

SALVATION

*Salvation -- what is it? Why do we need it? How do we go about obtaining it? It is the purpose of this article to answer these and other questions relative to salvation.

In searching for the true meaning, Yahweh* has set down in His written word (the Bible), certain guidelines to use to find the truth. Perhaps one of the most important of these is recorded in 1st John 4:1 which reads: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God..."

Certainly with over 800 so-called "Christian" religions the search for the truth might at first seem a task that could take more than a lifetime; but with diligent searching accompanied by earnest prayer it is a promise given that you will find the truth (refer to Matt. 7:7).

What must not be done is to use a few scriptures and build an entire doctrine around them. All scripture must harmonize, for Yahweh is not the author of confusion (1st Cor. 14:33).

The subject of salvation centers around man, a totally unique creature on this planet possessing both free and independent thought; all other animals being more or less like programmed machines, leading their lives mainly by instinct. Man, on the other hand, is a creature of reason, depending very little on instinct. His actions are based on decision, whether for good or evil. He alone chooses (see Ps. 119:30, 173; Deu. 32:5; Gen. 6:12; Ex. 32:7&8; Is. 66:3&4).

At this point the question might arise that if Yahweh is indeed all-wise and knows the end from the beginning, why has He created a race of people who can go 'off the track'? Why didn't He create a race of people who couldn't disobey? The answer to this is that Yahweh, through His son, created man a free moral agent and in His own image (Gen. 1:26; James 3:9). Since Yahweh has a spiritual body He could only be referring to characteristics. The four main characteristics, or

attributes are: love, justice, wisdom and power (see 1st John 4:8, Deu. 32:4; Rom. 11:33-36; Gen. 35:11). Even so, a man can only hope to possess a mere fraction of Yahweh's characteristics. Was Yahweh unjust in having us created in His image? Would you want a mind that could not make a free choice? Most would like to keep their ability and freedom, but would like to see the world in a different state of affairs. This is not an improper attitude as Yahweh intends for a righteous system to replace the present wicked and deceived governments of the world. How did man get to such a state, and what will be the end result? Let's start at the beginning.

The first man, Adam, was created perfect. Perfection, simply defined, is when the will has complete control over the mind and the actions of the body. Adam was placed in a perfect environment with plenty of food, a perfect mate, and all other needs taken care of. All Yahweh commanded of him, was not to eat of the fruit of a certain tree. A simple enough command to follow; or so one would think. We can only speculate as to why Adam sinned. He may have loved his wife more than Yahweh -- or he might not have really taken Yahweh seriously when He said that Adam would die within that "day" (Adam lived 930 yrs. -- compare with 2nd Peter 3:8). However, it is all too evident that man, up to that time, did not know, or realize, the consequences of sin. Were Adam forgiven for this sin, Yahweh's commandments could never again be taken seriously. Furthermore, it is impossible for God to lie (Heb. 6:18).

Adam fell into a condition of imperfection, his will no longer having complete control over the mind and his body. This condition, like a tear in an old garment, went from bad to worse.

He had the right to life on earth for as long as he kept Yahweh's one commandment. Once he broke that law he forfeited that right to life. Nevertheless, Yahweh is completely just and fair, and had a provision for mankind, as we shall soon see.

*Yahweh: the original Hebrew name of the living God, erroneously written, Jehovah.

In the meantime, as previously stated, Adam died within that "day"; but before dying he produced many sons and daughters. All these were born in sin and did not have the opportunity to receive life (see Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12; and Matt. 7:18). This would later prove to be an advantage to man.

All being conceived in sin, and therefore standing disapproved of, or judged adversely by Yahweh, it logically follows that some price or ransom must be paid to remove this obstacle before the blessings could come. A great sacrifice would have to be made for sin. An equal to Adam must be provided for him. Since all after Adam were conceived in sin, and therefore imperfect, the sacrificial man could not be of human ancestry. (see Ps. 49:7). Since Adam did not have the right to life, he could not transmit the right to life to his offspring. Thus the need for Mary, a virgin, conceiving a child not by an imperfect man, but by Yahweh's holy spirit (Matt. 1:18-21). This is the aforementioned provision spoken of and what is referred to in Hosea 13:14, "I will ransom them from the power of the grave..."

According to Webster, a ransom means "to release from captivity or bondage by payment of money or compliance with other demands or to obtain the release of (a captive, property, etc.) by paying the demanded price."

Still Yahweh's justice is manifest as He did not force anyone to be a sacrifice, but chose one whom He knew would be willing and faithful to the end. This arrangement was recorded in John 10:17,18: "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down my life that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father." New American Standard Translation. But still the Son had to be sent (John 8:42), as only Yahweh had the right to receive any ransom payment, and no one can force Yahweh to accept a ransom that He has not authorized. Nor does He force anyone to accept His provision.

But why Yahweh's only begotten son Yahshua? Was the ransom overpaid? No, for the situation is clarified in Philippians 2:6-8, "who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross." (Revised Standard Version)

At this point, let us compare the actions of an obedient son *(Yahshua), with those of Satan's. Instead of grasping at equality with God (Yahweh), he humbles himself and becomes a man, who is lower than the angels (Heb. 2:7,9; 2nd Peter 2:11), and dies the most disgraceful death that man can give him. Satan's actions were completely opposite as was recorded in Isaiah 14:12-14. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds: I will be like the Most High."

Is it any wonder that Yahweh lovingly elevated His beloved son to a position above all with the exception of His own (1st Cor. 15:27).

Let's summarize what we have to this point. A perfect human life must be given as a substitute or in place of Adam's. Not an animal's life for a man's or a God's life for a man's; but a perfect human life, for a perfect human life. Anything more or less would show an inconsistency with Yahweh.

Sacrificing entails the killing of a victim, and offering the "life's blood" of that victim to Yahweh, who alone had the right to receive it.

Up to this point it may seem unfair that because of one man's sin, all would inherit imperfection. But consider the alternative. If imperfection was not transmitted to the offspring, and all who were born were perfect -- then each one who sinned would require his

*Yahshua, composed of the names Yah and Hoshua, signifying Yahweh-Savior in the Hebrew language and presently known as Jesus (Jesus is from the corrupted Greek version Iesus).

own ransom or savior. It was eminently more practical for one to die for all, as did happen.

Yahshua forfeited his earthly life for "the imperfect, but being perfect he had the right to life on earth for as long as he remained perfect.

Yahshua died upon the cross or "torture stake" as a man, and as a man must forever remain dead. In John 6:51 Yahshua said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." Never again will Yahshua become a man (2nd Cor. 5:16).

Not that Yahshua would ever want to be demoted to such a position, for as stated before, Yahweh has elevated him to the highest position in the universe (Philip. 2:9,10) and for him to forfeit this to once more become a man would indeed be foolish.

Yahshua has also been given another commission which would prohibit his returning as a man; the position of the "King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is verified in the prophecy recorded in Isaiah 9:7 which states that Yahshua's kingdom* would be established on the throne of David, who was the typical King of Israel. This throne was originally set up in Jerusalem. However the "New Jerusalem" is located in the heavens (Gal. 4:26; Heb. 12:22). His laws, instructions and teachings proceed from the heavens to the earthly portion of his kingdom (Is. 2:3,4) Compare Matt. 6:10 with Dan. 2:35,44).

Yahshua's subjects will of course follow all his instructions and the rulers which he has placed in authority over the restored nation of Israel. This is not a nation of fleshly Jews but rather a new nation, comprised of every kindred, nation and tongue who strive to do God's will. In Romans 9:8 we find that "...They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God." Also in Romans 2:28&29 those who are to be called Jews (Israelites) are those who have the proper heart condition. (Also refer to Gal 6:16) All these are

to be formed into a new nation (Is. 55:5; Rom. 9:24-26), which will be gathered in a very short time (Is.60:22;66:8; Hosea 3:5).

One of the main reasons that the fleshly nation of Israel was rejected, was because it did not "bear fruit" (Matt. 21:43). Please keep this thought in mind as you read through this article.

At this point some may question the relativity of this information to the acquisition of salvation, but as stated before, you must not take a few scriptures and build a doctrine around them. The recognition of Yahshua as a King as well as a savior is vital to salvation, for you cannot accept one position and reject another. To reject even the smallest one in His Kingdom is to reject him (Matt. 18:5&6), how much more so to reject one of his offices? And there are many positions that Yahshua has been given. Aside that of King of Israel, he is also a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. Melchisedec, like Yahshua, had neither his birth or death recorded. The reason this is so with Yahshua becomes apparent when one considers the extreme age of Yahshua, and the fact that he is alive forevermore.

Being a priest would show that Yahshua has been given the task of restoring the people back to the favor, or "good graces" of Yahweh. In the typical Israel, the priests would sacrifice lambs and other animals for the sin of the people. All this, of course, only foreshadowed the true "lamb of God" (John 1:29).

Those who have been closely following the scriptural treatise will begin to understand, with the aid of Yahweh's holy spirit (John 14:26; 1st. Cor. 2:10, 12), what is involved in "accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior." The title of Lord is in complete harmony with Yahshua's position or rank of King, for according to Webster "Lord" means: "A person having great authority and power; ruler; master." Again, you cannot accept him and reject this office. You cannot accept a King if you reject his government, chosen officials, instruction and provisions. (Refer to Matt. 10:40-42)

In Isaiah 32:1 it states: "Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment." Psalms 45:16 describes the princes, "Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth." This prophecy speaks of Yahshua, whose earthly forefathers were the prophets of old (Abraham, Issac, Jacob, etc.) When Yahshua resurrects them (John 11:25) they are no longer his "fathers" but his "sons". To place Satan's officials (Is. 14:9) over the resurrected prophets (Rom. 6:16) will lead to your confusion and eventual death (Hosea 4:6).

How many of us have heard Billy Graham and other "evangelists" use the following scriptures to prove that all which is required to receive eternal salvation is to believe in Jesus (without telling them who or what they're believing in); Acts 16:30,31; John 6:47; 3:36; Rom. 1:17. Some add Mark 16:16 and John 3:3-7 stating that baptism is also required. Others merely claim that "calling on the name of the Lord" is sufficient for salvation (Rom. 10:13; Acts 2:21).

Using these scriptures alone will lead one to believe that eternal salvation can be obtained through a simple enough act of faith, which once performed one can sit back and be assured of "eternal security." But again, Yahweh is not the author of confusion (1st Cor. 14:33) and if their doctrine is complete and accurate in itself, it should not conflict with the scriptures presented earlier and those to follow.

One vital point to consider is the time element. Back in the days when Yahshua was on earth, the prophecies were not to be understood. The book of Daniel was to be sealed until the time of the end (Dan. 12:9), and the book of Revelations was not yet written. Why? Because it did not concern them -- but it does concern us! If they were not needed, they would not have been given. If someone tells you that the understanding of prophecy (which holds the instructions and provisions for us) is not necessary, it is because he himself does not understand them. Yahweh even goes as far as

saying that the wicked will not understand these prophecies (Dan. 12:10; also compare Rev. 1:1-3 with Rev. 22:18,19), but His people would understand them through His prophets (Amos 3:7 and Rev. 10:7).

All those not living in the last days had to die. Their best hope was to die in faith (2nd Tim. 4:6-8) later to be resurrected. For them recognition of the proper Messiah and belief in his power to resurrect them was the main element. Even with this, it was not an easy road to hoe. Those who were to accept the Messiah were told to forsake all; to "take up their cross" and follow him (Matt. 10:38; 16:24). Words like "faith" and "belief" were not used lightly, for it was put to the test.

The true followers of the King were to become "citizens" of his kingdom (Eph. 2:19; Philip. 3:20). As subjects or servants of the King they would be exposed to the following conditions: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also." (John 15:18-20); "But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten; and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them. But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (Mark 13:9,11-13).

Do we see Billy Graham, Oral Roberts or the Armstrongs in this kind of condition? Are they hated and rejected by the world and its leaders; or do they make their friends among them? (Also see James 4:4) Are they living examples of what Paul recorded in Philippians 1:29. "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;" Do they live modestly following the example of Paul by working for a living (1st Cor. 4:12; Acts 18:1-3) or do they live like kings on the collections that are "given to God." Also, did not Paul strictly command the true church to "Speak the same thing" (1st Cor. 1:10). Do we see this among the over 800 Christian denominations? Or do we see division and confusion? In truth, the title "Babylon" (confusion) could not be fulfilled without them. These men are truly known by the fruits that they bear.

The road to eternal salvation is not the easy course that religion teaches, but narrow (Matt. 7:13,14 & 1st Peter 4:18) and there will be those who trip and fall along the way, as the following scriptures prove. 1st Cor. 15:1,2: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain." Gal. 1:22,23: "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." Col. 1:22,23: "In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;" Heb. 3:6: "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." It is true that Yahweh's servants are "sealed". (2nd Cor. 1:22; Eph. 4:30) But this is only because Yahweh knows the end from the beginning and knows which of us will choose to endure to the end.

Let's be perfectly honest with ourselves. If Paul, one of the greatest and most faithful of the apostles and personally called by Yahshua, took the attitude that he was racing toward and striving for the "prize" (and what else would this be except eternal salvation), who are we that we should so presumptuously state that we are saved. Some even giving the day and the hour! And who has given these individuals the authority to ask another if he has been saved? Even the apostles did not take this authority upon themselves. Face it, the best anyone can hope to obtain, after being correctly instructed, is a temporary salvation from the curse of the law. The promise of Yahweh is sure, but it is man himself who determines the outcome. The scriptures prove that it is a course of endurance. To fall means eternal death (Heb. 6:4-6); to endure is to fulfill what is recorded in James 1:12, "Blessed is he who endures under trial; for when he has stood the test, he will gain the crown of life which is promised to all who love him." (Moffatt's translation.) Which trial is he referring to? The continuous trial spoken of in Revelation 2:10 "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten* days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." During this time the citizens of Yahweh's restored Israel are to remain firm, keep their integrity towards Yahweh, obey, and glorify the name of their king. Through this obedience Yahshua becomes "...the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey him." (Heb. 5:9) Truly, he who endures to the end shall be saved (Matt. 24:13). However, he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear (1st Cor. 10:13).

At this point please do not get the impression that Israel sells the importance of faith short. Faith is the foundation of Israel. And please do not try to use the example of the thief who was crucified next to Yahshua (Luke 23:40-43), that works are not necessary. You know within yourselves that if the thief could have gotten down from the stake, his faith would have been proven by his works.

*The number ten is used in scripture to denote earthly completeness, compare Rev. 2:10 with Matt. 10:18,22-25.

Separation from this Babylonish* system is essential. The warning is given, "...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." (Rev. 18:4) This is Satan's world (1st John 5:19; John 12:31) and he is its god (2nd Cor. 4:4). Whosoever would be a friend to this world makes himself the enemy of God (James 4:4). Remember, Satan is using the world's religions to give the people a false sense of security; to lull them to sleep and ignore the provisions for survival that the prophecies explain. If Noah and his family did not take advantage of the provision for survival that Yahweh had offered them, would they have survived the flood? This is not to say that we can work for and buy our salvation, for there is no amount of work that a sinful man can do to earn everlasting life. For this reason our salvation is called a "gift", an "undeserved kindness". All we have to do, as Noah did, is take advantage of the provisions offered.

If you are to become Israel you must also worship the Father in spirit and in truth (John 4:23,24). Ask yourself now, by what name the Father will be known by. Most Hebrew scholars now agree that the most correct form of the sacred name is "Yahweh". This name has been recorded in the Hebrew texts in the form of the tetragrammaton YHWH (in English letters). It was incorrectly translated (by a Roman Catholic Monk by the name of Peter Glatin) to Jehovah in the 15th century. Think what this means, the prophets of old and all the apostles did not know their God by the name Jehovah! And to merely call Him "God" is not sufficient for there are many "gods" (Ps. 82:1-6; 1st Cor. 8:5,6; 2nd Cor. 4:4). The word "God" is not a name, but a title meaning a "mighty one".

There is also a definite distinction between the names of the Father, Yahweh, and His only-begotten son Yahshua. It is the same name that was given to Moses' successor "Joshua". The letter "J" however has no Hebrew equivalent and therefore no attempt to translate the name should be made. How

then did we get the name "Jesus". The Greek translation of Yahshua is Iesous. Through years of corruption, and the introduction of the French letter "J", the name "Jesus" evolved. Yet scripture states that there is only one name under heaven by which we can be saved (Acts 4:12). Do you think it would be a name that was not to exist until some 1600 years later? In Acts 26:14,;5 when Paul was called by Yahshua; what language was used? English, Greek, or was it Hebrew. How then did the Messiah identify himself? In truth, the name "Jesus" was unknown until the 17th century when it was used in the Authorized King James translation.

Did anyone, including the translators, have the right to tamper with these names? Definitely not! In striving to serve their God in a pure manner as possible, Israel must use the most correct form of the names. As promised, Yahweh's spirit will guide His prophets to the truth. Make no mistake, Israel is not stressing the use of the proper names, Yahweh has already done that.

In this light, what name must we be called by? In scripture the name "Israel" is used over 2400 times; "Christian" only three. And of these three times, twice as a direct insult by the heathen, let us examine the history of this name. It was first used in Antioch, Rome (Acts 11:26) somewhere about 43 A.D. The name "Christian" and the place it was first given are both significant. It is very clear that it was used as a term of contempt against the disciples of one whom the heathen held as a pretender, a false Messiah. They did this through ignorance as they chose Yahshua's title (Christos in the Greek), and not his name. (This information can be found in most Bible dictionaries). But what has happened over the years? The so-called followers of Yahshua forgot (or rejected) the name Yahweh bestowed upon them (Israel), and have adopted a name (Christian) that the heathen called them by. Do you think this is pleasing to your God. Is this how you should worship in truth? What promises did Yahweh ever make to the Christians? Would it be Christians that

* Babylon literally means 'confusion'.

would glorify Yahweh; or Israel (Is. 49: 6)? Would the Christians be His witnesses; or Israel (compare Is. 43:1 with Is. 43:10)? Will Yahweh use Christians as His battleaxe and weapons of war that will break in pieces the nations and destroy kingdoms (Jer. 51: 19, 20)? No! These promises have only been given to Israel, for He has dealt with no other nation (Ps. 147:20). For a detailed explanation as to who Yahweh's true Israel is, see "Yahweh the Unknown God".

All the promises and instructions that have been shown to the prophets (princes) cannot be explained in great detail here because of their length and need for scriptural collaboration. However, Israel has the entire plan which will be preached throughout the world before the final end comes (Matt. 24:14; Rom. 15:4).

In the meantime you must, "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Philip. 2:12) Any citizen of Yahweh's restored Israel will be more than happy to help.

To find out more, call or write to
The Restored Israel of Yahweh