

# Salvation

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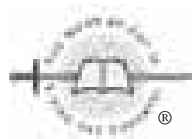
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# Salvation

## Jesus Christ, God With Us

The best way to understand salvation is to know Jesus Christ, for He is the embodiment of salvation. He is your Savior, so you should know who He is and what He did for you. Volumes could be written about Christ and His redemptive work, and yet the subject would never be exhausted. Who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for this earth is never-ending (John 21:25).

A good place to begin, though, is with one of the many prophecies that came about Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. Isaiah 7:14 says, “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.” In the Hebrew language, the name Immanuel means “God with us.” That makes it clear that one born of a virgin would be a manifestation of God on the earth.

The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke. It tells of the time when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary before she gave birth to Jesus.

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary...The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.” (Luke 1:26-27,30-33)

Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and was “God with us,” as prophesied in Isaiah.

Before the birth of Christ, an angel of the Lord also appeared to Joseph, who was engaged to Mary. It was at this time that the baby was given a name which clearly showed what He would do for the earth.

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:20b-21)

The power of this Scripture is lost in its English translation. Verse 21 says that He will be called Jesus, because He will be the Savior of the world. However, that statement only makes sense if you know the meaning of Jesus’ Hebrew name. The Hebrew form of Jesus is Yeshua, which was the proper name given to Christ by the angel. Yeshua literally means “Yahweh is salvation,” or “God is salvation.” Salvation is the essence of who He is. Salvation is His very name! Now we understand the true significance of this Scripture in Matthew. Jesus Christ is the manifestation of God’s salvation.

## **Who Was Jesus Christ?**

The first chapter of the Gospel of John gives us one of the greatest descriptions of Jesus Christ. Verse 1: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Christ is the Word. Whenever the Scriptures talk about the Word of God, they are always referring to Jesus Christ. How do we know? Verse 14 tells us: “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only

begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He was man, and He was God.

The second verse in John 1 reinforces this: “He was in the beginning with God.” Christ was as God was; He existed in the beginning with God. He is an expression of God that is different than God the Father, and yet He is one with the Father. This confirms the prophecy in Isaiah that the Savior would be called Immanuel, “God with us.” That name expresses perfectly the idea that Jesus Christ was both God and man.

Verse 3: “All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” He is the force through which God created everything. This Scripture describes how God created the universe. It was spoken into being by the Word, and Christ is the Word. God said, “Let there be” (Genesis 1:3). Christ created the universe as the Word of God. Nothing in the universe came into being without Him.

John 1:4: “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.” Christ is life. The universe was created in life and through life. Christ is the Word, and He is life. All life exists because of Christ. He is not only your Savior, but the very foundation of your existence.

A simple explanation of all of this is found in the third chapter of John. John 3:16 tells us, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” The simple reality of Jesus Christ is that He is the love of God expressed on the earth. He is the expression of the love of God in your life. His salvation doesn’t have to be any more complicated than that. So much about God is impossible to grasp, but the fact that He loves you is something you can understand; it is something we can all relate to.

## **What Did Jesus Christ Do?**

Now that we know who Jesus Christ is, we should find out

what He did for us.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. (II Corinthians 5:17-18)

Why did Christ come to the earth? He came to the earth because God loves us and wants to reconcile humanity to Himself. Why do we have to be reconciled to Him? Because we were separated from God by Adam's disobedience in the Garden of Eden. In that moment, humanity was separated from the life of God, and has been ever since. Romans 5:12 tells us, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men. . . ."

Christ, however, came as the love of God for the purpose of reuniting us with God. Jesus Christ reconciled us to God so that we may know Him and be with Him. He brings us back to the place of life.

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:17, NIV)

Death was introduced into the world by the trespass of Adam. Because of Adam's disobedience, all of creation experiences the death process in a separation from the life of God. Remember what was written in John 1, that Christ is life and that through Him God created the world. The world was created through life and in life. There was no death in the world when it was first created!

But when Adam ate the fruit, he was sent away from God's presence and all of humanity was removed from the life that is

in God, making death a daily reality (Genesis 3:23-24). Now everything naturally degrades and falls apart, both living things and inanimate objects. The fact that people get sick and die is the result of the introduction of death into the world. This all goes back to Adam's disobedience.

Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. (Romans 5:18, NIV)

All of humanity was condemned because Adam was disobedient. But Christ was obedient. Where Adam was imperfect, Christ was perfect. Just as Adam opened the door for sin and death, Christ opened the door for life. The Scriptures refer to Christ as the second Adam (I Corinthians 15:45,47). Christ and Adam were the only two men in the history of the earth who were not naturally conceived. But while Adam chose to be disobedient to God, Christ chose to be obedient. Christ closed the very door of sin and death that Adam opened. When you receive Christ, you no longer live under the consequences of Adam's disobedience. Christ's sacrifice brings reconciliation to you, allowing you to be one with God again.

Romans 5:19 (NIV) tells us, "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous." We are made righteous by His act of righteousness: His obedience (Philippians 2:5-11). That is His great salvation. Romans 5 paints such a great picture of this, so I encourage you to read the entire chapter.

Romans 6:23 sums all of this up: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." When you sin, you die. That is what happened with Adam. The payment for his sin was death. Sin was introduced into the world through Adam's disobedience and death is its natural

consequence. This is the state of humanity. But the second half of this verse says that God gives us eternal life. That means we will be freed from death. But how, exactly, does that happen?

## **What Was the Purpose of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ?**

The only way that Jesus Christ was able to bring us back into a relationship with God was by giving up His life. By His sacrifice He opened the door for us to live in righteousness and obedience in God. Leviticus 17:11 says, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.” What was lost when Adam sinned? Life. What does Christ bring to us? Life. Where is the life? The life is in the blood. That is why the sacrifices of the Old Testament centered around the blood to make atonement for sin.

All of the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament point to the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who gave His life and died once for all (Romans 6:10). His blood was the atonement for our sins. If life is found in the blood, and we suffer from death, then blood had to be spilled in order for life to be transferred to us. And how could that work? Because His blood was perfect! It had no death in it because He was not disobedient. His blood was life!

God gave Christ as a sacrifice in His perfection because God had to provide an offering that was powerful enough to really make a difference, and the only acceptable offering was Jesus Christ. His was the only life that God would accept. Your sin is forgiven because life has been the cost. Remember, the wages of sin is death. So the only way to get rid of death was for Christ to pay the price of His own life for you.

Hebrews 9:22 is the New Testament echo of Leviticus 17:11. It says, “And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” With the spilling of Christ’s blood there is a



perfect forgiveness and a perfect atonement. In Christ, you are truly reconciled back to God. The division between you and the Father has been removed. Even death is removed, and life is available to you.

## **Receive the Salvation of Jesus Christ**

With this understanding of Christ and His redemptive work, it is vital that you aggressively seek the Lord for the experience of salvation. In your state of being, you require deliverance; Christ is that deliverance. We all understand physical death, but the death that was brought about through Adam's disobedience includes far more than that. This is why you need deliverance. Humanity's separation from the life of God introduced an eternal death that affects your entire being: spirit, soul and body. Without Christ, you face an eternal separation from God!

There will be a time of judgment for every person. The book of Revelation describes this in a vision: "the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds" (Revelation 20:12b). Without Christ and His salvation, we are condemned to an eternal death, a separation from God and His life. The effect of Christ's salvation is not limited to your life on this earth; it affects your spirit and your soul throughout eternity. You are immersed in death unless you receive the life of Christ.

Give your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ and abandon your sins. Be driven to throw aside the death that was laid upon you through Adam's disobedience. Receive the spilling of Christ's blood, which makes available the very life of God that was resident in the world when it was first created.

Christ and the life of His salvation is available right now. Open your heart and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Open your heart and be saved. Repent of disobedience and sin, and break your bond with the death that comes with it. Look to Him and

say: “Lord Jesus, I believe in You. Today, I receive the power of Your salvation which was released for all humanity through Your death on the cross. I receive the spilling of the blood of Your life, that righteous blood in which there is no sin or transgression. Through the power of Your sacrifice I take on Your life, and with it I replace the death that came with Adam. I accept Your salvation and Your forgiveness. Help me to live as a true child of God in obedience to Your Word. Amen.”

# Scripture References

## Jesus Christ, God With Us

John 21:25—

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

## Who Was Jesus Christ?

Genesis 1:3—

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

## What Did Jesus Christ Do?

Genesis 3:23-24—

Therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

I Corinthians 15:45,47—

So also it is written, “The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit...The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

Philippians 2:5-11—

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of

death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **What Was the Purpose of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ?**

Romans 6:10—

For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.