

## NOTES

### ~ *Salvation* ~

#### *Introduction & Background*

- Jesus' coming, death, and resurrection fulfilled God's promise to provide a way out – salvation – from His coming judgment.
- “Salvation comes from the Greek word *sōtēria* – a noun describing a *rescue* or *delivery*. This word or a derivative is used 48 times in the New Testament to highlight a future rescue offered by God through faith in the Messiah.
- Salvation is possible **only through Jesus** (Acts 4:11-12).
- **Confessing** a belief in Jesus is necessary for salvation, which is freely available to everyone (Romans 10:10-13)
- **Repentance** leads to salvation (2 Corinthians 7:10).
- Salvation is an **ongoing process** to be taken seriously (Philippians 2:12).
- The faithful will be **rescued** from God's wrath/judgment to come (1 Thessalonians 5:8-9).
- Salvation – rescue from God's future judgment – will come at the **return of Jesus** to earth (Hebrews 9:27-28 & Revelation 12:10).
- Faith brings the **protection** of salvation and an eternal **inheritance** (1 Peter 1:3-5).
- Background / why we need salvation:
  - God created Adam for fellowship (Genesis 1:26-27 and 2:15-17)
  - Adam and Eve rebelled (Genesis 3:16-19)
  - God established other covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and then through Jesus (Matthew 26:28)
  - There's a judgment coming . . . (Matthew 25:31-46, Colossians 3:5-6, and Revelation 20:11-13).
- **Next week** – we'll discuss Jesus' final hours before crucifixion and what followed.

## NOTES

### Introduction

**Intro:** “Are you saved?”

Why did he keep asking me?

What is being saved?

Fire insurance . . .

Saved from God’s judgment to come; reward for obedience.

Salvation false teachings.

Questions we’ll answer.

## ~ *Salvation* ~

### *Introduction & Background*

**Introduction:** Jesus’ coming, death, and resurrection fulfilled God’s promise to provide a way out – salvation – from His coming judgment.

Texas in 1984: “*Are you saved, brother?*”

But over the years since that event, I’ve often wondered why he kept asking me the same question. What did being ‘saved’ mean? Could I be saved one day and not the next? And what was I being saved from anyway? As a teenager, I’d made a decision to profess that I believed in Jesus just in case the stories of hell fire were true. I figured this was sort of like getting free fire insurance by saying what someone had called the ‘sinner’s prayer’. My understanding too was that I’d always be kept from the fire once I said it.

Decades later, I now understand through a simple but complete review of God’s Word that salvation is a stay from His incredible judgment and wrath to come – protection from something that will happen in the future. That future protection will be a reward for being obedient and enduring as I complete this life on earth – running ‘the race’ spoken of by the apostle Paul.

Simple as the concept of obedience and reward may be, a lot of controversy and false teaching have distorted or completely destroyed this foundational truth. Questions about salvation often go unanswered and complete teaching about the subject seems to be largely absent or tightly controlled in an effort to protect man-made doctrines. So, our quest and primary goal is to guide us through what Scripture has to say about salvation, and to answer common questions like:

1. What is salvation?
2. Saved from what?
3. How do I get and keep it?

Let’s begin our study of this fundamental issue by defining salvation and exploring what Scripture has to say about why it’s necessary and how to get it.

### ❖ *Definition*

According to the Strong's Concordance, salvation is represented primarily by the Greek word *sōtēria* – a noun describing a *rescue* or *delivery*. This word or a derivative is used 48 times in the New Testament to highlight a future rescue offered by God through faith in the Messiah. Here are but a few examples of its use:

Definition

Only through Jesus

Confession

Repentance

Ongoing

Rescue . . .

. . . when He comes to earth

Salvation begins with faith.

- ✓ Salvation is possible only through Jesus. [**Acts 4:11-12**]
- ✓ Confessing a belief in Jesus is necessary for salvation, which is freely available to everyone. [**Romans 10:10-13**]
- ✓ Repentance leads to salvation. [**2 Corinthians 7:10**]
- ✓ Salvation is an ongoing process to be taken seriously. [**Philippians 2:12**]
- ✓ The faithful will be rescued from God's wrath/judgment to come. [**1 Thessalonians 5:8-9**]
- ✓ Salvation – rescue from God's future judgment – will come at the return of Jesus to earth. [**Hebrews 9:27-28**] and [**Revelation 12:10**]
- ✓ Faith brings the protection of salvation and an eternal inheritance. [**1 Peter 1:3-5**]

Remember that salvation from God's wrath to come will occur in the future after Jesus obtains His kingdom on earth.

Let's pause for a moment to summarize some basic truths about salvation:

Salvation summary:

- Rescue
- Possible only through Jesus
- Freedom to choose
- Faith and salvation are linked; it's an ongoing process

1. It's a rescuing from God's future judgment.
2. It's possible only through faith in Jesus.
3. We have the freedom to leave our faith and walk away from God's salvation.
4. Faith and salvation are linked, the maturing of which is an ongoing process. You'll discover later in this study that obedience is key to staying on course to salvation and that our instructions regarding obedience are contained within the Gospel. This is why faith, action, exposure to the Gospel, and salvation are related.

Let's answer:

- Long-standing potential
- Jesus always been the way?
- Why is salvation necessary?

We now understand that a terrible judgment is coming. My hope is that everyone here will desire to avoid what Scripture describes as God's final but incredible wrath, hell – long-lasting pain and suffering in a lake of fire and eternal separation from God. You may be asking yourself these questions, “*Has the potential of this wrath always existed? Has faith in Jesus always been the answer? Why has this wrath and salvation been necessary?*” A good next step would be to answer them by looking at salvation's background.

## ❖ *Background*

In the beginning . . .

To understand why salvation is necessary, we must first take a trip down memory lane all the way back to the creation of man beginning with Adam roughly 6,000 years ago. God made physical man and gave him soul and spirit, essentially making Adam in His image. Why? Fellowship and companionship. God had only one basic rule for life in the garden given to Adam: don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **[Genesis 1:26-27]** and **[Genesis 2:15-17]**

The rebellion

So what did Adam and his companion, Eve, do? Rebel and eat of the very tree God commanded them not to. The consequences would include separation from God and death. **[Genesis 3:16-19]**

Other covenants

Fast-forward about 2,000 years and you'll discover that God, in an effort to re-establish His fellowship with man, formed a bond with Abraham and his descendants. This bond, a covenant where God vowed to be their protector and provider *if* the people of Israel remained obedient to Him, was reaffirmed later through Moses. The covenant resembled a traditional marriage contract and was confirmed through the blood of regular animal sacrifices to God.

God's promise through the Christ

God had promised to send a savior who, through His own death, would end the need for recurring animal sacrifices. We understand through the fulfilling of hundreds of ancient prophecies that Jesus (Hebrew name Jeshua, which means "God saves") became that final sacrifice for mankind. Those who believe and confess this and then act on their new-found faith will avoid the final judgment of God. This new covenant with Jesus is also like a typical Jewish wedding ceremony and is regularly re-confirmed by us, His 'bride', through communion. **[Matthew 26:28]**

Saved from what?

But what exactly did God's covenant with Israel and Jesus' covenant with His followers avert for the faithful? People obedient to the covenants will avoid God's incredible wrath (judgment) to come at the end of this age. **[Matthew 25:31-46]** and **[Colossians 3:5-6]** and **[Revelation 20:11-13]**

## Summary

In **summary** thus far, it's safe to say from our review of related Scripture that Adam and Eve's rebellion against God resulted in our physical and spiritual death sentence. While the blood of animal sacrifices covered a multitude of Israelite sins in an old covenant with God, Jesus' blood flowing from crucifixion now covers the sins of everyone who believes this and is obedient to His commandments. Faith and action. Belief and obedience. The concepts are identical and their components can't be separated.

**Next Sunday:** We'll discuss Jesus' death and resurrection.

<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Summary</i>
Acts 4:11-12.	Salvation is possible only through Jesus.
Romans 10:10-13	Confessing a belief in Jesus is necessary for salvation, which is freely available to everyone.
2 Corinthians 7:10	Repentance leads to salvation.
Philippians 2:12.	Salvation is an ongoing process to be taken seriously.
1 Thessalonians 5:8-9.	The faithful will be rescued from God's wrath/judgment to come.
Hebrews 9:27-28	Salvation – rescue from God's future judgment – will come at the return of Jesus to earth.
Revelation 12:10	Salvation – rescue from God's future judgment – will come at the return of Jesus to earth.
1 Peter 1:3-5	Faith brings the protection of salvation and an eternal inheritance.
Genesis 1:26-27	God created mankind.
Genesis 2:15-17	God's covenant in the garden.
Genesis 3:16-19	Rebellion in the garden.
Matthew 26:28	The new covenant in Jesus' blood.
Matthew 25:31-46	God's end-times judgment.
Colossians 3:5-6	God's end-times judgment.
Revelation 20:11-13	God's end-times judgment.

“He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” —Acts 4:11-12.

for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, “WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; “WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.” —Romans 10:10-13.

For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. —2Corinthians 7:10.

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling —Philippians 2:12.

But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ —1Thessalonians 5:8-9.

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. —Hebrews 9:27-28.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. —Revelation 12:10.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. —1Peter 1:3-5.

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. —Genesis 1:26-27.

Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;



but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.” —Genesis 2:15-17.

To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.” Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.” —Genesis 3:16-19.

for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. — Matthew 26:28.

“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’ Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’ Then they themselves also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?’ Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” —Matthew 25:31-46.

For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience —Colossians 3:5-6.

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small,

standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. —Revelation 20:11-13.