



In this study, we are demonstrating that the particular doctrine of salvation taught today in most churches comes from sources other than the Holy Bible.

It may be discouraging, initially, to learn that the teachings we received as children growing up in our denominational churches were not Christian in origin. It may even make some folks angry. But, the truth is, the rituals that Judeo-Christians go through to “get saved” are pagan in nature. Furthermore, after the people participate in the salvation rituals (works) they must do to “be saved” – prescribed by their church or preacher – they are more confused and more lost than they were before.

Lord, deliver us from shepherds who confuse and destroy the flock! Concerning dishonest leaders, Jeremiah said:

22. If they [the shepherds] had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

(Jeremiah 23:22)

This is an important scripture with a very important principle: a truism.

It declares that if the preachers speak God's word, then the people will turn from their evil way. It doesn't say that they might turn, but that they WILL turn! This simple principle is immutable.

Today there are more preachers doing more preaching than ever before in the history of mankind – yet the people are not turning to God. If only a small percentage of these men were really speaking “God's words,” then the people would turn from their evil – according to the immutable principle of Jeremiah 23.

Logically, then, since our people have NOT turned from their evil ways, it can only mean that the preachers are not causing the people to hear “Yahweh's word.” Anyone can understand that simple logic.

Therefore, we have a great problem today. It is called “organized religion.” These are the churches and denominations which promote false doctrines of salvation. Organized religion [Churchianity] may be America's greatest adversary today.

First, the challenge is to find our own way out of it, and then we must help others escape. It's a great challenge because they (and we) are constantly bombarded with false doctrines and ideas – over and over and over again.

Preachers would have us believe that we must “save souls from hell” by getting people into church. However, the truth is that we are not called to “save souls from hell,” nor to get people into churches. We are called to fight error and hopelessness [sin] by the Word of God.

In 1 Peter 3:15 we are told to equip ourselves with truth; not so we can “save people from an eternal burning hell,” but to edify and help our brother:

15. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Other Christs and Other Salvations

This leads us to ask: “If the words from today's churches are not Jesus' words, given to Him by Yahweh, then whose words are they, and how can they possibly convey Yahweh's “salvation”? If their “salvations” are not from Yahweh, then from where do they originate? What kind of salvations are the churches teaching?”

The Bible warns of “other gods,” “another Jesus,” “another spirit” and “another gospel.” This means that there are other “christs” and other “salvations.” Each religion has its own “christ” and its own “savior.”

3. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent [false prophet] beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
4. For if he [any false prophet] that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive **another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well tolerate it.

(2 Corinthians 11:3-4)

Paul feared that we would tolerate the false prophets who teach strange doctrines of salvation. His fears have certainly proven to be justified. We are surrounded by strange “christs.” Pagan religions, and their “christs” are being adopted as Christianity in churches in America!

In Manly P. Hall’s book, THE SECRET TEACHINGS OF ALL AGES, An Encyclopedic Outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic and Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy, in the chapter titled THE ANCIENT MYSTERIES AND SECRET SOCIETIES, he writes:

Sun worship played an important part in nearly all the early pagan Mysteries. The Solar Deity was usually personified as a beautiful youth, with long golden hair to symbolize the rays of the sun (Notice the solar disc behind the head of christ in religious drawings. It is usually called a halo). This golden Sun God [christ/savior] was slain by wicked ruffians who personified the evil principle of the universe (much the same as Jesus crucified by the Pharisees). By means of certain rituals and ceremonies, symbolic of purification and regeneration, this wonderful God of Good was brought back to life and became the Savior of His people (much the same as the resurrection of Jesus). The Mysteries were organized for the purpose of assisting the struggling human creature to reawaken the spiritual powers which, surrounded by the flaming ring of lust and degeneracy, lay asleep within his soul (doctrine of the “immortal soul”). In other words, man was offered a way by which he could REGAIN HIS LOST ES-TATE (Edenic perfection).

[My comments in parentheses. – ed.]

Notice the striking similarity between these pagan heresies and the common church doctrines of salvation. What you have here is a pagan interpretation of the story of Jesus. This nonsense contributed to the oxymoronic monster called “Judeo-Christianity”! It is not Christianity at all, even though half of its title claims it. It is a new thing – a newly conceived paganism, But the most unfortunate thing is that millions of people are gullibly accepting it as “Christian.”

Modern Mithraism

Here is another quote from Manly P. Hall's book on Freemasonry, under the subtitle THE RITES OF MITHRAS (Persian messiah figure symbolized by light, sun or fire)

There are many points of resemblance between (Judeo) Christianity and the cult of Mithras. One of the reasons for this probably is that the Persian mystics invaded Italy during the first century after Christ and the early history of both cults was closely interwoven. The Encyclopedia Britannica makes the following statement concerning the Mithraic and Christian Mysteries:

“The fraternal and democratic spirit of the first communities, and their humble origin; the identification of the object of adoration with light and the sun; the legends of the shepherds with their gifts and adoration, the flood, and the ark; the representation in art of the fiery chariot; the drawing of water from the rock; the use of bell and candle, holy water and the communion; the sanctification of Sunday [their “Venerable day of the Sun”]; the 25th of December [Christmas]; the insistence on moral conduct, the emphasis placed on abstinence and self-control; the DOCTRINE OF HEAVEN AND HELL, of primitive revelation, of the mediation of “the Logos” emanating from the divine (god) (the Greek “Word,” John 1:1 – “the Logos was God”), the atoning sacrifice, the constant warfare between good and evil (Dualism) and the final triumph of the former, the IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL, the last judgment, the resurrection of the flesh and the fiery destruction of the universe. These are some of the resemblances (between the churches and Mithraism).”

Carefully consider what you just read. Mithraism, a heathen religion originating in Persian (Babylonian) Zoroastrianism, centuries before Christ, bears a striking resemblance to modern Churchianity. We had better re-evaluate the form of “religion” that is all around us. Is it truly Christian, or just adaptations from Mithraism and Zoroastrianism? The accepted doctrines of our parents and grandparents must be re-examined by Scripture. We can no longer afford the luxury of taking them for granted!

Lewis Browne's textbook on World Religions, THIS BELIEVING WORLD, published in 1930, assists us in uncovering the counterfeit:

It is true that the cults of Cybele, Isis, and Bacchus began to wane a little in their popularity; but that was only because a new cult had come to take their places. It was the cult of Mithras, imported from Persia, where it had arisen out of those primitive elements which the



"Deo Invicto Mitrae" (The Unconquered Mithras) carved on a second century pillar now in an English museum. The light rays (halo) beaming from his head appear as spikes – similar to the Statue of Liberty.

Typical illustration of Judeo-Christian type christ with halo inherited from Mithras. The halo is only one of the many obvious proofs that the churches have given Mithraic attributes to their christs.



prophet Zoroaster had failed to stamp out. It had spread since from one land to another, from Persia to Babylonia, from Babylonia to the Ionian Isles, and from the Ionian Isles finally to Rome. It entered there about the first century B. C., and so ready were the Romans to receive it that soon it was almost dominant in the empire.

The root of the mystery was an ancient Persian legend which told of a divine hero named Mithras whose miraculous birth had been witnessed only by a few shepherds come from afar with gifts to adore the wonder-child. Mithras grew up to be the most strenuous champion of the sun-god in his war against the god of darkness ...

Long before the advent of Christianity we find a significant religion and an elaborate ritual crystallizing around that legend of Mithras. To this day there exist along the Danube and in Northern Africa certain subterranean caves in which are statues and carvings depicting scenes in the tale. Those caves were the secret churches of the Mithraists, and in them all manner of magic rites were once performed. Three times a day, with especial elaborateness on the Sun-day and the twenty-fifth of December, the Mithras priests offered services in the caves. Libations were poured, bells were rung, hymns were chanted, and many candles were burnt ... When they died on this earth they expected to ascend to Heaven through seven gates, unlocked by seven keys which the Mithras priests possessed, and in Heaven they hoped to dwell with Mithras until the final Judgment Day. All unbaptized, both living and dead, were to be totally annihilated on that Judgment Day. Only the redeemed were to be saved, and Mithras, come to earth a second and final time, would administer to each of them a fast sacrament, and then cause them to inherit the world in peace and blessedness forever more ...

— *This Believing World*

The above quote gives new meaning to the warning of Paul in 2 Corinthians 13:5a, where he tells us:

5. Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves...

And in 1 Thessalonians 5:21:

21. Prove [test] ALL THINGS; hold fast that which is good.

Paul didn't want Christianity confused with Mithraism!

In the light of this information we have no choice but to re-examine our current beliefs. Are they from Jesus, or from Mithras and Zoroaster?

From Persia we find:

1. *The birth of a god-man witnessed by shepherds.*
2. *The sacrifice of a savior.*
3. *The immortality of the soul.*
4. *A baptism.*
5. *A resurrection.*
6. *A heaven and hell.*
7. *A “second coming” and “future kingdom.”*
8. *A “final judgment” and fiery destruction of the wicked.*
9. *Christmas.*
10. *A “god of darkness” [“Satan”].*

Did I miss any? All these doctrines were taught in the pre-Christian, heathen cult called Mithraism - the worship of a Persian sun god. It is more than mere coincidence! The counterfeit obscures the genuine!

With a little adjustment here, and a little adapting there (hardly noticeable to most Christians with their heads in the clouds), Mithraism was re-named “Christian,” and perpetuated through the churches.

IN FACT, most people who think they are hearing Christian doctrine from their preachers are actually being taught Mithraism instead. And most people who think they are hearing how **Jesus the Christ** saved them are instead hearing how **Mithras the christ** saved them from “hell” so they could go to “heaven.” The churches have accepted the counterfeit christ and are ignorant of the True Christ.

Beware of Imitation Jesus Christs

It isn't enough to use a certain NAME. We need factual history. If we are not diligent, we may end up following a WRONG christ who has simply taken on the RIGHT name!

So beware! There are many so-called Christians in this land who think they are following Jesus when in fact they are actually following some invented myth whom they have given the name “Jesus.” It is “*another Jesus, another gospel and another spirit*” - not the true Jesus, the gospel and the spirit from Yahweh the God of Israel!

That is, perhaps, why Jesus, the true Christ of Israel, spoke these words in Matthew 24:4-5:

4. *And Jesus answered and said unto them, TAKE HEED that NO MAN deceive you.*

5. For many shall come in MY NAME (claiming my authority), saying I AM CHRIST [I am The Anointed]; and shall deceive many.

And in verse 11:

11. And MANY false prophets [preachers and teachers] shall rise, and shall deceive many.

And, then in verses 23 and 24 He said:

23. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

24. For there shall arise FALSE CHRISTS, and false prophets [preachers], and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Jesus' words apply especially today! This explains how there can be so many different churches - each claiming to follow "Christ," but each with their own different set of beliefs about salvation. They have different christ! One may have a Mithraic Christ, another may have a Hinduistic Avatar/Christ, while another may have the Jewish Christ ("Messiah"). Others may have various combinations of these and other christ with their own contrived doctrines of salvation.

Judeo-Christian Roots: Zoroastrianism

The college textbook, MAN'S RELIGIONS by John Noss, gives further insight into religion from Persia. In the chapter covering the Persian prophet Zoroaster, we read this concerning Zoroastrian doctrines:

The religion of Zoroaster grew ever more elaborate: the doctrine of the future life was worked out in graphic detail, highly stimulating to the imagination.

Who was Zoroaster? Zoroastrianism began in Persia sometime between 1,000 and 600 B.C. He is the hero of world religions. His doctrines are regarded highly – especially in the West. So, we are talking about a religion which originated centuries before Jesus was born.

*This fragment
from the bas-relief
of Virunum shows*

SCENES FROM THE LIFE OF MITHRAS

Among them, Mithras is crown-
ing the sun-god with a radiant
halo; his ascension in the solar
chariot to Heaven, and his smit-
ing the rock from which the wa-
ters flowed. Note the "Phrygian"
cap which became the universal
symbol of the Oriental cults, be-
ing worn by Mithras, Attis, med-
ieval Masons, Osiris, and the tia-
ra for Shiva and the Pope.



Continuing in MAN'S RELIGIONS, we read:

Much attention was paid to the drama of INDIVIDUAL judgment. This was not supposed to take place until the fourth day after death. For three nights, it was thought, the soul of the dead man sits at the head of its former body and meditates on its past good or evil thoughts, words, and deeds.

That may sound a little strange at first, but it is a point of concern when you consider stories from people of our day insisting that they witnessed the “soul” of a dead relative waft off to “heaven.” These experiences abound in modern Churches.

When George Washington (who claimed to be a Christian) was dying, he told his wife to not allow his body to be buried until after the fourth day! Now, why would he request that? That idea is not in the Bible. In fact, Israelites were often buried before sundown the same day.

We do know that George Washington was a Freemason, and we also know that Freemasonry contains Mithraic and Talmudic beliefs. I am not trying to single out George Washington, but I think it shows a link between the Churches and Zoroastrianism which teaches to wait four days before burying the corpse. Here is record of a well known Church man doing just that.

These points, and scores of others, prove that doctrines of Zoroaster and ancient Persia define the modern American church.

Immortal Soul / Reincarnation

According to Zoroaster, the body dies but not the “soul” – thus it is IMMORTAL. This doctrine of the “immortal soul” migrated westward from India (out of Hinduism). The Hindu believes that immortality is expressed through TRANSMIGRATION [reincarnation]. Reincarnationists believe that after a man dies, his “SOUL” rises out of the corpse and migrates to another newly born body. It can be the body of a human, an animal, or an insect. In its new body it continues to live as another person, animal, etc..

That's the way it was taught in India by the Hindu gurus long before the time of Zoroaster. Later, however, and with some minor changes, we see this same doctrine spreading through Persia, promulgated by Zoroaster who taught that man's immortal soul sits at the head of his dead body for three nights after his death, waiting for ... something.

End-Time Judgment

Noss continues Zoroaster's teaching about the immortal soul at the time of one's death – and the following four days:

During this time it (the soul) is comforted, if it has been a righteous soul, by good angels, – and tormented, if it has been wicked, by demons hovering about ready to drag it off to punishment. On the fourth day the soul makes its way to the CHINVAT BRIDGE, to stand before its judges, MITHRA and his associates Sraosha and Rashnu, the last of whom holds the dread scales for the FINAL WEIGHING OF MERITS AND DEMERITS. Judgment rendered and sentence passed, the soul then walks onto the Chinvat Bridge. In the middle part of the bridge, there is a sharp edge [blade] which stands like a sword, ... and HELL is below the Bridge. Then the soul is carried to where stands the sharp edge [blade]. Then, if it be righteous, the sharp edge presents its broad side (permitting passage to Paradise across the bridge) [but] ...If the soul be wicked, that sharp edge continues to stand edgewise, and does not give passage. The soul is cut down from the head of the bridge, and falls headlong down into HELL!

Resurrection

As you can see, Mithraism, Judaism, and the typical Church share much common ground. Most of the elements in their teachings concerning “salvation’ are so compatible as to be easily adapted from one to another.

We further find this apocalyptic description of “the end of the age” in Zoroastrianism:

With the appearance of Soshyans, the last Messiah, the “final days” would begin. All the dead would be raised; heaven and hell would be emptied of all their residents (“immortal souls,” whether in heaven or hell, must all come back to earth for judgment) in order to make up the great assembly where the final judgment would be passed upon all SOULS. The righteous and the wicked would be separated, and a flood of molten metal would pour out upon the earth and roar through hell, purifying all regions with its scorching fires.

In the final conflict, Ahura Mazda [the good god] and his angels would hurl Ahriman [the bad god – also called Satan] and his devils into the flames and they would be utterly consumed. Then, all the survivors of the fiery trial would live together in the new heavens and new earth. Adults would remain forever at forty years of age, and the children at fifteen friends and relatives would be reunited forever.

SOUND FAMILIAR? With little exception, this same line is taught today by the TV evangelists, almost every “Christian” seminary, and virtually all churches. By viewing God’s Word through the lenses of “Mithras” and “Zoroaster,” the reader actually turns the Bible into nothing more than supportive text for the Avesta (the holy book of Zoroastrianism).

Satan’s Origin

Zoroaster invented and patented the orthodox doctrine of Satan – “the fallen angel” myth embraced by most churches. This myth has become such an integral part of churches that without him their singular purpose for existence would be lost. Thus, the churches desperately need their “Satan”!

Zoroaster’s apex of theological achievement was his so-called discovery of the “**origin of evil**”: his doctrine of “**ethical dualism.**” The theory of ethical dualism is that there are two coequal powers: one good, one evil (two gods if you will). These two gods are in constant battle with each other for control of your soul, and the world. The battle is between Ahura Mazda [the good god] and Ahriman [Satan – the bad god]. In its modern church version, it is the battle between “God and Satan.” They are identical in principle, but the names have been changed to protect the guilty.

In the next chapter of Noss’ book, which coincidentally speaks about Judaism, we read:

The Jews came to know Zoroastrianism from observations near at hand in Babylonia and certain Persian beliefs about Satan, the angels, the afterlife ...

Now, remember, these “Jews” at that time were living in Persia and Babylon, right there where Zoroaster’s beliefs were the most powerful and pervasive. The Jewish Talmud was written and compiled in Babylon and is called “the Babylonian Talmud.” Judaism – the religion of the Pharisees – was born in Babylon and Persia, not too surprisingly, about the time of Zoroaster. The followers of Zoroaster, EVEN TO THIS DAY, are called PARSEES. You may notice that the name “Parsee” is very similar to “Pharisee.” Etymologies don’t reveal where the name “Pharisee” came from, but the evidence seems to tie it to Zoroastrianism. Continuing to read from MAN’S RELIGIONS:

Before they met the Satan of Zoroastrians, the JEWS had pondered the old stories about the serpent in the Garden of Eden and “the fallen angels” who had taken wives from among the daughters of men before the days of Noah. These stories antedated the exile (i.e., before the Babylonian captivity), and in NONE of them is there the suggestion

that the Spirit of Evil is a cosmic being, manifested from the beginning of time, and of a strength and creative power EQUAL to that of the Spirit of Good. But AFTER THE EXILE (after the influence of Zoroastrianism) the Adversary (“Satan” in Hebrew) became, for the Jews, an evil and infinitely malicious power, wholly in opposition to God – in fact, almost a rival sovereign, with attendant devils to match the angels who stood before God. In another direction, Sheol (meaning grave), the shadowy land of the dead, was REPLACED by a HEAVEN and a HELL.

Zoroastrianism = Tradition of Elders

So, we find that Judaism adopted “a Salvation,” “a Heaven,” “a Hell” and “a Satan” – all from Zoroaster, NOT the Bible!! These, then, are traditional, historic pagan beliefs.

Thus, we are better able to understand Jesus’ confrontation by the Pharisees in Matthew, chapter 15:

1. *Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,*
2. *Why do thy disciples transgress the TRADITION OF THE ELDERS [the Persian/Babylonian Traditions] ?...*

And, what did Jesus say?

3. *...Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?*
6. *...ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.*
8. *This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*
9. *But in vain they do worship me, TEACHING FOR DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.*
14. *Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*

If we follow “traditional” doctrines and beliefs of men, the Word of God will be lost to us. We won’t understand it. We, too, will be lost because we follow blind leaders. Is this not happening today in the Judeo-Christian world?

This chapter in MAN’S RELIGION shows many more examples of how Zoroaster’s systematic theology shaped the religion of Judaism which, in turn, has shaped the religion of Judeo-Christianity (but not true Christianity).

That the evidence I have just given you from these books is correct is

further proven by the writings of Josephus, the noted Jewish historian of the first century A.D. He wrote extensively on the History of the Jews and the Wars of the Jews. In the back of his book, JOSEPHUS' DISCOURSE TO THE GREEKS, is a chapter titled, HADES (Greek word for Hell). In this discourse, Josephus explains about the alleged subterraneous region of "Hades" where souls are kept temporarily until the final judgment. At the judgment, the wicked souls are dragged by angels to a BURNING HELL where they must be TORMENTED forever; the good souls are escorted by angels to HEAVEN, where they spend ETERNITY in happiness and light. Is not this exactly what we hear from the churches of today?

Can anyone show anywhere in the Old Testament where such a doctrine existed at the time of Josephus? If it was not in the Old Testament, isn't that sufficient evidence that Josephus (and the Jews of his day) acquired it from some other source? And if it came from Zoroaster, via the Jews, why should Christians believe it?

Judeo-Christianity = World Religion

We have now traced the DOCTRINE OF SALVATION in the ancient and accepted religions as it is commonly preached from practically every pulpit in Christendom today. We have traced it from Persia to Babylon where it was incorporated into the religion known to us today as "Judaism." We can follow it into Palestine during the time of Jesus. We see its subsequent transmission through Judaism into the abominable religion known by the oxymoronic title of Judeo-Christianity! Not Christianity, but Judeo-Christianity (notice the "Judeo" precedes "Christ"). It is a hybrid mixture of Judaism and Christianity.

The Futurists keep harping about a so-called "coming one-world religion." Well, open up your eyes! It is already here and it has been here for some time! It is a false doctrine of salvation preached by nearly every preacher in America. From this abominable religion our people still learn how to "get their immortal souls saved" and how to "go to heaven" while the "unsaved" "burn forever in hell."

At the beginning, I asked this question: If these teachings are not the words of Yahweh, and His Christ, THEN whose words are they? I think I have given ample proof that these are the words of the Persians, who gave them to the Babylonians, who in turn gave them to the Pharisees [Judeans], who then gave them to Judaized churches of their day, which have carried it down to present-day Judeo-Christian preachers. These preachers are today's false prophets [the serpents] in the churches and seminaries. Their teachings come from Persia – not from your Bible.

Church Myths

There are endless examples which I could continue showing you; but as you can see from these few, the theologies and doctrines of the churches are built around UNREAL things: things that take your mind away from the REAL world and off into a world of MAKE-BELIEVE and fantasy. Instead of dealing with men's sins and the real problems in the world, they keep your mind busy with mythological wars between spirits, gods, angels and devils, or other crazy hoaxes intentionally designed to keep you from the simple common sense truths of God's Word. This they have done for generations.

If you visit a church [synagogue] today, you leave thinking about devils, angels, heaven and hell, and your so-called immortal soul. BUT you don't know why your inheritance is stolen from you, or how the banks rob our country, or why government is corrupt. You will not hear the answers to these questions because churches do not teach God's Word. They teach man's word. They will not teach you that following God's Law will bring an end to misery. Rather, you will be learning how to get raptured off the earth and that you need not care about anything else. You can go back the next Sunday to "feel good," "feel the presence," or "feel" this or that while America is being ravished by evil men in the real world – right in front of stupefied "Christians" who have become cryptic Zoroastrians!!

I hope you are beginning to understand that Jesus brought salvation to MEN, in order to affect MEN, not devils, angels, spirits, immortal souls, or so-called gods. MAN was in need of salvation, and that was Jesus' mission! The Great and Glorious Salvation of Jesus the Christ, who is enthroned and given all authority in heaven and earth, is a salvation that is meant for THIS time, HERE and NOW – on this EARTH, and among US mortal, flesh-and-blood men.

Matthew 1:20-21 tells us that Jesus came to save us from OUR SINS, NOT from a burning hell, nor from some so-called evil god called "Satan." Jesus exposed evil and taught righteousness; He didn't come to teach us the magic Mysteries so we could work good magic and win our own salvation. He created a new heart in us, one which loves and follows Him. He didn't teach us about reincarnation or how to get out of this body into some other body. Nor did He come to teach us about "*the god that is inside all men,*" and "*christ consciousness.*"

Saving the Lost

Let's look at Matthew 1:20-21:

20. *But while he [Joseph] thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the holy spirit.*
21. *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall SAVE HIS PEOPLE from THEIR SINS.*

And again, in Matthew 18:11 we have the words from our Lord Jesus:

11. *For the Son of man is come to save that which is lost.*

He continues to talk about His sheep in Luke 19:10, where he says:

10. *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was LOST,"*

What was lost? In Acts 13:16 & 26, Paul is preaching a sermon of salvation to lost sheep:

16. *Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, MEN OF ISRAEL, and ye that fear God, give audience.*
26. *Men and brethren, children of the STOCK OF ABRAHAM, and who-soever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.*

New Covenant

Who were these "lost" who were going to be brought back and saved and redeemed? In order to save or redeem something, it first must have been lost or taken away. There is only ONE people on this earth who had belonged to Yahweh and then had become lost, That family of people was Israel. They were His people but they had gotten lost. They are the only people who ever had "the Old Covenant." The theology of salvation is summed up in a very concise way in Hebrews 9:11&15:

- 11, *But Christ being come an high priest of good things having occurred, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;*
- 15, *And for this cause He (Jesus) is the mediator of the NEW COV-*

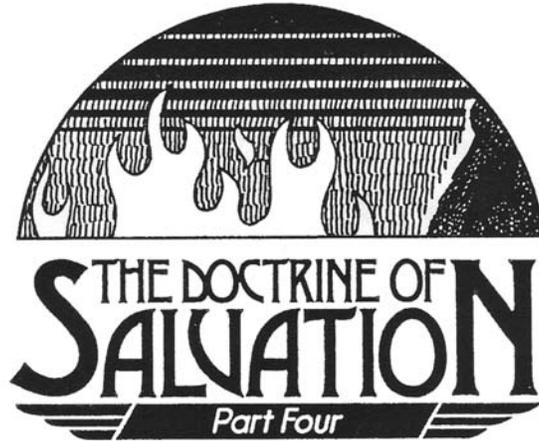
ENANT, that by means of death, FOR THE REDEMPTION OF THE TRANSGRESSIONS THAT WERE UNDER THE FIRST COVENANT they which are called might receive the promise of this age's inheritance [the New Covenant]."

What did Jesus' death redeem? The debt of sins that had been committed under **the first covenant!** What people were under the first covenant, and committed sins under that covenant? ONLY ISRAEL.

Our Heavenly Father has much more planned for the people on this earth than is written in our Bible, but let's not pervert and change what IS written there. The people who needed to be saved, who had sinned against their God and lost themselves off into the world were the Israel people. Yahweh's salvation centers around His people Israel. The salvation He sent, through Jesus, to Israel, is going to benefit the whole earth. But it was sent to Israel first. They had broken the covenant and committed sin which had to be reconciled – which was exactly what Jesus accomplished. The doctrine of Salvation has nothing to do with trying to get us back into heaven, or back to living as a spirit instead of flesh, or saving our "immortal soul," or anything of that sort. It has to do with salvaging Israel out of depravity; out of the muck and mire into which they had wandered. It has to do with cleaning us up and setting us aright so we could again be His SERVANTS through His Son. **That is the doctrine of salvation.**



This second-century stone sculpture shows Mithras being born on Winter Solstice from an egg (easter) as the "Firstborn God of Light." The two halves of the egg symbolize the polarity of positive and negative forces (good and evil) which animates all creation. He is portrayed both as the Creator (who breaks the egg), and the Mediator (Savior) standing between the opposite poles, making reconciliation (balance). With a sacrificial knife in one hand and a torch in the other, he is called the "Light of the world" – born on the darkest day of the year.



We are putting the central doctrine of the churches to the test. Some will find the results surprising. Some may be offended. At the very least, our readers must consider the probability that some of their favorite church doctrines came from pagan sources rather than from the Bible.

Then, we ask the next logical question: *If the churches' central doctrine is pagan, then is it also possible that the institution of "church" itself is pagan? And if so, then what of our past religious concepts?*

By Their Fruits

Some may reason that so many thousands of preachers can't possibly be wrong about salvation! But think about it. If they were not wrong, wouldn't their works bear good fruit and affect America in a positive way?

22. But if they [the preachers] had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

(Jeremiah 23:22)

Have they turned? Of course not! The people are confused and dissipated. The churches are keeping people busy playing mythological, childish games while the bankers, politicians and lawyers are using us as cattle and slaves.

An honest treatment of our situation is offensive to religious people. However, it is not my objective to be inoffensive. Being inoffensive requires that you do nothing. Besides, offenses are inescapable. When Jesus conducted His ministry in Jerusalem, He offended everyone! His honesty especially offended those in organized crime [religion and politics] who, in turn, began planning His murder. The people quickly decided that it wasn't fashionable or healthy to be associated with this honest man. They avoided Him lest they, too, be considered honest by association. At the time of His crucifixion, not one soul would identify himself with this Man from Galilee. Not even Peter!

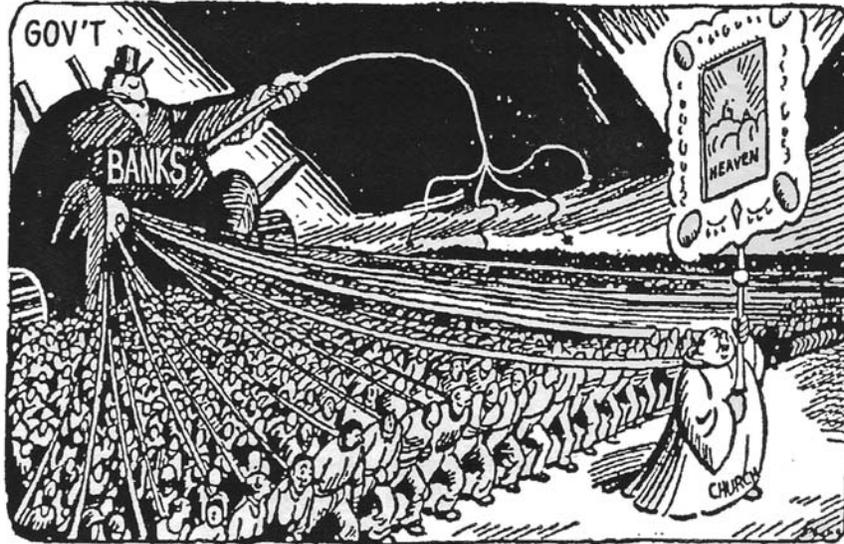
Jesus' message to institutionalized religion and government of that day was essentially the same as His message in our day – namely, 'You are nullifying God's law by your tradition [man-made laws]!' Those in "the system" considered Jesus their enemy. The laws of "the system" were different from Yahweh's laws. This formed a natural enmity between Jesus and "the system."

Statist politicians, and those whose fortunes depend upon the system, have always considered Jesus their enemy. And rightfully so! Statist systems always end up at war with Jesus in a contest to see who is sovereign. Consequently, those of us who still believe that Jesus is King are usually considered enemies of "the system" too, because we don't recognize it as sovereign. But, our reasons are generally misunderstood by the media-manipulated public. They are told that we are anarchists.

Acceptable "Truths"

Communication and credibility have always been hurdles for teachers. Having truth is not enough. People generally are not drawn to truth. Rather, they accept that which is acceptable. In other words, they accept that which they have been programmed to believe. The multitudes who came to see Jesus perform miracles still refused to believe what he said. Why? Because He was not considered "acceptable" even though He had truth. His doctrines went squarely against what the people had heard all their lives. He preached against the doctrines being taught in the accepted, denominational churches of His day.

As I said, truth is generally unrecognizable to most people. It has been



pretty well proven that people tend to accept things as being true in this order of priority:

1. Because they hear it **first**,
2. Because they hear it **most often**,
3. And lastly, because it is **the truth**.

You can see that truth, of itself, is neither credible nor attractive to the public. "Truth," as people see it, is therefore established upon the principle of acceptability. Since that is the general nature of man, it makes my job all the harder because people usually hear, both first and most often, that statist type "governments" and "churches" are necessary and good.

Judea, at the time of Jesus' death, was a very religious place. Not only was their "holy city," Jerusalem, located there, but the Judeans (called "Jews" in your English Bible) considered themselves to be religiously superior to any other people. They had been programmed to believe that God needed them because of their inherent qualities, and that He had preferred them over all the nations and peoples of the earth. They claimed to be the best, when in fact they were possibly the worst people on earth. They had "the oracles of God" in their possession but refused to hear them.

We can't say they were out in left field because they weren't even in the ball park. But, nonetheless, they were very religious – much like Americans

today. They had religious organizations and fundamental churches, all teaching doctrines of salvation much like Americans are hearing yet today. These doctrines weren't from Jesus, but they did teach a salvation (from a pagan viewpoint). These doctrines didn't come from Scripture, but they were believed by the multitudes: the common religious people of Judea.

Truth Was Unacceptable

The true doctrine of salvation has always been radically different from the common pagan teachings of the churches, and that is as true today as it was at the time of Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus taught a different Salvation! It was unacceptable to those in "the system"! They didn't believe Him, and they murdered Him.

Now, here is an important point! Christians today are being handed the lie (by their preachers) that the problem with the Jews who crucified Jesus was that they *just didn't understand Him*. In other words, the reason they hated Jesus was because they didn't know Him. Jesus wasn't able to communicate His message well enough to be understood. We are told, *they just never realized that He was their Messiah!* However, it is absurd to assume that they would crucify an innocent man simply because they didn't recognize him, or because they thought he was crazy!

The truth is, He really **wasn't** their messiah! Their religious tradition trained them to expect a "messiah," but not the true Messiah of Israel. The religion of the Jews [Judaism] is NOT from the Old Testament. Jews have a cultural religion which amounts to a conglomeration collected from millennia of heathen, anti-Christ teachings. Much of Jewish culture is Babylonian, including their "holy book" the Talmud. The Old Testament is only one of the many books they consider part of their "legal library." However, they do not think of the Old Testament writings in the same way that Christians think of them. Jews use the Old Testament like lawyers use law books. They disrespect and dishonor it. They misuse it, manipulate it, pervert it, and change it to fit their purposes. They refer to it only for the sake of giving themselves credibility in the public eye. They give it lip service but they don't honor it.

8. This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

(Matthew 15:8)

The Jewish culture of that day was clearly un-Biblical – even as today. The majority of the people in Jerusalem were probably not Israelite (although many were Semitic). Many were Babylonish, Edomite people who worshipped the gods of Babylon and Persia. Jesus came to Jerusalem and talked of a **different God!** He taught a **different salvation!**

The religious leaders of Judea charged Jesus with blasphemy. Was He guilty of blasphemy? Yes, without a doubt! Let me make this as clear as I can. **Jesus blasphemed the god of the Jews by teaching that their god was not the God of the Hebrew Scriptures.** He told them that their gods were “no-gods;” “nothings.” Jesus also taught that He, Himself, was the Son of the true God of Israel.

What bothered them about Jesus was that no one was able to discredit Him. You see, they truly hated Him – not because they didn’t understand Him, but rather because they DID! Nobody, not even the Pharisees, would do to a person what they did to Jesus just because they couldn’t understand Him. No! The fact is, they DID understand His teachings! The doctrines He taught were in direct opposition to their churches [synagogues] . **He taught a different doctrine of salvation** than was taught in their synagogues, and He taught His doctrine from the Old Scriptures. He taught with an authority they could not dispute.

Jesus -vs- Churches

Jesus used Scripture to refute synagogue [church] doctrine, That proves that the Judeans developed their doctrines from other sources. Now, it is true that they “used” some of the Hebrew Scriptures in the synagogues at that time, but it was interpreted after the manner of Babylonian tradition much like it is in churches today. Jesus told the Pharisees that their method of interpretation, called “the tradition of the elders,” actually made the Scriptures “of none effect.”

We have the same thing happening in America today. Judeo churches and “Christian” preachers claim to be teaching Christian doctrine, using the Christian Scriptures. Some churches even place the Bible in a respected position on their altars. But they wrest and pervert the Scriptures skillfully to say anything they want it to say. Just as the Pharisees wrested the Scriptures back then, the Pharisees of our day (Judeo-Christian preachers) are wresting the same Scriptures and preaching heathen, anti-Christ doctrines of salvation. There is nothing new under the sun.

Jesus did not accept the Judeans’ god, nor their messiah, nor their so-called salvation ... which was only another Babylonian scheme to control

and use people! Therein lies the reason for their hatred for Him. That is why they conspired against Him and murdered Him. It wasn't because they couldn't understand Him, or because they didn't realize that He was the Messiah. They knew that He was the Messiah, and they hated Him because He threatened their system by teaching freedom to the common people!

38. ...this is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

(Matthew 21:38)

The Babylonian doctrine of salvation is sometimes called "Priestcraft." Babylonian Priestcraft is a conspiracy of Religion, Finance and Politics working together to control and enslave people.

Their teachings enslave and control people the same way statist religious institutions have always enslaved people in all ages. They do it by demanding particular rituals, sacrifices, and reverence from the people toward the "state." They even provide ways for you to "go to heaven" after you die. However, these rituals are administered only through the authority of the "priests/agents" and according to "the state's" dictates.



"...and on behalf of our stockholders in Washington DC, congratulations on a successful year. Now, change your uniforms, get back in your pulpits and keep giving those altar calls!"

The priests/agents claim to have authority to send a person to prison or the gallows, and can even send your so-called “immortal soul” either to heaven or hell.

The Babylonian priests wielded the power of life and death – heaven and hell – over the people. So, the people lavished the priests with bribes of gold, silver and slave labor, In effect, this teaching convinced the people to enslave themselves to the priest NOW so that they could go to heaven LATER; a form of bribery. All emphasis was placed on the AFTERLIFE, and the important things of THIS life were down-played.

Of course, you recognize that this Priestcraft is still being practiced today in America – only with slight variations. The ruling Priests are not in the buildings usually associated with religion. Rather, they are in the banks, the courts, and the State Department buildings. These high priests have hired preachers (by threats and tax bribes) to keep the people spiritually opiated and subdued. The preachers subjugate the people spiritually, then the high priests in the banks and government hire policemen to subjugate them physically. They brutalize and kill some of them so that the rest are scared into submission. The people still bestow all their earthly wealth upon these high priests in the banks, the courts and the legislatures. And, these elite priests, today, still brainwash people through their hireling preachers who occupy the people’s minds with so-called “spiritual” things, “heavenly” things and “Never Never Land”. The people are taught to be “tolerant” and passive like the depraved and starving Hindus; and to worry about their so-called “immortal souls” instead of the real things; their land, their children, their heritage.

How are the preachers kept under control by the High Priests? The IRS gives preachers a tax break! Did you ever wonder why churches are exempt from taxes? Did you ever wonder why donations to these churches are tax deductible? These are some of the ways that the High Priests in the banks, courts and Congress bribe the preachers to preach the type of State-sanctioned doctrines of salvation that keep people under control.

Christ’s Government

Did Jesus teach the kind of **salvation** taught in the modern churches? NO! The churches teach a “salvation” that corresponds with pagan religions. Jesus, and the Old Testament, teaches “salvation” as an *act of helping or providing safety and freedom*. This has absolutely nothing to do with the popular myth of floating off into outer space to some place called

“heaven” when we die.

When we talk about the salvation that Jesus gives, both organized religion and organized government get all stirred up! People who pursue this openly often find their property confiscated by the State, and themselves imprisoned and/or killed. The church and state rulers want them silenced! Why? Because their thoughts are no longer confined to programmed, “safe,” imaginations of the churches. They begin thinking about things that affect us right HERE and NOW. When these things are discussed intelligently, and within the context of the Kingdom of Christ, it is a THREAT to present tyrants. What are we talking about? We are talking about a DIFFERENT KING, a DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT, a DIFFERENT SYSTEM OF CIVIL LIFE. We are talking about JESUS AS PRESENT RULER, instead of human rulers, and human kingdoms!

5. But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort [like IRS agents and policemen], and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them (the Apostles) out to the people (to be lynched).

*6. And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, **These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.***

(Acts 17:5-6)

So, they hunted them down, arrested them without a warrant, dragged them out of their houses and took them before the city council, saying ‘These are the sedition people we’ve been hearing about. They teach men to believe in another king, and now they are here in our own city!’

7, ...and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar [their present legislature], saying that there is ANOTHER KING, ONE JESUS!

(Acts 17:7)

That is bad news for Caesar – but “**Good News**” for Christians!

8. And they TROUBLED the people and the RULERS of the city when they heard these things.

(Acts 17:8)

Why was the City Council, the Churches, and local Police involved in this incident? What did they have in common against these disciples of Christ?

Weren't the Apostles just religious men who taught about the love of God? NO! These weren't gurus or psychologists! These weren't Judeo-Christians trying to save "souls" for an outer-space heaven. Rather, these were reformers! They were spreading "the gospel of the kingdom" – a revolutionary way of life under the Reign of Heaven. They gave the good news of Christ's Reign. They were talking about another FORM of government.

Salvation = Freedom

These were fighting words! Tyrants, dictators, rulers and congresses will never willingly recognize Jesus as their King. To do so would mean they would have to accept Yahweh's laws and could no longer make up their own laws. Making laws is considered the prerogative of rulers. "Sovereignty" is equated with "lawmaking." They can't allow the gospel of Christ's Reign to spread! They would lose their "sovereignty." So, they will call it "sedition," "conspiracy," "anti-Semitic," or "hate crime." They will do whatever is necessary to shut it up and prevent it. Governments consider themselves "sovereign." They are "the state," and they must be in control - they cannot allow people to think that Jesus is in control. They want to rule. They want to be god!

Churches are designed to keep the minds of the people in subjection to "the state." This idolatrous mind set is what Jesus came to "save" us from. Understanding the true Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ SAVES US from Babylonian Priestcraft and the insanity which it inflicts upon the people it enslaves! THAT IS TRUE SALVATION! THAT IS THE REAL GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM! It is anti-statist, and the Bible describes states (and statist, centralized governments) as BEASTS!

Review

A. Yahweh called out a people for a special purpose and named them "Israel."

1. *ARISE, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of Yahweh is risen upon thee.*
2. *For, behold, the darkness [Babylonian Priestcraft] shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but Yahweh shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*
3. *And the Nations shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness*

of thy rising.

(Isaiah 60: 1-3)

There was a period in the early days of America when the “nations” of the world looked to America to learn of freedom. America seemed to be doing things right and was being blessed. So, the nations observed America and learned of her ways.

What was God’s purpose in this?

1. *But now thus saith Yahweh that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O ISRAEL, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.*
9. *Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, it is truth.*
10. *YE ARE MY WITNESSES, saith Yahweh, and MY SERVANT whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.*
11. *I, even I, am Yahweh; and beside me there is no savior.*
12. *I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore YE ARE MY WITNESSES, saith the Lord, that I AM GOD.*

(Isaiah 43 :1, 9-12)

For what purpose did He call Israel? “**Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God!**” Through His dealings with Israel He is showing the world that He is the True God.

3. *And (God) said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, IN WHOM **1** WILL BE GLORIFIED.*
6. *And he said, It Is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: **I will also give thee for a light to the nations, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.***

(Isaiah 49:3&6)

To accomplish these ends, Yahweh has established Covenants with Israel, and He has used Israel to show His salvation.

B. Israel was “lost.”

9. *And Jesus said unto him [Zacchaeus], This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.*
10. *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

(Luke 19:9-10)

What was lost? The sons of Abraham! The word “lost” is the Greek word APELLUMI which is also used in Matthew 8:23-25 where Jesus and his disciples were out in a boat and a storm came up.

23. *And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.*
24. *And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.*
25. *And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish (apollumi) – (i.e., “we are lost”).*

Now, that is what it means to be “lost.” Then Jesus “saved” them. This also clearly tells who needed saving; who were the sinners; who had fallen from grace; for whom Jesus came.

“*The Son of man has come to seek and save that which was lost,*” Israel was perishing [they were lost in a sea of sin]. They had become inept at navigating the storms. The ship of state was floundering and lost.

1. *Hear this word that Yahweh hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,*
2. *YOU ONLY have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.*

(Amos 3:1-2)

1. *Thus saith Yahweh, Where is the bill of your mother’s divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.*

(Isaiah 50:1)

This is speaking to the descendants of the kingdom of Israel in Judah. Yahweh had “put them away” (divorced them). Israel had abandoned her husband (Yahweh) and was lost because of her sin; her faithlessness and transgressions. She was “put away.”

9. *O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.*

(Hosea 13:9)

He is talking to the “put away” people of Israel; the “lost” of Israel.

1. *O Israel, return unto Yahweh thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.*

(Hosea 14:1)

Can there remain any question as to who was lost?

Who are the sheep that are scattered? Who are the ones that need to be redeemed and brought back into the fold? ISRAEL! The only answer to these questions is ISRAEL.

We’re still talking about the doctrine of salvation, so let’s notice another important point:

C. Israel was saved.

Luke, chapter 1, gives us the answer. This came at the time of the birth of John the Baptist:

67. *And his father Zacharias was filled with the holy spirit, and prophesied, saying,*
68. *Blessed be the Lord God of ISRAEL; for he hath visited and redeemed HIS PEOPLE,*
69. *And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;*
70. *As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:*
71. *That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;...*

(Luke 1:67-71)

The churches tell us we were saved to go to heaven! But that’s not what this Scripture says, is it? It says that we are SAVED from our enemies, and those who hate us!

That’s a different kind of “salvation” than you hear in the churches. They say we are saved to go to heaven, but Zacharias said we are saved when we are delivered from our enemies and all those who hate us!

72. *To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;*
73. *The oath which he swore to our father Abraham,*

74. *That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,*
75. *In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of OUR LIFE.*

(Luke 1:72-75)

Does that say that Jesus is going to save us to go to heaven, or serve Him in heaven after we die? Scripture plainly says that He saved us from our enemies so that we can serve Him without fear. **But when? And is that in heaven or is it here on earth?**

“All the days of our life” is the time period in which this is supposed to happen. We are saved for the purpose of serving Him *“All the days of our life.”* That means here, now, during this life. **We are saved in, and for, THIS LIFE!**

76. *And thou, child [John] shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;*
77. *To give knowledge of salvation unto HIS PEOPLE by the remission of their sins,*
78. *Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,*
79. *To give light to them that sit in darkness [ignorance and priestcraft] and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

(Luke 1:76-79)

John the Baptist was born the forerunner of Christ, and we are told that “the salvation” which was about to be revealed would be so that Israel could worship their God and live for Him all the days of their lives. It was to give light [understanding] to people [Israel] who sit in darkness [ignorance & sin].

When Jesus was yet an infant, there was a man named Simeon who believed that he would see “**the salvation of Israel.**”

26. *And it was revealed unto him [Simeon] by the holy spirit, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.*
27. *And he came by the spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,*
28. *Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,*
29. *Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:*
30. *For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,*
31. *Which thou has prepared before the face of all people;*
32. *A light to lighten the nations, and the glory of thy people Israel.*

(Luke 2:26-32)

The theme is the same. Israel was created for a purpose: to be “a light” to the nations of the earth. Jesus redeemed and saved Israel so that Israel could go ahead and do what it was called to do – to become a blessing to the world. Jesus was The Light which has illumined Israel, turning us into Christians so that we could, in turn, reflect the light of Christ into the world. This is the theme of the Bible. Israel was not saved for the purpose of populating an outer space utopia after death! We were saved to minister the truth and righteousness of Jesus right now – “all the days of this life.”

Jesus saved Israel from the sins of the world. She had been lost off in the world, dead in sins, buried in depravity, ignorance, darkness and superstition. Jesus redeemed her and raised her from the dead in the form of the “new bride.” She is now called New Jerusalem, or New Israel. We also refer to her as Christendom [the Dominion of Christ or the Kingdom of Christ on earth]. “Christendom” is a word that was used more often in years past, before people were brainwashed into forgetting the Reign of Christ.

D. The New Covenant was with Israel.

8. *For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah [together they form the Kingdom of Israel]:*
9. *Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. (they were alienated).*
10. *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

(Hebrews 8:8-10) [see also Jeremiah 32:37-42]

E. Israel was the only people who sinned against the Old Covenant ... therefore, they were the only ones who needed to be “redeemed.”

15. *And for this cause he [Jesus] is the mediator of the new covenant, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the FIRST covenant, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

(Hebrews 9:15)

Through Jesus, Yahweh redeemed Israel who had broken the first covenant. This was “salvation” for a people – a family – a nation.

F. Jesus is King today!

7. ...there is another king one Jesus.

(Acts 17:7b)

G. Jesus reigns today!

18. ...ALL AUTHORITY is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

(Matthew 28:18)

25. For he [Jesus] must REIGN, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

(1 Corinthians 15:25)

The denominational churches that teach “dispensationalism” tell us that Jesus can’t reign until sometime in the future - a time they call “the Millennium.” The “dispensationalists” would have Jesus waiting somewhere in outer space until some future time when He is allowed to come back to try again to set up His kingdom, having failed His first attempt.

But that’s not what the Bible says! It tells us that Jesus is reigning right NOW, and He is presently putting His enemies under His feet!

H. We are living in His salvation.

4. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5. Even when we were dead in sins [lost], hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace YE ARE saved;)

6. And HATH raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7. That in the ages coming upon us [not after they are dead, but the ages already begun] he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9. *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
10. *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,
which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

(Ephesians 2:4-10)

When are these good works? Right now – today!

I. Christians are presently governed under Jesus!

Listen carefully to what Romans 13:1 says:

1. *Let every soul be subject unto the higher authorities ...*

The King James Version says “powers,” but “authorities” is the correct translation. An “authority” is someone who has been *authorized* by another who is higher. Yahweh [the Highest] “authorized” Jesus. Jesus, in turn, “authorizes” those under Him. Where “authority” is concerned, there is always the chain of authority. Every chain link above you is a “higher authority.” That means that a child is below the authority of his parents. The parents, in turn, are below Christ. This analogy applies to all those in “authority.”

1. *Let every soul [man] be SUBJECT unto the higher authorities. For there is no authority BUT OF GOD: the authorities that be are ordained of God.*

Thus, all authority is of God!. That means there are no recognized authorities outside of God’s appointed chain of authority. If someone comes along and claims to be “an authority,” but is outside of God’s law, then he is not a true authority, not authorized, and does not deserve our allegiance!

Applying this simple logic to our day, we can see that there are a great many illegitimate “authorities” that rule unlawfully (i.e., by force). They are fake “authorities”! I don’t care what their title is. Jesus is the only sanctioned means to authority. He is the only one who appoints true authority in heaven and earth. And, He will reign until He has put all of His enemies under His feet. We reign with Him during this time if we are loyal to Him – His kingdom – His authority. We can either reign with Him, or we can live in degradation and darkness by joining those who are fighting against Him. You can’t fight Jesus and win!

Victory IN LIFE TODAY

We have seen what Biblical “salvation” is, but we haven’t dealt with the physical raising of the dead. One purpose of this study was to show that the “salvation” Christ wrought for us upon the cross was much more than a promise of “the physical raising” [“the afterlife”]. In fact, the future raising from the physical grave is another subject unto itself. This particular study has been on the “salvation” of the cross of Christ – not “the afterlife.” The salvation of Christ was for this life. The next life is another subject.

The Bible clearly tells us that a time will come when we will be “raised” from our physical graves – but that is not the “salvation” that He worked on the cross. The salvation on the cross saved us from the present world, IN THIS LIFE. He died on the cross to reach the lost: the spiritually-dead – not the physically-dead. His blood cleanses man’s heart. You don’t have to worry about a sinful heart after you’re dead and in the grave.

Jesus wasn’t crucified to raise people from the physical grave. He had already demonstrated that He could raise people out of their graves. He raised Lazarus. He had worked miracles. His purpose on the cross was to raise people from their spiritual graves during their mortal lives.

4. *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*
5. *Even when we were dead in sins, hath made us alive together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*
6. *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*

(Ephesians 2:4-6)

When men die, their sins are paid. Death is the result of sin, and the ultimate payment for it. *‘The wages of sin is death, but the GIFT of God is eonian life.’* According to God’s law, when a man is dead his sins are settled – whether he was a great sinner or a small one. Therefore, our raising from the grave comes, not because our merits demand it, but because our Creator will freely grant it. It will be simply a gift from a loving, sovereign God. It has nothing to do with our performance in this life. Our performance in this life affects us only in this life.

12. *Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?*
13. *But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: (here, it unquestionably refers to a physical raising from the dead)*

14. *And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*
15. *Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.*
16. *For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:*
17. *And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.*
18. *Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.*

– Now notice

19. ***IF IN THIS LIFE ONLY*** *we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

(1 Corinthians 15:12-19)

In other words, our hope transcends this life. We have hope **beyond** this present life! But notice that this verse admits the subject of “hope” is mostly in reference to this life (but not **ONLY** this life).

The Bible clearly promises life beyond the grave, but it reveals very little about the details and technicalities of that next life: the raising from the grave – probably because it involves matters which cannot be understood by our finite, mortal brains. *“If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?” (John 3:12).* But that is another subject.

Our present concern is with this life, right now. There is no question that we will be resurrected from the physical grave. But the imminent danger for us is that we will fail to understand that Christ has already raised us from our spiritual graves and saved us from the death and darkness of idolatry and its priestcraft. He has also delivered us from bondage to our carnal sin nature.

Christ saves us in this life, and puts us on the right path. Until Christians start thinking along this line, their enemies will continue to trick, enslave and use them because they do not understand who it is that reigns over them. It is not “Satan,” devils, demons, nor even governments of men. Jesus reigns over this earth! He is the King of Israel!

Our Christian brothers have been told that salvation is only for the next life. Let’s tell them the GOOD NEWS. We were saved for this life – to live in Christ’s Kingdom **RIGHT NOW!**

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY GUIDE ON

“THE SOUL”

The English word “soul” in the Old Scriptures is translated from the Hebrew word “**nephesh**” (Strong’s #5315). “Nephesh” comes from another Hebrew word: “naphash”— meaning “to breathe” or “to be breathed upon.”

The rules of usage of the English word “soul” in the King James Bible is somewhat of a mystery as you can see by the following definitions and examples.

According to Gesenius’ Hebrew Lexicon, the Hebrew word “nephesh” has been used to mean:

1. **Breath or breath of life;**
2. **Soul or life;**
3. **The Mind:** the seat of the senses, affections, and various emotions,
 - a. the mode of feeling and acting,
 - b. to will and purpose,
 - c. to understand and the faculty of thinking;
4. **Animal or living creature,** including a man or person as well as a dead person.

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS:

This Hebrew word, “nephesh,” was translated into the following English words by the King James translators (Authorized Version of 1611):

1. **Person(s):** Gen 36:6; Num 35:11, 15,30; Deut 10:22; 2 Sam 14:14; Prov 28:17; Jer 52:29
2. **Man:** Ex 12:16; 2 Kings 12:4; Is 49:8
3. **Body:** Nu 6:6; Nu 9:6,7,10; Nu 19:11, 13,16; Hag 2:13
4. **Creature(s):** Gen 1:21,24; Gen 2:19; Gen 9:10,12,15,16; Lev 11:46
5. **Beast:** Lev 24:18
6. **Thing:** Lev 11:10; Ez. 47:9
7. **Dead:** Lev 19:28; Lev 21:1; Num 5:2; Num 6:11; Num 9:6,7,10
8. **Mind:** Gen 23:8; Deut 18:6; Deut 28:65; 1 Sam 2:35; 1 Chron. 28:9; Jer 15:1; Ez. 23:17,18,22
9. **Heart:** Ex 23:9; Lev 26:16; Deut 24:15; 1 Sam 2:33; 2 Sam 3:21; Prov 23:7; Jer 42:20; Ez 25:6,15

10. **Will:** Deut 21:14; Psa 27:12; Psa 41:2
11. **Appetite:** Prov 23:2; Eccl 6:7
12. **Desire:** Eccl 6:9; Jer 22:27; Jer 44:14; Mica 7:3; Hab 2:5
13. **Lust:** Ex 15:9; Ps 78:18
14. **Ghost:** Job 11:20; Jer 15:9
15. Various pronouns (i.e., **he him, himself, her, herself, me, myself, yourselves, themselves, we, thee, any, anymore, etc.**)
Gen 37:21; Lev 2:1; Lev 4:27; 11:43; Num 23:10; Jos 23:11; Ps 35:25; 105:18; 131:2; Is 5:14; Jer 2:24; 3:11; 40:14
16. **Life/lives:** Gen 1:30; 9:4,5; Ex 4:19; 21:23,30; Lev 17:11,14; Num 35:31; Deut 12:23; 19:21; Jos 2:13,14; 9:24; Jud 5:18; 18:25; 1 Sam 19:5,11; 22:23; 2 Sam 4:8; 19:5,6;; 1 Kings 1:12; 19:2,3; 1 Ch 11:19; 2 Ch 1:11; Job 6:11; Ps 31:13; Ps 38:12; Prov 1:19; Jer 4:30; Jer 19:7
17. **Soul(s):** Gen 2:7; 46:15, 18, 22, 26, 27; Ex 1:5; Lev 23:30; Jos 10:28; 11:11; 1 Sam 24:11; Ps 22:29; Ps 30:3; 33:19; 35:17; 40:14; 63:9; 78:50; 116:8; Prov 6:32; Ez 13:18,19; 18:4,20,27; 22:25:27

The above scripture verses are only a few samples of how the Hebrew word “nephesh” was translated in the King James Version Bible. It would appear that the translators used the word in almost every conceivable way. BUT THEY DID NOT USE IT IN THE WAY THE MODERN CHURCHES USE IT. Neither the Bible usages, nor the definition, suggest an “immortal” or non-dying entity. In fact, many verses clearly indicate that a “soul” can die or be destroyed. The doctrine of the “immortal soul” simply cannot be supported by the Scriptures.

**RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTAL READING ON
THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION:**

Spirits On Trial, by Ben Williams

Rapture Of The Saints, by Duncan McDougall

The Two Babylons, by Alexander Hislop

ACM Kingdom Bible Studies, Lesson 11:
The “Immortal Soul” Doctrine, Part 1