



## How Can I Receive God's Forgiveness for My Sins? - God Requires Atonement - By Karen Sue Nyquist

1. **Often when we do something wrong, our conscience convicts us, and we feel guilty.** - We are guilty, guilty of breaking God's moral laws, such as the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20:2-17). This is called sin. God takes sins seriously. He said, "The soul (*person*) who sins shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). Being both just and merciful, He provided substitutes to die in our place, helping us realize the seriousness of sin and giving us time to repent and turn from our sins. If we don't, we'll die and go to hell. If we do, God offers us eternal life in heaven.
2. **What substitutes did God's Old Covenant (the Old Testament) law require for atonement and forgiveness of sins?** - God's law, given through Moses, required animal sacrifices to atone for people's sins. "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life" (Leviticus 17:11). "And according to the law almost all things are purified (*cleansed*) with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission (*forgiveness of sins*)" (Hebrews 9:22). **The Quran says Allah sent the Torah/Tawrat through Moses/Musa and guarded over it (Quran 5:46-48). Since He guarded over it, it has not been corrupted and we can trust the law of Moses and its requirement for atonement of our sins.**
3. **When delivering the Hebrews from slavery, what did God require to protect them from His judgment? (Exodus 12).** - God told them to sacrifice a perfect lamb, then put some of its blood on their doorposts. "And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land" (Exodus 12:13). That day is now called Passover and is celebrated yearly. But the sacrifices of animals was not a permanent solution for atoning for our sins. "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4). So what is God's permanent plan? He shows us that it will involve a son.
4. **How did God first show that a son would atone for sins?** - When God tested Abraham, He made it seem as though He would require Abraham to sacrifice his son. (Actually, God never wants us to offer a human sacrifice! (Jeremiah 32:35). When his son asked, "where is the lamb," Abraham prophesied, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb" (Genesis 22:7-8). Abraham's son was willing, but not perfect. Instead, God provided one caught in the bushes. Centuries later, when God established the **New Covenant (the New Testament)**, He would provide His own Son as the perfect Lamb, who was willing to die on the cross for the sins of the world. "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; ... And His name will be called ... Mighty God" (Isaiah 9:6). He would be both man and God. **The Quran says that Allah sent the Gospel/Injeel and guarded over it (Quran 5:46-48). That means we can trust it and what it says about the need for atonement of our sins through the blood of Jesus the Messiah/Isā al-Masīh.**
5. **Which prophet identified Jesus as the Son who would offer Himself?** - "The next day John (*the Baptist/Prophet Yahya*) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ... And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God'" (John 1:29, 34). Only Jesus lived without sin (1 John 3:5), so only He is worthy to atone for our sins with His blood. Jesus is our Passover Lamb! Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him **might be saved**" (*from hell*) (John 3:16-17). He also said, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me" (John 14:1). "By that will (*God's will*) **we have been sanctified (declared holy)** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). Jesus died to be your Savior! Through Him, God declares us holy!
6. **Did Jesus know that He would be killed and die for our sins?** - Yes, He prophesied His death and resurrection at least 3 times (Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-32 and 10:32-34). He even spoke of His burial (Matthew 12:7). "Then He (*Jesus*) took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: 'Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again'" (Mark 10:32-34). After His death, God allowed the temple to be destroyed, stopping all animal sacrifices. Jesus is the final sacrifice!
7. **If Jesus is the Son of God, why did He call Himself the Son of Man?** - Many times in the Old Testament, "a son of man" just means a human being. Jesus was a human being and is divinity (Isaiah 9:6 - see #4). The prophet Daniel had a vision in which someone, "one like a son of man" (*he looked like a human being*), was coming in the clouds! What happened next proved He was the Messiah! (Read Daniel 7:13-14). The Messiah is "**the Son of Man.**" Jesus referred to Himself about 80 times as "the Son of Man." Jesus said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and **to give His life a ransom for many**" (Mark 10:45). He referred to Daniel's prophetic vision when He was on trial before the Jewish court. "And the high priest answered and said to Him, 'I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ (*the Messiah*), the Son of God!' Jesus said to him, 'It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you,

hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power (God), and coming on the clouds of heaven” (Matthew 26:63-64). Jesus was referring to His second coming, that will happen after His death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. The high priest knew Jesus was calling Himself the Messiah and the Son of God and pronounced Him guilty of blasphemy (Matthew 26:65). He then had Jesus delivered to the Romans to be crucified. Jesus said He’d willingly die for our sins (John 10:1-17), **for both males and females** (Galatians 3:28)!

**8. Did you know Jesus gave us a way to remember that He died for us?** - At His last Passover supper before His death, Jesus explained why He was to die and what He wanted His followers to do to remember Him. “And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me’” (Luke 22:19). “Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission (forgiveness) of sins’” (Matthew 26:27-28). (This is called Communion, the Lord’s Supper, or the Eucharist.)

**9. Is there anything we must do to atone or pay for our sins? No, our debt to God is too great.** - “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). We’re also given “the gift of righteousness” (Romans 5:17) and are **saved through Jesus’ righteousness**, not through good deeds that we do. These gifts are already paid for by Jesus! “No suffering in purgatory will purify us from our sins, nor make us holy (See #5.) (nationtakers.com, Resources, “Does the Bible Support the Doctrine of Purgatory?”). **No punishment in the grave, istishadi (martyrdom), jihad, tawba (repentance and restitution), nor good deeds can atone for our sins.** God accepts only His sinless Son as atonement. If we are in Christ, then “He (God) has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom **we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins**” (Colossians 1:13-14)

“What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.” (Robert Lowry)

“I had a debt I could not pay, He paid the debt He did not owe.” (Ellis J. Crum)

**10. Did Jesus explain how we can go to heaven?** - Yes! Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit ... You must be born again” (John 3:5-7). “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:1-3). The gospel is good news! “There is therefore now no condemnation to those **who are in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh (*our sinful desires*), but according to the Spirit (*in God’s desires*) (Romans 8:1). If we are trusting in Jesus as our Lord and Savior and following His Spirit, we are not condemned to punishment in the grave, nor in purgatory, nor in hell.

**11. How can we be born again?** - **a) Repent of our sins:** Jesus said, “unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (*die and go to hell*). **b) Confess Jesus:** “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven (Matthew 10:32). **c) Believe the gospel and be baptized:** Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16). His apostle Peter said to “be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38). **d) Receive the Holy Spirit:** Jesus said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22). He said we could also “be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:5). **e) Be faithful:** Jesus said, “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (*eternal life*) (Revelation 2:10). He who believes in the Son and obeys Him has everlasting life (John 3:36; 14:1).

**12. What if I sin again, after I am born again?** - We all do, but His Spirit living inside us helps us by convicting us of sin (John 16:8) and changes us to be more like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18) “... **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:7,9).

**13. Do you want to be born again and confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior?** - **If so, here is a suggested prayer:** “Dear Jesus, forgive me for all my sins and cleanse me with Your blood from all my sinful ways. I repent from trying to live my life my way and ask You to be my Lord and Savior. I want to follow You. Right now, Jesus, I open my heart, confess You as my Lord and Savior, and receive Your Spirit. I want a closer relationship with God. In Jesus’ name I pray. AMEN!” Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

To steadily improve your relationship with God, spend time with Him, pray, and read the Bible. Daily, ask Him to become involved in your life and request His advice, direction, even correction. Obey Him when He reveals His will to you. Spend time with others who love God too. Go to a good church where you feel God’s presence, they preach the Bible, and where you can get baptized in water and receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**NationTakers Ministries** - 856 Cabrillo St., San Francisco, CA 94118 —

Mail - P.O. Box 27475, San Francisco, CA 94127 — 415-337-7027 — info@nationtakers.com

**www.nationtakers.com** — **Join us on Sunday Livestream at 11 am PT on Facebook or YouTube**

www.facebook.com/nationtakers

www.youtube.com/nationtakers

We sign for the Deaf!

