

## INTRODUCTION

1. Recall the dire state of men prior to the coming of Christ. Only God's chosen people received the revelation of His saving grace - A 14:16-17
2. Exo 34:6-7 YHWH: grace & wrath. Jesus reveals both. Jn 3:16-21 Jesus reveals God's love in the gospel: summons to faith.
3. Jesus: new epoch in redemptive history [RH]. God now reveals grace to all men in Jesus [1T 4:10; Tit 3:4; 2:11]. RH: *day of salvation* - 2C 5:18-6:2

**1st: The Gospel Summons Sinners to Be Reconciled to God**

11. 5:18-21 We are entrusted w/ the gospel: *ministry & word of reconciliation* = explain how sinners are reconciled to God by imputation: v19 & v21
  - i. 6:1-2 God is acting & we work w/ God - urge reception of grace [5:20]
  - ii. 6:3-11 Paul's ministry - kingdom inversions: word of reconciliation
  
2. 6:1 - urge not *receive gospel in vain* - Paul works to communicate *the gospel of the grace of God* [A 20:24; Col 1:6]. The gospel is good news of God's grace for sinners revealed in cross & resurrection of Jesus

**2nd: The Gospel of The Supplicating Servant**

1. 6:1-2 - Isa 49:8a Who is addressed? Who is the *You*?
  - i. Is 2C 6:1-2 addressing the sinner who calls out to God? [Rm 10:13].
  - ii. Isa 49 = Servant song & Servant of Lord is addressed & speaks prophetically as Jesus - extend salvation to ends of earth - v6.
  - iii. v8a&b is spoken to Servant [Jesus]: given to His people who inherit land; delivers from darkness [v9], from all over the world [v12] into the comfort of His compassion [v13].
    - a. The salvation wrought by Servant is eschatological - v10.
    - b. Rv 7:16-17 saved out of trib, washed in blood of Lamb [v14-15].
2. What does Lord tell Servant? *I have answered You* [listened 2C 6:2]. What is Servant doing? Asking - praying!
  - i. Servant will bring global salvation.
  - ii. When is Servant praying? *in a favorable time, in a day of salvation.*

**3rd: The Gospel During the Day of Salvation**

1. Servant's obedience moves RH into *an acceptable time; day of salvation*. During this time, the Servant will be praying & receive all that Lord promised - ingathering of Israel from all nations. Ps 2:6-8
  - i. Ascended, enthroned Christ prays as priest for inheritance [Son]
  - ii. *Ask Me & I'll give nations as inheritance - I listened, answered You, I helped You.* Why? B/c You have advanced RH to *the day of salvation*.
2. Hb 8:1-2 Jesus is resurrected, enthroned Priest-King: rules redemptively
3. His love - Rm 8:33-34 elect - justified. Jesus' reign of love.
4. 2C 6:1-2 What is *the acceptable time & the day of salvation*? Today.
  - i. Church-Age: gospel is declared to *world* - 2C 5:19 [v16]
    - a. We see men in relation to the death & resurrection of Jesus.
    - b. Jesus gives men resurrection life - v17

**4th: The Gospel of the Interceding Savior**

1. What is Jesus doing now? Rule as King-Priest: interceding.
2. Ps 110:1-4 Melchizedek [not Levi] = King-Priest - Heb 7:14-17
  - i. Jesus' priesthood is on basis of resurrection life - not genealogy
    - a. v20-22 oath is fulfilled in Jesus' enthronement: NCov is better
    - b. OCov priests were sinners/died - not Jesis - v23-26.
      - 1) He is praying b/c it is *the acceptable time; day of salvation!* Time for Father to give Him inheritance of nations.
      - 2) *He is able to save forever* - He inherits our eternal salvation
      - 3) For whom does He pray: *who draw near to God thru Him*
  - ii. Rm 8:33-34 The elect hear & respond to gospel by faith & are justified & are those for whom Jesus intercedes.

**5th: The Gospel to Us and Thru Us**

1. 2C 6:1-2 Who is the *You* of v2? Who is the *you* who we *urge* in v1? All who hear this word of reconciliation.
2. Love enemies: explain gospel, work together w/ God as Jesus intercedes.
3. *vain* = a painful word: empty, fruitless, to no result. Men can hear in vain & we can have stewardship in vain.
4. *Today* is the day foreseen by OT prophets - *the day of salvation*.