

## The Promise of Salvation

Talk to any Believer about Salvation! In fact, sometime when you are around a group of Believers, ask them *“How is one saved?”* More importantly, ask them what it takes to be saved. Once you get the conversation flowing, ask them how do they know they are saved beyond asking Jesus to come into their lives. Ask them also if there was or needs to be *“signs”* from God that one is saved. Now that you are on a *“roll”*, ask them for the purpose of salvation; and, most importantly, *“what is God’s purpose for their life now that they are saved.”*

This is a basic tenet for the Believer’s life. Yet, it’s probably one of the least understood. The correct answers to those questions above as well as a right understanding of salvation could make the difference where one spends eternity. Many base their beliefs of salvation on the New Testament only. That is short sighted and wrong. Salvation was planned before the foundations of the world. It was planned for by God before Jesus came into this world.

First, let’s look at the primary requisite for Salvation: **Romans 10:9-13**; <sup>9</sup> *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, THOU SHALT BE SAVED.* <sup>10</sup> *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* <sup>11</sup> *For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.* <sup>12</sup> *For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.* <sup>13</sup> **FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED.**

This is the bedrock verses that almost ALL Christians quote as the basis of becoming a born again believer. Personally, I think it has led to easy *“believism.”* Say those verses, especially vs 9 several times emphasizing the underlined words. It would appear that all one has to do is mouth a confession based on this verse and you’re in. Not so fast or easy! Look these verses very carefully again.

How many times is THE LORD mentioned? Whose Lord? Everything is based on that description. Jesus is not **A** lord, but He is **THE** LORD OVER ALL. He is YOUR LORD or He is nothing as far as your salvation is concerned.

Pay heed to another word in those verses - DEAD! God has raised him from the dead. Another condition: Believe totally that Jesus was resurrected from the DEAD. Why is that important? Here is what Paul has to say about it: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, <sup>1</sup> *Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.* <sup>2</sup> *By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.*

<sup>3</sup> *For what I received ( The Gospel) I passed on to you as of first importance, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,* <sup>4</sup> *that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,* <sup>5</sup> *and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.* <sup>6</sup> *After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.* <sup>7</sup> *Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,* <sup>8</sup> *and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*

**Jump to vs 12. The Resurrection of the Dead** <sup>12</sup> *But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?* <sup>13</sup> *If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.* <sup>14</sup> *And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.* What Paul is preaching is also a critical concept for all believers to know intimately. Read and meditate on the whole Book of Romans, as well as especially chapter 15 of I Corinthians. This is the end result of the promise of Salvation – We are delivered from ourselves unto Him for eternity. We will be eternal Priests reigning in His Priestly Kingdom of Blessing.

<sup>5</sup> *you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...* <sup>9</sup> *And while we are living, we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* <sup>10</sup> *Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* **1 Peter 2: 5, 9-10.**

The last word that we must consider in the Romans 10:9-13 verses is righteousness, God’s own perfection in every attribute, every attitude, every behavior, and every word. Thus, God’s instructions, as given in the Bible, both describe His own character and constitute the standard by which He measures human righteousness. His Character is Perfection

and Holiness. Simply stated: **God is Holy. We are to be like Him or we will be like a reed blowing in the wind to the point that we are children of our father – THE DEVIL.** Look at **1 Peter 1:15 – 16:** (New American Standard Bible) *but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*

**Consider this warning: Hebrews 12:14** *Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

**Are these commands just a New Testament Standard? NO!! It was a standard from the beginning. For example:** <sup>11</sup> *"Who is like Thee among the gods, O LORD? Who is like Thee, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders? (Exodus 15:11).* Or this one: <sup>2</sup> *"There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides Thee, Nor is there any rock like our God (1 Samuel 2:2).*

Some more: <sup>8</sup> *There is no one like Thee among the gods, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Thine.* <sup>9</sup> *All nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship before Thee, O Lord; And they shall glorify Thy name.* <sup>10</sup> *For Thou art great and doest wondrous deeds; Thou alone art God (Psalms 86:8-10; see also Psalm 99:1-3; Isaiah 40:25; 57:15).*

Last but not the least: <sup>3</sup> *And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD Of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."* <sup>4</sup> *And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.* <sup>5</sup> *Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts" (Isaiah 6:3-5).*

As you looked at these words: **Lord, Dead (Resurrection) and Righteousness (Holiness)**, there is no room for an easy Salvation. It is a covenant that God has made with Humanity. It is a Covenant whose terms are dictated by the creator of this world, and Holiness is an **action word**. There are no caveats, no escape clauses. We accept God through Faith resting in His work, becoming like Him (Holy) or we receive a one way ticket to eternal damnation. So the next time someone glibly prays the sinner's prayer, don't reassure that person of his/her eternal salvation without being sure they understand and commit to the terms of the covenant.

How about the people in the Old Testament? Are they saved? The answer is **YES!!** How can we be so sure of that?

Consider what transpired at the time of Christ's Transfiguration: *After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Matthew 17: 1-3.*

Both Moses and Elijah are Old Testament prophets. We could use many other examples because God called them righteous. Job, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, David to name a few. They were saved by their Faith in what God had revealed to them. This is proven by their actions. After Moses, their sins were forgiven them once a year on the Day of Atonement which is known as Yom Kippur.

On that day, The High Priest went into the Holy of Holies, offering up the blood of a slain lamb for all the sins of Israel. It was a picture of what our High Priest, Yeshua did for us by shedding His blood on the Cross for the Whole world so that whoever followed Him in Faith, in love would then be with Yeshua in Heaven.

As far back as we can find, the promise of deliverance was given to Eve when God cursed Satan in **Genesis 3:15:** <sup>15</sup> *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

Genesis 5 gives the genealogy of Adam's line whose name meanings tell the story of the Gospel. **Adam**= Man > **Seth** (Appointed) > **Enos** (Mortal) > **Cainan** (Sorrow) > **Mahalaleel** (Blessed God) > **Jared** (Shall come down) > **Enoch** (Teaching) > **Methuselah** (His death shall bring) > **Lamech** (Despairing) > **Noah** (Rest, Comfort). **Genesis 5:1-29.**

When we take the meaning of these names beginning with Adam to Noah who of course was the most righteous man at the time of the destruction of the earth by the flood, we get this hidden prophecy: *Man was appointed mortal sorrow, but the blessed God shall come down teaching that His death shall bring to the despairing rest and comfort.*

That teaching was done by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit given to Moses and others by the living word culminating in the death of Jesus but continued throughout the ages by His Apostles and His followers, both Jew and Gentile.

We are the living examples of the Promise of Salvation and its rewards. We have a Divine Eternal Purpose **Shalom**