

Dr. Robert A. Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 19, Conclusion: 9 Events of Christ's Saving Work Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 19, Conclusion: 9 Events of Christ's Saving Work, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Robert Peterson's lecture concludes his series on Christ's saving work by summarizing nine key events, from the incarnation to the second coming. He emphasizes the **inseparable nature of Christ's person and work** and the **unity of these nine events as one saving act**, while highlighting the **centrality of Christ's death and resurrection**. Peterson also outlines **two essential prerequisites (incarnation and sinless life)** and **five essential results (ascension, session, Pentecost, intercession, and second coming)** of this core. Finally, the lecture reviews **six biblical pictures** that illustrate the multifaceted significance of Christ's atonement, reinforcing that these diverse images all describe the same reality of salvation through Jesus' work.

**2. 14 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 19 – Double click
icon to play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Theology → Theology, Peterson → Christology).**



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3. Briefing Document: Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 19, Conclusion: 9 Events of Christ's Saving Work

Briefing Document: Dr. Robert A. Peterson on Christ's Saving Work - Conclusion: The Nine Events

Overview: This briefing document summarizes the main themes and important ideas presented by Dr. Robert A. Peterson in the concluding session of his lectures on Christ's saving work. The session focuses on the "nine events" of Christ's saving work, emphasizing their unity, the centrality of Christ's death and resurrection, and the various biblical pictures used to understand the atonement.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. Foundational Assumptions:

- **High Christology:** Peterson begins by reiterating the assumed high Christology throughout the lectures, consistent with the Gospels of John, Paul's letters, Hebrews, and Revelation. He states, "We assumed a high Christology, the high Christology of John's gospel, Paul's letters, Hebrews, and Revelation."
- **Inseparability of Person and Work:** A crucial point is the indivisible connection between Christ's identity and his actions. "We do not separate the person and work of Christ. The work is saved only because of the one who accomplished it. He is God and man, and those are two absolutely essential criteria for his saving work."
- **Unity of Christ's Saving Work:** Despite being presented as nine distinct events, Peterson stresses their fundamental unity. "There is one saving work of Christ. All nine events can be thus viewed as the Christ event."

2. The Nine Saving Events in Three Movements:

Peterson organizes Christ's saving work into three movements:

- **Movement from Heaven to Earth:**
- **Incarnation:** The eternal God became human, taking on genuine humanity permanently for a rescue mission. Quote: "God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:4-5)

- **Sinless Life:** Christ's perfect obedience was an essential precondition for his saving death. Quote: "Although Christ was, quote, in every respect tempted as we are, close quote, the great news is that he was without sin, Hebrews 4:15."
- **Death (Crucifixion):** The death of the sinless incarnate one accomplishes reconciliation, redemption, payment for sins, triumph over foes, undoing Adam's disobedience, and purification.
- **Resurrection:** Inseparable from his death, the resurrection signifies victory over Satan and all enemies, providing the power for new life for believers. Quote: "But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, close quote, by raising him from the dead on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:4 and 57."
- **Movement from Earth to Heaven:**
 - **Ascension:** Christ moves from the earthly to the heavenly realm, continuing his ministry through intercession. It ensures a forerunner in heaven for believers. Quote: "...we have a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain..." (Hebrews 6:19)
 - **Session:** Christ sits at the right hand of God as prophet, priest, and king, bestowing gifts like repentance and forgiveness. Quote: "...exalted Lord and Prince bestows gifts of repentance and forgiveness of sins..." (Acts 5:31)
 - **Pentecost:** The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the church by the ascended Lord, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies and marking the beginning of the new covenant and creation. Quote: "...you'll be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (Acts 1:5)
 - **Intercession:** Christ's ongoing work as a priest, praying for his people with understanding and compassion, granting mercy and grace. Quote: "...he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him since he always lives to make intercession for them..." (Hebrews 7:25)
- **Second Movement from Heaven to Earth:**
 - **Second Coming:** Christ will return from heaven to earth, bringing final salvation, initiating the resurrection, judgment, and the eternal state. Quote: "...Christ...will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him." (Hebrews 9:28) This event is associated with an overwhelming

future grace for believers. Quote: "Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:13)

3. Key Points Regarding the Nine Events:

- **One Saving Work:** All nine events together constitute a single, holistic saving work of Christ.
- **Centrality of Death and Resurrection:** These two events are the "heart and soul" of Christ's saving accomplishment. Scripture often mentions one implying the other.
- **Essential Prerequisites:** The incarnation and Christ's sinless life were necessary preconditions for his death and resurrection. His humanity allowed him to die for humans, and his sinlessness qualified him to be the Savior.
- **Essential Results:** The ascension, session, sending of the Spirit (Pentecost), intercession, and second coming are the essential consequences that flow from Christ's death and resurrection, extending and completing his saving work.

4. Biblical Pictures of Christ's Saving Work:

Peterson outlines six major biblical pictures that help understand the significance of the atonement, emphasizing that they describe the same reality of salvation from different perspectives, corresponding to the multifaceted nature of sin:

- **Reconciliation:** Restoring broken relationship between God and humanity. Christ is the peacemaker.
- **Redemption:** Deliverance from bondage to sin and Satan. Christ is the redeemer.
- **Legal Substitution (Justification/Propitiation):** Christ as our legal substitute paying the penalty for our sins and satisfying God's justice.
- **Victor:** Christ as the champion defeating spiritual enemies.
- **Recreation:** Christ as the second Adam reversing the effects of Adam's sin and restoring lost glory.
- **Sacrifice:** Christ as the great high priest offering himself for purification from sin.

Peterson notes that these are not six different salvations but rather different ways of understanding the one salvation accomplished by Jesus through his death and resurrection. The next lecture will focus on penal substitution as a foundation for these other pictures.

Conclusion:

Dr. Peterson concludes the session by reiterating the importance of understanding Christ's saving work as a unified whole, comprised of nine essential events, with the death and resurrection at its core. He emphasizes that the various biblical pictures offer rich insights into the multifaceted nature of this saving work, all stemming from the central truth that "Jesus saves sinners through his death and resurrection." Believers are encouraged to have a holistic view of salvation, encompassing everything from Christ's incarnation to his future return, and to set their hope fully on the grace to be revealed at his second coming.

4. Study Guide: Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 19, Conclusion: 9 Events of Christ's Saving Work

Christ's Saving Work: A Study Guide

I. Key Concepts and Themes:

- **High Christology:** The understanding of Jesus Christ as fully God and fully human, emphasized throughout the source material (drawn from John's Gospel, Paul's letters, Hebrews, and Revelation).
- **Inseparability of Person and Work of Christ:** The understanding that Jesus' saving actions are intrinsically linked to his divine and human identity. His work is effective because of who he is.
- **Unity of Christ's Saving Work:** While presented as nine distinct events, these are to be understood as aspects of one unified saving accomplishment, often referred to as the "Christ event."
- **Movement from Heaven to Earth (First):** This encompasses the incarnation, Christ's coming from the heavenly realm to become human. This involved leaving divine glory to take on genuine humanity (as the last Adam). The purpose was to undertake a rescue mission leading to his death and resurrection.
- **Three Events Between Incarnation and Return:** The sinless life, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus. His spotless life was a prerequisite for his atoning death and resurrection. The death and resurrection are central, constituting the core of his saving work, achieving reconciliation, redemption, payment for sins, triumph over foes, undoing Adam's disobedience, and purification.
- **Movement from Earth to Heaven:** This involves Christ's ascension, his going from the earthly to the heavenly realm. This enables his continued ministry of intercession as the God-man. The ascension leads to his session (sitting at God's right hand as prophet, priest, and king) and the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, marking the inauguration of the new covenant and new creation. His ongoing intercession involves praying for believers and perpetually presenting his sacrifice.
- **Movement from Heaven to Earth (Second):** This refers to Christ's future second coming. He will bring heaven down to earth, initiating the resurrection of the

dead, the last judgment, and the eternal state. His return is for salvation, not to deal with sin.

- **Nine Saving Events:** Incarnation, sinless life, death, resurrection, ascension, session, Pentecost, intercession, and second coming.
- **Death and Resurrection as Par Excellence:** While all nine events are part of the saving work, the death and resurrection are presented as the central and inseparable core.
- **Essential Prerequisites:** The incarnation and sinless life of Christ are essential preconditions for his saving death and resurrection.
- **Essential Results:** The ascension, session, Pentecost, intercession, and second coming are essential results that follow Christ's death and resurrection.
- **Biblical Pictures of Christ's Saving Work:** Six metaphors used in Scripture to understand the atonement: reconciliation, redemption, legal substitution (propitiation), Christ as victor, recreation (second Adam), and sacrifice. These are different ways of describing the same underlying reality of salvation.
- **Correspondence between Sin and Salvation:** The multiplicity of images of salvation reflects the multifaceted nature of sin and humanity's need.

II. Short-Answer Quiz:

1. Why is a "high Christology" considered important when discussing Christ's saving work according to Peterson?
2. Explain the relationship between the person of Christ and his saving work, as emphasized in the source.
3. What are the three "movements" described in Christ's saving work, and what are the initial and final events of each?
4. Why are both the death and resurrection of Jesus considered essential and inseparable for salvation?
5. What is the significance of Christ's ascension beyond simply moving from earth to heaven?
6. How is Pentecost understood as one of Jesus' saving events, and what did it accomplish?
7. What are the two aspects of Christ's ongoing intercession in heaven for believers?

8. According to Peterson, what is the primary purpose of Christ's second coming?
9. Name three of the six "biblical pictures" used to understand Christ's saving work and briefly explain what each represents.
10. How does the multiplicity of the biblical pictures of salvation relate to the understanding of sin?

III. Answer Key for Quiz:

1. A high Christology is important because it affirms that the one performing the saving work is both fully God and fully human, which are essential criteria for his work to be effective in saving people from their sins. The divine nature provides the power and authority, while the human nature allows him to represent humanity.
2. The person and work of Christ are inseparable. Jesus saves *through* his actions; his saving events are effective because of who he is – the God-man. The source affirms that the work is saved only because of the one who accomplished it, highlighting the unity of his being and his deeds.
3. The three movements are: first, from heaven to earth (incarnation); second, from earth to heaven (ascension); and third, a second movement from heaven to earth (second coming). Within the first movement are the incarnation, sinless life, death, and resurrection. The second includes ascension, session, Pentecost, and intercession. The third culminates in the second coming.
4. The death and resurrection are essential and inseparable because if Christ had not died, he could not have risen, and if he had not risen, his death would not have secured victory over sin and death. Together, they form the core of his saving accomplishment, providing both the payment for sin and the victory over it.
5. Christ's ascension not only moved him to the heavenly realm but also marked his exaltation to God's right hand (session), enabling him to bestow gifts like repentance and forgiveness (Acts 5:31), send the Holy Spirit (Pentecost), and continue his ministry of intercession for believers as the glorified God-man.
6. Pentecost is a saving event as it was the fulfillment of prophecy and Christ's own promise, where the ascended Lord poured out the Holy Spirit on the church. This event publicly proclaimed the new covenant, began the new creation, and expanded Christ's ministry through his followers empowered by the Spirit.

7. Christ's intercession has two aspects: first, as the crucified, risen, and ascended one, he prays for his people with understanding and compassion, granting mercy and grace. Second, because of his indestructible life and eternal priesthood, he is always able to save those who draw near to God through him.
8. The primary purpose of Christ's second coming is to save those who are eagerly waiting for him, not to deal with sin again. It will initiate the resurrection of the dead, the last judgment, and the establishment of the eternal state, bringing final and complete salvation.
9. Three of the six biblical pictures are: **reconciliation**, which depicts Christ as a peacemaker restoring the broken relationship between God and humanity; **redemption**, portraying Christ as a redeemer delivering us from slavery to sin and Satan; and **legal substitution**, illustrating Christ as our substitute who paid the penalty for our sins and propitiated God's wrath.
10. The multiplicity of the biblical pictures of salvation corresponds to the multiplicity of images of sin presented in Scripture. Each picture highlights a different aspect of humanity's fallen condition and the corresponding way in which Christ's saving work addresses that specific need.

IV. Essay Format Questions:

1. Discuss the interconnectedness of the nine saving events of Christ, arguing how they form one unified saving work.
2. Analyze the central importance of Christ's death and resurrection within the broader scope of his saving work, as presented in the source.
3. Evaluate the significance of the "movements" described in Christ's saving work (from heaven to earth and earth to heaven), explaining the key events within each and their contribution to salvation.
4. Compare and contrast at least three of the "biblical pictures" of Christ's saving work, explaining what each image conveys about the nature of salvation and why multiple images are used.
5. Explore the implications of Christ's ascension and session for the ongoing life and hope of believers, drawing on the concepts discussed in the source material.

V. Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Christology:** The branch of Christian theology concerned with the person, nature, and role of Jesus Christ.
- **Incarnation:** The theological doctrine that God the Son became human in the person of Jesus Christ.
- **Atonement:** The work Christ did in his life and death to earn salvation for sinners.
- **Propitiation:** The act of appeasing or satisfying the wrath of God through sacrifice; Christ's death is understood as propitiating God's wrath against sin.
- **Redemption:** The act of buying back or freeing someone from bondage; Christ's death is seen as redeeming humanity from sin and Satan.
- **Reconciliation:** The restoration of friendly relations between two parties; Christ's death is understood as reconciling humanity to God.
- **Justification:** The act by which God declares a sinner righteous in his sight through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Sanhedrin:** The highest Jewish council in ancient Jerusalem.
- **Session:** The doctrine that Christ, after his ascension, is seated at the right hand of God the Father, reigning as King.
- **Pentecost:** The Christian festival celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles in Jerusalem, marking the birth of the Christian Church.
- **Intercession:** The act of pleading or praying to God on behalf of others; Christ continually intercedes for believers.
- **Second Coming (Parousia):** The future return of Jesus Christ to earth in glory.
- **Theophany/Christophany:** A visible manifestation of God in the Old Testament.
- **Penal Substitutionary Atonement:** The theological view that Christ died in the place of sinners, bearing the penalty (punishment) for their sins, thus satisfying God's justice.
- **Festschrift:** A book honoring a respected person, especially an academic, usually consisting of essays contributed by colleagues, former students, etc.
- **New Covenant:** The agreement established between God and humanity through Jesus Christ, replacing the Old Covenant.

5. FAQs on Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 19, Conclusion: 9 Events of Christ's Saving Work, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions on Christ's Saving Work

1. What is the foundational assumption about Jesus Christ in understanding his saving work?

The foundational assumption is a high Christology, acknowledging Jesus Christ as fully God and fully man. This understanding, consistent with the Gospels, Paul's letters, Hebrews, and Revelation, is crucial because it affirms that the one who accomplished salvation is divine and human, both essential criteria for his saving work. The person and work of Christ cannot be separated; his saving acts are efficacious because of who he is.

2. Why does the presentation on Christ's saving work emphasize nine distinct events, and how are these events related?

The saving work of Christ is presented through nine events to provide a comprehensive understanding of its scope. These nine events are not isolated occurrences but are unified as one saving work, often referred to as the "Christ event." They can be broadly categorized into three movements: from heaven to earth (incarnation, sinless life, crucifixion, resurrection), from earth to heaven (ascension, session, Pentecost, intercession), and a second movement from heaven to earth (second coming). While distinct, all nine events are interconnected and contribute to the single, overarching act of salvation.

3. What are the two indispensable prerequisites for Christ's saving death and resurrection?

The two essential preconditions are Christ's incarnation and his sinless life. His incarnation, the act of God the Son becoming human, was necessary for him to die and rise as a man, making his atonement relevant for humanity. His sinless life was crucial because it qualified him to be a substitute for sinners. Had he been sinful, he would have been subject to death for his own sins and unable to offer himself as a sacrifice for others.

4. Which two of the nine saving events are considered central to Christ's saving work?

Christ's death and resurrection are the heart and soul of his saving accomplishment. They constitute the essence of his work, with his death atoning for sin and his

resurrection signifying victory over sin and death, and ushering in new life for believers. These two events are inseparable; the resurrection validates the efficacy of his death, and his death is the necessary precursor to his resurrection.

5. What are the five essential results that follow Christ's death and resurrection?

The five essential results are Christ's ascension, session, Pentecost (the sending of the Holy Spirit), intercession, and second coming. His ascension marked his return to glory and the beginning of his heavenly ministry. His session, his sitting at the right hand of God, signifies his reign and rule. Pentecost was the fulfillment of his promise to send the Holy Spirit, empowering the church. His intercession is his ongoing priestly work of praying for believers in God's presence. His second coming will bring final salvation, the resurrection of the dead, judgment, and the establishment of the eternal state.

6. How does the concept of "grace" relate to Christ's saving work, particularly regarding the second coming?

Grace is multifaceted, encompassing God's initial love in salvation, his present enabling power for Christian living, and his future outpouring at Christ's return. While past grace brought us into the Christian life and present grace sustains us, the second coming will be marked by an overwhelming abundance of future grace. Believers are encouraged to set their hope fully on this future grace, assuring them of God's complete love and acceptance at Christ's revelation, alleviating any fear related to their imperfections.

7. What are the six major biblical pictures used to understand the significance of Christ's atonement, and what do they illustrate?

Scripture uses six primary metaphors to illuminate Christ's saving work: * **Reconciliation:** Illustrates the restoration of the broken relationship between God and humanity through Christ's peacemaking. * **Redemption:** Depicts Christ delivering humanity from the bondage of sin and Satan, securing freedom for believers. * **Legal Substitution (Justification):** Shows Christ as our legal substitute who paid the penalty for our sins, resulting in God declaring believers righteous. * **Christ as Victor:** Portrays Christ's triumph over spiritual enemies, offering believers victory in their lives. * **Recreation:** Presents Christ as the second Adam reversing the effects of the first Adam's sin, leading to the restoration of humanity. * **Sacrifice:** Depicts Christ as the high priest offering himself as a sacrifice to cleanse believers from their sin.

These pictures are not distinct realities but different ways of understanding the same saving act of Christ.

8. What is the relationship between the multiplicity of images of salvation and the depiction of sin in the Bible?

The Bible offers multiple images of salvation because it also depicts sin in a variety of ways. Each picture of salvation corresponds to a specific aspect of humanity's plight caused by sin. For example, sin as alienation is addressed by reconciliation, bondage by redemption, guilt by legal substitution, being overpowered by enemies by Christ's victory, the corruption of creation by recreation, and defilement by sacrifice. This variety of descriptions helps us grasp the comprehensive nature of sin and the multifaceted way in which God, through Christ's saving work, addresses and overcomes it.