

What child
is this?



Q - What's the difference between God and Santa?
(Aside from the obvious...**wink**)

What child
IS this?

Hebrews 2:17





I. Prologue - Epilogue:
Jesus is God's final word on the subject of his love.
Hebrews 1:1-3



I. Prologue - Epilogue

Hebrews 1

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.



I. Prologue - Epilogue

Hebrews 1

3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.



I. Prologue - Epilogue

Hebrews 1

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Christian thinkers on the subject of 'purification for sins'



Ritually - As **sacrifice**, the expiation of guilt through the death of Christ on the cross.

Commercially - As **redemption**, the payment made through the blood of Christ for the debt we owe because of sin.

Relationally - As **reconciliation**, the coming together of estranged parties by means of Christ's atonement.

Legally - As **justification**, the declaration that sins have been forgiven and that the sinner stands blameless before God because of the imputation of Christ's righteousness.



II. The baseline for understanding the gift of purification
Hebrews 2:17



Hebrews 2

17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brothers and sisters in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make **propitiation** for the sins of the people.



Propitiation is used in the New Testament to describe the pacifying, placating, or appeasing of God's **wrath**. Unlike expiation, propitiation has a relational component to it. Christ's death not only removed the moral stain of sin; it also removed sin's personal offense against God.



A brief biblical survey of Wrath



John 3

36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's **wrath** remains on them.

Romans 1

18 The **wrath** of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.



Revelation 6

15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. 16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the **wrath** of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of their **wrath** has come, and who can withstand it?”



III. Gift given, gift received, gift experienced.
Hebrews 2:14-18



14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 **and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death** (Gift Experienced!). 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

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A - God's gift is for those who are 'naughty and know it'.

Romans 6:23



Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 9:15

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!