

High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement
December 2025

* Read each Heidelberg question and answer before discussing them according to the prompts below.

I. Question and Answer 18

Question and Answer 18 states that Jesus Christ is our Mediator who is freely given unto us for our complete redemption and righteousness? What are the implications of this answer?

First, Jesus, our Mediator, is freely given unto us. This means we receive the eternal benefits of salvation by grace alone through faith. But this grace is possible only because Christ did the hard work of salvation; Christ did the work of salvation for us! Second, through the grace of God in Christ, we receive complete redemption and righteousness. That means when we come to faith in Christ, we are saved eternally; our salvation can't be lost. Also, we receive the imputed righteousness of Christ, which is eternal.

II. Question and Answer 19

Question and Answer 19 states how we know about Jesus Christ being our only Mediator. What is this question and answer saying?

It is saying that the Old Testament has made this clear. The answer outlines the proclamation of the coming Christ from redemptive history. The answer begins by stating that the Holy Gospel of Christ was first revealed in Paradise, that is in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve fell into sin and humanity fell into sin. Then the Gospel was proclaimed by the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) and prophets (prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah and Micah). The Gospel was also foreshadowed by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law. The sacrifices and ceremonies of the law refer to sacrificial system carried out in the Tabernacle and the Temple in which animals were sacrificed and their shed blood pointed to the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. Finally, in the fulness of time, Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary.

III. Question and Answer 20

Question 20 asks if all people will be saved by the work of Jesus to be crucified, buried and raised from the dead. How is this answered?

Not everyone in the world will be saved from the wrath of God, death and hell. Jesus's work on the cross is only applied to his elect who will have faith in Jesus. A person's faith says that he believes only in Jesus to give him eternal life.