that the Jews living in Rome would revolt under the leadership of a Gentile to the extent that they and only they were expelled from Rome by the emperor. No group of Jews would follow a pagan to their expelling of the capital of the world and lose all the benefits that entails.

Finally, the gospels are historically reliable sources of information from eyewitnesses, and there are good scholarly reasons for believing so. I would recommend you examine this series by Tim McGrew if you’re interested in studying and defending their reliability yourself: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gldvim1yjYM>. Unfortunately, however, there is not sufficient space in this article (or likely your apologetics speech!) to defend that proposition, especially if you seek to integrate the Jewish and Roman sources testifying to Christ as a historic reality. There are several other useful arguments, which could very easily be integrated into an apologetics speech on Christ’s existence. One powerful point, is that Jewish men seeking to invent that the Messiah had come would not have portrayed him as utterly humiliated and killed by the disgraceful means of a crucifixion. Every expectation in 1st century Judaism was that the Messiah would be a conquering king who would subdue the Romans. Presenting him as not only killed, but killed in a humiliating manner would run counter to everything we would expect from people inventing a religious savior. It is much more rational to believe that they included Christ’s crucifixion because it was in fact true.

A concluding non-textual point is that the first person who claimed Jesus didn’t exist lived in the 18th century. As apologist, Trent Horn notes, “The early Church fathers loved to stamp out heresy. Yet in all of their writings, the heresy that Jesus never existed is never mentioned. In fact, no one in the entire history of Christianity, not even early pagan critics, argued for a mythical Jesus until the 18th century.” If a major religion had arisen centered on the life of a man who didn’t even exist, its opponents (renowned for their vitriol) would certainly have made note of it. Their stunning silence tears apart the Jesus mythicist hypothesis. In sum, there is overwhelming evidence from both friendly and hostile sources that Jesus Christ was a real person who lived in history.

I would encourage you not to examine this dispassionately. The life of Jesus Christ is the most important fact of history. Do not allow this question to remain an abstract intellectual question in the mind of your audience. Explain its significance, testify to its life-changing power, and encourage them to grow to understand it more fully.

Resurrection *by Luis Garcia*

What is the resurrection of Jesus and why is it significant?

Bible Verses

[Psalm16:9-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm16%3A9-11&version=NIV)
[Isaiah 25:8-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+25%3A8-9&version=NIV)
[Jeremiah 32:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+32%3A17&version=NIV)
[Hosea 13:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hosea+13%3A14&version=NIV)
[Matthew 12:38-42](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12%3A38-42&version=NIV)
[John 2:13-22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+2%3A13-22&version=NIV)
[1 Corinthians 15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NIV)
[Revelation 1:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+1%3A18&version=NIV)

Quotations

“Many people have died for causes they believe in. In the 1960s many Buddhists burned themselves to death in order to bring world attention to injustices in Southeast Asia. In the early seventies a San Diego student burned himself to death protesting the Vietnam War. In September 2001 several Muslim extremists hijacked airliners and crashed them into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon to inflict damage on a nation they consider an enemy to their religion. The apostles thought they had a good cause to die for, but they were stunned and disillusioned when that good cause died on the cross.” –Josh McDowell, *More than a Carpenter*

 “Christ never lost a battle even when He lost His life.” –William Gurnall

 “Jesus gave the greatest proof of His authority by accurately predicting His death and the time of His bodily resurrection. Of all people, the temple authorities should have been alert to His promise, but they never dreamed that it would actually come to be. They were sure it was an empty boast. The fulfillment of that prediction reveals the uniqueness of Jesus above all contenders.” –Ravi Zacharias, *Jesus among other gods*

Recommendations

<http://carm.org/dictionary-resurrection>

<http://gracequotes.org/topic/jesus_christ-resurrection/>

Commentary

Without the resurrection, Christianity is no different than any other worldview. Why? Because all of the significant figures that founded the belief systems are mere men that are now in the grave. But Christ is much different. He is not dead, but has risen and lives forever more. All the question is asking is how the resurrection is an essential pillar to what we hold true. What does it found? If the resurrection did not occur, what would crumble in our faith? What would crumble in us?

Messiah *by Caleb Pena*

What evidence supports Jesus as the promised Messiah?

Bible Verses

[Psalm 22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+22&version=NIV)

[Isaiah 9:6-7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+9%3A6-7&version=NIV)

[Daniel 7:13-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+7%3A13-14&version=NIV)

[Mark 14:61-62](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+14%3A61-62&version=NIV)

[Matthew 16:16-17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+16%3A16-17&version=NIV)

[John 1:40-41](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A40-41&version=NIV)

[John 4:25-26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+4%3A25-26&version=NIV)

Quotations

“The claim that Jesus was the Messiah places Paul, of course, in conflict with those Jews, both ancient and modern, who take a different view. But it also places him in conflict with Rome—the city to which this letter was written. If Jesus was the true king, Caesar was not.” – N.T. Wright

“Most of [first century Palestine] was looking for a Messiah who would be a political revolutionary. They were looking for a king who would come in and release the nation from Roman domination. The demand for the release of Barabbas, a political zealot, instead of Christ ([Matt. 27:15–23](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt.%2027.15%E2%80%9323)) shows that most of Israel wanted a political savior. While these expectations were not wholly erroneous, most of the nation failed to grasp the full role of the Messiah. They failed to grasp the expectations in the prophetic writings (especially Isaiah 53) that the Messiah would not only be a political ruler but also a suffering servant.” – R.C. Sproul

Recommendations

*Messianic Prophecy* by Charles A. Briggs, DD., Hendrickson Publishers. 1988

*Messiah Prophecies Fulfilled* by D. James Kennedy

“What Does It Mean to say, ‘Jesus is the Messiah’?” by Walter Russell, *The Apologetics Study Bible*

*More than a Carpenter* by Josh McDowell, Chapters 8-11

Commentary

Christians living 2000 years after Christ’s birth often have an understanding of Christ as Messiah that underappreciates the term’s 1st century Judaic context. The role of the Messiah is rich and complex. This makes sense when we realize that well over 400 Old Testament prophecies deal with this subject. Scripture doesn’t oversimplify this concept and neither should we.

Broadly speaking, the Messiah has three roles. He serves as a savior (both political and spiritual) for the nation of Israel. He is a prophet bringing the word of the Lord to His people. And he is a Suffering Servant who is martyred for his faithfulness to God’s commands.

Jesus as Prophet

In what ways did Jesus fulfill His role as prophet?

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Jesus as Priest

In what ways did Jesus fulfill His role as priest?

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Jesus as King

In what ways did Jesus fulfill His role as king?

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Jesus as God

What passages show that Jesus claimed to be God?

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Atonement *by Benjamin Vincent*

What is Christ's atonement and why is it significant?

Bible Verses

John 3:16

Romans 6:23

Romans 3:23-25

1 Peter 2:21-25

1 John 2:2

Matthew 26:39

Matthew 27:46

Quotations

“The atonement is the work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation.” (Wayne A. Grudem, Systematic Theology)

Recommendations

*Systematic Theology* by Wayne A. Grudem, Chapter 27

*Christian Beliefs* by Wayne A. Grudem, Chapter 10

<https://bible.org/article/atonement-christ>

*The Atonement of Christ* by Lehmann Strauss

Commentary

The atonement is one of the most central doctrines of the entire Christian faith, because the atonement is the sum total of Christ’s work to earn our salvation. His life, death, and resurrection all work together toward the ultimate purpose of atoning for our sins and restoring us to a perfect relationship with our Creator. In order to understand the atonement properly, we have to look at first the *necessity* of the atonement, and secondly the *nature* of the atonement.

The first thing we need to realize is that it was not necessary for God to choose to save anybody. Romans 3:23 and 6:23 remind us that the wages of sin is death, and all of us have sinned and deserve death. It was not necessary for God to provide us with a way of salvation. But because God did choose to provide us with a way of salvation, the atonement was necessary. Christ’s life and death on our behalf was the only way that we could be saved. As Matthew 25:39 makes clear, Christ’s suffering for us was necessary to provide salvation. So it was not necessary for God to save us, but because He chose to save us, the atonement was necessary, because it was the only way to provide us with salvation.

The second thing we have to look at is the nature of the atonement. The atonement refers to more than just Christ’s death. We often talk about how Christ died for us, but forget that He also lived for us. The atonement consists of both Christ’s “active obedience” and His “passive obedience.” The active obedience of Christ refers to His entire life of perfection and obedience to God. In order to be a perfect sacrifice, Christ also had to live a perfect life. Christ’s righteousness is applied to us through the atonement. When God looks at our lives, He sees the perfect righteousness of Christ’s life. This is the active obedience of Christ.

The passive obedience of Christ refers to His suffering on our behalf. This primarily consists in His suffering during His arrest and crucifixion, but also includes the general suffering He experienced as He went through life as a human being in a fallen world. Christ endured incredible suffering on our behalf, all throughout His life, and this suffering culminated in His physical pain and spiritual and emotional anguish as He bore our sins in Himself and was crucified (1 Peter 2:24). This is the passive obedience of Christ on our behalf; He endured the suffering that we ourselves deserved.

The nature of the atonement consists of both Christ’s active and passive obedience on our behalf. As sinners, we deserve to die, to bear God’s wrath against our sin, to be separated from God, and to be in bondage to sin. But Jesus’ substitutionary atonement took all of these upon Himself; He died, bearing the full weight of God’s wrath against sin; he was cut off from God (Matthew 27:46); and He was held prisoner to the power of sin and death.

In summary, the meaning of the atonement is the work Christ did in both His life and in His death to earn us our salvation. It is so significant because, when we examine the necessity and nature of the atonement, we see the depth of God’s love for us, because although it was unnecessary for Him to save us, He chose to provide us a way of redemption, knowing that it would be necessary for Christ to live a perfect life and endure great suffering in order to provide us with our salvation.