

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

God is Our Salvation, Pt 2

Selected Passages

Keywords: Acts 7, Redemption, Patience of God, Love of God, Gospel, Salvation, Deliverance

PowerPoint Presentation included: none

SermonAudio Blurb: Building off of Stephen's speech in which he showed how Israel has spurned the many saviors sent by God, the greatest being Jesus Himself. Today we will see how the Old Testament describes and paints the picture of what salvation actually is and in doing so prepare our hearts all the more for that day of salvation in Jesus Christ.

I. Introduction.

- A. Last week we considered Stephen's masterful speech just prior to being murdered and martyred as a Christian.
- B. Today I want us to do a flyover on the entire doctrine of salvation. Many opinions on what is involved in this idea. Seldom do we keep in our mind the fullness of what it means to be "saved."
- C. Hear me now that though the world shall raise up many so-called saviors, none shall stand in the end. All shall topple and fall into the rubble of human history like the countless saviors of old. The powers of sin, Satan and death are so strong and so pervasive that only God can deliver us. And the deliverance He brings is so broad, so high and so complete that it ought bring us a hope that is like a supernova bursting forth from our soul.

II. God is our salvation.

- A. To understand salvation in the bible requires us to pull away from the tendency to think of it in a small, limited manner.
 - 1. First, in thinking about salvation and deliverance you must keep in mind that it is not merely related to salvation from sin, nor is it limited only to the idea of being justified. It is very broad, full, and multi-faceted.
 - 2. Second, in thinking about salvation and deliverance you must resist the urge to read New Testament concepts into the Old Testament.
 - 3. Examples:
 - a. Exodus 15.2
 - b. 1 Chronicles 16.35
 - c. Psalm 18.46

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4. Today our focus will be upon the Old Testament ideas about salvation and how they then connect to what Stephen was saying in his speech.
- B. Key terms related to salvation and deliverance.
1. “Save.”
 - a. In the Old Testament this is the idea of “making wide,” where you are in a tight, restrictive place and then you are suddenly in the open. The one who brings you into that wide place is your savior
 - b. Exo 14:30
 - c. Ps 54:1
 - d. Zech. 9:9
 2. Deliver.
 - a. Three different terms are used to capture what we have in one word.
 - b. The first carries the sense of being snatched away. Picture a child close to a busy road and the parent snatches them to safety.
 - (1) Exod. 3:8
 - (2) Ps. 22:8
 - (3) Isa. 50:2
 - c. The second and third terms the Old Testament uses for “to deliver” are similar and share a unique quality. In their verbal form they are only used in Old Testament poetry.
 - (1) The first speaks of “slipping away” and is found in Job to speak of the sparks of fire leaping away into the air.
 - (a) Isa. 49:24-25
 - (2) The other term is similar and speaks to the idea of escape to safety.
 - (a) 2 Sam. 22:44
 - (b) Psa. 18:3
 3. Redeem.
 - a. One of the terms here is of how a close relative was responsible to redeem a relative from danger. In the New Testament this is picked

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up in the incarnation. Jesus is our elder brother who redeems us from our enslavement to sin.

- b. The other term that is close in meaning takes on even more of a image that is helpful to us. Again it is to redeem but it is used slightly differently. It speaks of when a person is under the sentence of death and then the ransom price is paid and he is redeemed and therefore saved.

- (a) 2 Sam. 7:23

- (b) Isa. 41:13-14

- (c) Isa. 51:11

- (2) What is interesting though is that this term for redemption, *padah*, is only used once in the Old Testament for redemption out of sin. (Psa. 130:7-8)

- 4. Isaiah 52:1-10.

III. Conclusion.

- A. In the Old Testament salvation is utterly different than in all of the surrounding pagan religions. Why? Because salvation was a prerequisite rather than the goal of obedience. In other words, it is salvation by grace. You cannot be saved by obeying. Rather you obey because God first saved you. And this is carried through into the New Testament.
- B. So as we take this home today I ask that you consider how you think about salvation.
 - 1. Is it primarily a vague spiritual salvation from hell?
 - 2. Is it a hope of heaven?
 - 3. Do you inadvertently look for other saviors right now? Financial security? Weapons? Education? Political parties? Laws and justice systems?
- C. When you thank God for saving your soul what do you mean by it?
 - 1. How are you considering your salvation? How does your life choices reflect this understanding of salvation?
 - 2. I am asking you to do some real thinking on this. And then come back next week and we can see what Stephen, the Bible and God actually says about deliverance, liberation and salvation.

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Benediction

May the Lord remind you all of the richness of His grace and the manifold blessings that belong to you in Christ Jesus our Lord. May you walk in His promises and by the power of the Holy Spirit as you engage this fallen age for God's glory. Amen