

The Threefold Work of Jesus Christ

by Peter D. Anders

<p>JESUS CHRIST FULFILLS THE WORK OF PROPHET <i>The Prophet is God's representative to his people.</i></p>	
<p><i>The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to Him,</i> Deut. 18:15</p> <p><i>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."</i> John 14:6-8</p> <p>Jesus Christ is the definitive representative of God, the self-revelation of God. When Jesus speaks and acts it is God speaking and acting toward us, not merely an intermediary.</p>	
<p>IN HIS DIVINITY</p>	<p>IN HIS HUMANITY</p>
<p>In Jesus Christ's divinity we can be sure that his words and actions are truly God's self-revelation; because Jesus is deity we can know with certainty that it is truly God's grace he reveals to us. In all that he says and does throughout his whole life and ministry, Jesus points us to God by pointing to himself.</p>	<p>God has graciously accommodated his self-revelation to humanity in the Word that actually became flesh and lived among us. It is a revelation that can be understood by our minds and discussed in our language; it has been made comprehensible to us only because Jesus Christ is truly human.</p>
<p>JESUS CHRIST FULFILLS THE WORK OF PRIEST <i>The Priest is the people's representative before God</i></p>	
<p><i>The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."</i> Psalm 110:4</p> <p><i>Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.</i> Heb. 5:8-10</p> <p>Jesus Christ gave himself as an atonement for our sins, making possible a loving communion between a holy God and sinful humanity.</p>	
<p>IN HIS DIVINITY</p>	<p>IN HIS HUMANITY</p>
<p>Since the guilt that had to be removed was the sin of humanity against an infinite God, who else but the Infinite himself could provide satisfaction for this infinite wrong. Only one who was the Infinite could bear the infinite weight of the divine wrath. God himself in Jesus Christ, provided the satisfaction for our sin. The Judge was himself judged in our place.</p>	<p>The law was given to humanity, it was humanity that sinned, and it must be humanity that is punished. The justice of God will not leave sin unpunished and will not punish sin except in that nature which sinned. Jesus Christ is our true representative because he is human like us in every way, yet without sin: God's chosen perfect substitute that takes away the sins of the world.</p>
<p>JESUS CHRIST FULFILLS THE WORK OF KING <i>The King secures the authority of God and the obedience of his people</i></p>	
<p><i>To him was given authority and glory and a kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.</i> Daniel 7:14</p> <p><i>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.</i> Phil. 2:9-11</p> <p>Jesus Christ defeated the principalities and powers opposed to God's authority, and he made possible the righteousness needed for creation to be truly obedient to God. Jesus is Lord and King over all creation.</p>	
<p>IN HIS DIVINITY</p>	<p>IN HIS HUMANITY</p>
<p>The evil that had to be defeated included the power of Satan and death. By whose power could Satan and all the powers of darkness and death be vanquished, except the one who is more powerful than all evil. We are certain of our future hope only because in Jesus Christ the Creator is also the one who defeats Satan.</p>	<p>The righteousness and obedience Jesus Christ attained through his own human life and the things that he suffered makes righteousness, sanctification and glorification possible for us through our justification, regeneration, discipleship and conformity to him, our Lord and King.</p>