

The Salvation of the Lord

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 2:1-4

INTRODUCTION.

- A. After being welcomed guests in the land of Egypt, the Israelites found themselves in the role of slaves and laborers.
 - 1. The Israelites groaned and cried out to the Lord God. (Exodus 2:23-25)
 - 2. The Lord heard their groaning and sent Moses to lead the people out of the land of Egypt.
 - 3. While at the shores of the Red Sea, with the Egyptian army behind them, Moses said to the people, *"Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."* (Exodus 14:13-14)
 - 4. After the Lord led the Israelites through the Red Sea, Moses and the Israelites sang the following words, *"The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him."* (Exodus 15:1-5)
- B. The Lord God was and is the deliverer, the salvation, of His people.
- C. Let us begin by showing that...

I. GOD DELIVERED HIS FORMER PEOPLE.

- A. As we saw, God delivered His people from their bondage in Egypt. As the years moved forward, God continued to deliver His people from the hands of their enemies, giving them victory over their enemies.
 - 1. He delivered the land of Canaan into Israel's hands. (Joshua)
 - 2. He delivered Israel from several enemies during the time of the judges.
 - a. Ehud vs. the Moabites. (Judges 3)
 - b. Deborah and Barak vs. the Canaanites. (Judges 4-5)

- c. Gideon vs the Midianites. (Judges 7)
- 3. On an individual level, God delivered David from his enemies as well as from king Saul. (1 Samuel 22:1-4)
 - a. David saw the Lord God as his rock, fortress and **deliverer**. (vs 2)
 - b. David also saw the Lord God as his shield and the **“horn of my salvation.”** (vs 3)
- 4. Throughout the history of His people, God continued to deliver His people, to be the “salvation” of His people.
- B. The condition of their deliverance: A desire and a willingness to return to the Lord.
 - 1. The Lord God was always willing to deliver His people if they desired to be delivered. (cf. Exodus 2:23-25)
 - a. The time of the judges serves as a great example.
 - b. We see many examples where, the people, being oppressed by their enemies, would cry out to the Lord and the Lord would raise up a deliverer. (ex. Judges 3:9, 15)
 - c. God’s people did not always listen to His call to repentance. (Psalm 81:8-16)
 - 2. We see a powerful example in the words of Jesus after His rebuke of the religious leaders. (Matthew 23:37-39)
 - a. Jesus said, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”* (Matthew 23:37)
 - b. We see in Jesus’ words that God was always willing to deliver and protect His people, but time after time, they were not willing.

II. GOD STANDS READY TO DELIVER.

- A. On the day of Pentecost following Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, God’s willingness to save was preached to the multitude. (Acts 2:14-21)

1. In the sermon on Pentecost, Peter quoted from Joel 2:28-32. The last part of this prophecy reads, *"And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (verse 21)
 2. When Israel called upon the Lord, they would turn back to Him and He would hear them and deliver them.
 3. Under the New Covenant, one must also call upon the Lord to be delivered from their bondage to sin.
- B. In the parable of the Prodigal son, we see God's willingness to receive those who are willing to come to Him. (Luke 15:20-24)
1. The son decided to return to his father.
 2. The father saw his son when he, the son, was a "great way off."
 3. The father saw his son and had compassion on the son.
 4. The son had been lost but now was found.
- C. Truly, God desires all men to be saved.
1. *"If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."* (Revelation 3:20-21)
 2. *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."* (1 Timothy 2:3-4)
 3. *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."* (2 Peter 3:9)
- D. This deliverance comes through Jesus the Christ.
1. Upon seeing the infant Jesus, Simeon, moved by the Holy Spirit said, *"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared..."* (Luke 2:27-32)

2. God sent Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice so everyone who is willing to obey can be delivered from their bondage to sin.
 - a. Jesus is the “author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” (Hebrews 5:9)
 - b. The gospel of Christ “is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.” (Romans 1:16)
 - c. Peter preached, “Nor is there salvation in any other...” name “...by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:10-12)

CONCLUSION.

- A. The salvation of the Lord is available to all who call upon the Lord for deliverance.
 1. Before His ascension to heaven, Jesus commanded His apostles, *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”* (Mark 16:15-16)
 2. In Luke’s account, Jesus also said, *“Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”* (Luke 24:46-47)
 3. On the day of Pentecost, the apostles proclaimed the salvation of the Lord. Peter concluded the message with the following: *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”* (Acts 2:38-39)
- B. Do not neglect the salvation of the Lord.
 1. The writer of Hebrews asks the question, “...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...?” (Hebrews 2:1-4)
 2. As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 6, *“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”*

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