

# **Salvation Belongeth unto the LORD**

## **From Predestination, Redemption, Regeneration, Sanctification, to Glorification**

### ***Psalm 3:1-8, 8 Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.***

Our text contains the sum and substance of God's sovereignty in salvation. It is one of the, if not, the prominent theme of the Holy Scriptures, aside from Christ Himself.

The word *salvation* in our text is, יְשׁוּעָה yeshuah, yesh-oo'-aw, LXX, σωτηρια soteria so-tay-ree'-ah, 1) deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation 1a) deliverance from the molestation of enemies 1b) in an ethical sense, that which concludes to the souls safety or salvation 1b1) of Messianic salvation 2) salvation as the present possession of all true Christians 3) future salvation, the sum of benefits and blessings which the Christians, redeemed from all earthly ills, will enjoy after the visible return of Christ from heaven in the consummated and eternal kingdom of God.

Our text refers to physical and spiritual salvation. We cannot save our physical life, for it is appointed unto men once to die, God is sovereign and determines whether we have all our limbs, both our eyes, both our ears, etc...we cannot deliver ourselves physically or spiritually.

A.W. Pink said in his work, *A Fourfold Salvation*, that God's people are saved from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, the presence of sin, and the pleasure of sin. He, also, says: *The subject of God's "so great salvation" (Heb. 2:3), as it is revealed to us in the Scriptures and made known in Christian experience, is worthy of a life's study. Any one who supposes that there is now no longer any need for him to prayerfully search for a fuller understanding of the same needs to ponder "If any man think he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know" (1 Cor. 8:2)... "Who hat/i saved us" (2 Tim. 1:9), "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12), "Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Rom. 13:11). Now those verses do not refer to three different salvations, but to three separate aspects of one. Those passages present three distinct*

*phases and stages of salvation: salvation as an accomplished fact, as a present process, and as a future prospect...The fact is that the great majority of professing Christians fail to see that "salvation" is one of the most comprehensive terms in all the Scriptures, including predestination, regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.*

As I began praying over this message and studying it out, I thought, "Now, Brother Paul, how would it make you feel if from the standpoint of the title of your home, that home belonged to you, you paid for it, the title is yours, the home belongs to you. Then, someone (besides your wife, of course) came along and said, 'No, it belongs to me' or 'I own part of it and you own another part of it'?" Well, you would say that person is out of his mind, and if he persisted, it would be natural to take offense to it, especially if he started trying to prove it by his actions by attempting to move in with his possessions and so forth. Such persistence would require law enforcement and maybe even the courts getting involved, or even deadly force."

By the same token, our text says, ***Salvation belongeth unto the LORD***, and for anyone to give the slightest indication that it belonged to them, or originated with them, was in any way procured by them, it would justifiably be highly offensive to the LORD. In the court of Heaven, the Law, the Lawgiver, and the Judge would declare them guilty of trespassing, attempting to steal away God's glory, bearing false witness, and a host of other offenses, and deadly force would be applied, that second death into the lake of fire, unless the offender would repent and believe that ***salvation belongeth unto the LORD***. He dispenses it to whomsoever He pleases, when He pleases.

Before creation, at the Garden of Eden, in the Old Testament, in the New Testament, salvation has always belonged to the Lord. The Lord is the first and the last, the beginning and the end, and the Author and Finisher of our salvation. Salvation belongs to the LORD from our conception till our glorification. ***Romans 8*** expresses the fact that salvation belongs to the LORD from predestination to glorification. As God is from everlasting to everlasting, so is His salvation that He distributes to His children.

From eternity past to eternity future, and every time in between, *salvation belongeth unto the LORD.*

The Pharisees, Pelagianists, Semi-Pelagianists, and Arminians believe, at best, that God built the machinery of salvation, but man operates it. Sovereign Grace believes God built the machinery of salvation and God operates it. He is the Source, the means, and the ends of salvation. The importance of this is that if God is not sovereign in salvation, He could very well not be sovereign in something else or in someone else, or in somewhere else. Therefore, salvation must belong to the Lord or it cannot be enjoyed by anyone.

Because knowing that salvation belongs to the Lord does you no good unless you belong to the Lord in salvation, we will approach this subject from the two angles of physical and spiritual salvation or deliverance.

I'm going to divide this chapter up into three simple parts: First, *The Need of Salvation Recognized*; Second, *The Source of Salvation Realized*, and finally, *The Extent of Salvation Eternalized*.

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## **I. The Need of Salvation Recognized**

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**A.** *<sup>1</sup> LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me. <sup>2</sup> Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah.*

**1.** David had fled from Jerusalem, from his son, Absalom, a well beloved son, and some would argue, his most beloved son. David was broken hearted, what good was his religion when his own son is against him, what good was his religion, what good was his God, what good was David.

**2.** The backdrop of this passage is found in *2Samuel 15:1-*, Absalom and Ahithophel *Psalms 41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.*

- 3 In these verses we see how weak and vulnerable we are, how much we need our God.
- 4 David knew what Samuel knew...that heart wrenching feeling of children departing from the guide of their youth.
- 5 The world, the flesh, and the devil and his legions, gang up and encompass us round about to devour and destroy us. They, in hatred, decry and disdain our helpless and hopeless condition. Our adversary the devil, accuses us before God night and day. They remind us of our failures and our unworthiness of salvation which we sadly confess. Mere religionists, skeptics, agnostics, atheists, the world, the Shimei's, Ahithophel's, Absalom's, yea, even the Law condemns us!
- 6 Here we find the evidences of our total depravity: We are utterly helpless to save or rescue ourselves from our sins or the consequences of our sins. We are so helpless that the Scriptures declare that we are dead in trespasses and sins. Once we properly understand total depravity it is inevitable that we will receive the other four points of grace and understand that *salvation belongeth unto the Lord*. Because we are totally depraved it must needs be that *salvation belongeth unto the Lord*
- 7 We are reminded of the need of salvation when we stand in the public square for the Lord Jesus, the world will hate us as they hate the Christ of the Bible.
- 8 The word *selah*, here denotes something to ponder, as a crescendo or swell in music, to emphasize more and more as we see the day of our salvation approaching.

**B.** We must be reminded that the everlasting salvation of our eternal souls, involves everything from beginning to end and everything in between in our lives. *Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.* There is the Light at the end of the tunnel of this life.

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## **II. The Source of Salvation Realized**

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**A.** <sup>3</sup> *But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.* It is as if David said, yes, I am hopeless, helpless, and not worthy of the least of God's mercies, *but Thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory and the lifter up of mine head,* You Lord, encourage me, it is in You alone I find salvation and true fulfillment, not, but I, or but my works, or but the church, or but luck or chance, not the hospital, not the government.

**B.** <sup>4</sup> *I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.* Prayer is one of the evidences that one recognizes that *salvation belongeth unto the LORD.*

**C.** <sup>5</sup> *I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.* The Lord giveth His beloved sleep, the Lord will not slumber. God sustains us, preserves us, and thus, we persevere. We know that we believe that *salvation belongeth unto the LORD* when we can sleep in the midst of life-or-death danger knowing that the LORD is our helper and our salvation.

**D.** <sup>6</sup> *I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about.* No matter if all the world, all spiritual wickedness in high places be gathered against us, when we realize that *salvation belongeth unto the LORD* we will not be afraid. For greater is He Who is in us than he that is in the world.

**E.** <sup>7</sup> *Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.* David continues to pray, for it is God's means of grace, looking in the past for encouragement, and looking forward in the future.

### **III. The Extent of Salvation Eternalized**

**A.** <sup>8</sup> *Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.* In that last phrase we detect in the words, *thy people*, God's electing grace, from whence we should get at least hints of God's particular redemption of His elect, which also presupposes, because of our depravity, irresistible grace. Moreover, recognizing that God's purposes can never be thwarted or frustrated, there must be persevering grace.

**B.** *This salvation belongeth unto the LORD, יהוה Yehovah, yeh-ho-vaw', Jehovah = "the existing One" the Greek Septuagint, which Christ and the Apostles referred to at times, translates this word with the Greek word, κυριό kurios koo'-ree-os and thus makes it synonymous with Yahweh or Jehovah, which according to some is the Anglicized or some say Latinized version of Yahweh, which the Jews use the name, Adonai, in place of Yahweh, because they do not pronounce it out of supposed reverence.*

**1.** The gift of salvation belongs to God. He planned the salvation, He purposed the salvation, He purchased the salvation, He produced the salvation, and He alone provides this salvation.

**2.** This salvation belongs to the everlasting Father Who so loved His elect that He sent His only begotten Son into the world.

**3.** This salvation belongs to the Son, Jesus (Jehovah is salvation) Who died on the cross

to purchase our pardon and thus, procure our salvation.

4 This salvation belongs to the eternal Holy Spirit Who quickened us, made us alive, regenerated, borned us again, that we would have life, and we are sealed by the Holy Spirit until the redemption of our bodies.

C Jonah **Jonah 2:9** *But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.* Will we wait till we are in the big fish's belly before we come to grips properly that Salvation belongs to the Lord.

1 Jonah learned the hard way that he can't deliver himself out of any arduous task that God had assigned him—God is sovereign! ***Salvation belongeth unto the Lord!***

2 Jonah learned the hard way that God will save whomsoever He pleases whether we particularly care for them or not, or whether we understand why they should be blessed and God's people judged thereby. God takes no cues from us! He is sovereign! ***Salvation belongeth unto the Lord!***

3 Jonah learned the hard way that salvation, deliverance, or rescue from trials and/or chastisements can only come from the Lord because ***salvation belongeth unto the Lord!*** Jonah knows this now like never before and forevermore.

D When struggling sins which doth so easily beset us, ***salvation belongeth unto the LORD***

E Loved ones, like Absalom, weighed heavy upon David, especially when we consider our inconsistencies as parents, but he was strengthened and encouraged in the fact that ***salvation belongeth unto the LORD.***

**F.** Our country is going through such hard and troublesome times, but remember, *salvation belongeth unto the LORD.*

**G.** An insidious disease is eating away at our physical well-being? *Salvation belongeth unto the LORD.*

**H.** Mental stress

**I.** Spiritual demonic attacks

**J.** Persecution from the world

**K.** Death, that final enemy, ah, yes, but death where is thy sting, grave where is thy victory? *1 Corinthians 15:51* <sup>51</sup> *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,* <sup>52</sup> *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.* <sup>53</sup> *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.* <sup>54</sup> *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.* <sup>55</sup> *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?* <sup>56</sup> *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.* <sup>57</sup> *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* <sup>58</sup> *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.* Why? Because *salvation belongeth unto the LORD!*

**L.** As I was getting ready to close out the year there is always a rush to get things done, changes to adapt to, things get misplaced, people are busy, and sometimes irritable, but I was reminded, *salvation belongeth unto the LORD.*



**M.** *Psalms 37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.*

**N.** *Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.*

Look at the little word, *Selah*. This the first time *Selah* is mentioned in the Bible, and it is mentioned 3 times in the *3<sup>rd</sup> Psalm* which is only 8 verses long. The Lord is directing us to think long and hard about the fact that we need His salvation, and salvation belongs to Him, If you are going through some fiery trial or are being chastened of God like David, even amongst your own family or those who were your beloved friends, I encourage you to, ...*Selah*, meditate on this. I believe when such heart wrenching things happen to us in our life, we must consider the very basics and most important things like physical and eternal salvation is of the Lord, and we have the guarantee of the most important one and however, the rest works out is for God's glory and our eternal good. *Philippians 1:28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.*

Some may think this, *Salvation belongeth unto the LORD*, to be a hard doctrine, with all its predestination, but this is glorious, God-honoring doctrine. It is the power of God unto salvation kind of doctrine; it is the joy unspeakable and full of glory kind of doctrine; it is the resurrection and the life kind of doctrine, it is the peace that passes all understanding kind of doctrine, it is a comfort in all our afflictions kind of doctrine, it is a take us to eternal paradise kind of doctrine.

Those of you still yet in your sins and without Christ, if you imagine to rise up against the King of Kings, conspire against Him, rebel against Him, you fight a losing battle, you will be defeated, as Absalom was. *Selah*, ponder and consider your sinful condition and God's judgment upon you in hell, and turn from your sins and run to Christ for salvation, Who died on the cross to save sinners as He hung in their place, to take on the eternal penalty for all those

who believe and trust in Him, for *salvation belongeth unto the LORD.*

Oh, that all us like David who began complaining and may end up rejoicing, so shall our end of the righteous be, even for eternity. We may complain, and groan now, but one eternal day we shall rejoice forevermore like never before!

On the eternal shores of glory, when our salvation is consummated, when we see our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ face to face and know like we've never known that *he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them—Hebrews 7:25.* O how we will praise and worship the LORD Who saved us by His grace—Hallelujah, *salvation belongeth unto the LORD!*