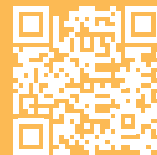


Salvation 101



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Key Scriptures:

In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.
Luke 15:10 NIV

I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.
Exodus 6:7 NIV

The Israelites crossed the Red Sea
Exodus 14

The Lord is my strength and my might, and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him.
Exodus 15:2 NRSV

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
Colossians 1:17 NIV

For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life.
John 3:16 AMP

For by grace you have been saved by faith. Nothing you did could ever earn this salvation, for it was the love gift from God that brought us to Christ!
Ephesians 2:8 TPT

the
Discipleship
project

Summary

OLD TESTAMENT CONTEXT

- In Exodus, salvation is used in a literal context:
 - » After 400 years of enslavement in Egypt, Moses & the Israelites are brought out of captivity and slavery – saved by God.
 - » Exodus 6:7
- God proceeds to lead the Israelites out of Egypt with miraculous signs and wonders, and parts the Red Sea for them to cross in Exodus 14.
- God stops at nothing to set His people free. Exodus shows us a glimpse of the power of salvation, the power of God to liberate.
 - » Exodus 15:2
- Rituals and cultural frameworks were created to reunite individuals and communities with God and to keep them “holy” (set apart).

NEW TESTAMENT CONTEXT

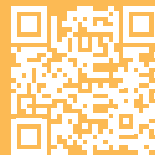
- We begin to see that God's people needed not only geographical/political freedom, but spiritual freedom.
- Israel couldn't free themselves from themselves, only God could truly set them free. Today, it's the same for us!
- Humanity often experiences an identity crisis:
 - » We forget who we were created to be and separate ourselves from our connection to God, living out of selfishness, pride, and egos on overdrive.
 - » However, God created us in His image, inviting us to be united with Him in love, and extending that love to the rest of creation.
- When our lives are separated from God (enslaved to ourselves and rejecting our true identity as God's children), this is referred to in scripture as “sin”, meaning to wander from the right path or to miss the mark.
- Rituals and human effort can't be the anchor of our union with God - “that glue doesn't hold”. Instead, **we are saved by God's grace (unmerited favour)!**

JESUS CHRIST

- Jesus Christ is the glue that restores and cements our union with God.
 - » Colossians 1:17
- Through Jesus's birth, life, teachings, suffering on the cross, and resurrection we are shown the pathway to free and eternal life.
 - » We live in repentance (a 180° turning away from) of sin.
 - » We live in step with God.
 - » John 3:16
- Salvation is a free gift to all who choose to receive it.
 - » We are saved by grace.
 - » Ephesians 2:8
 - » There is still agency on our part, we must choose to put our faith and trust in God and surrender our lives to Him.
 - » Salvation is not effectual – it does not bear fruit in our lives – until we truly put our trust in God.
 - » Salvation reminds us of our true identity – children of God – and invites us to live in response to that truth.

Salvation restores our past → redefines our present → transforms our future

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Key Scriptures:

Our sins are washed away and we are made clear because Christ gave His own body as a gift to God. He did this once for all time.

Hebrews 10:10 NLV

God is transforming each of you into the Holies of Holies, His dwelling place, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in you!

Ephesians 2:22 TPT

We have become His poetry, a re-created people that will fulfil the destiny He has given each of us, for we are joined to Jesus, The Anointed One. Even before we were born, God planned in advance our destiny and the good works we would do to fulfil it!

Ephesians 2:10 TPT

- **PAST:** We no longer have to carry the weight of our sins/separation from God. They have all been washed away through Christ.
 - » Hebrews 10:10-12
- **PRESENT:** Salvation affects our here and now, our everyday lives. Every new day is an invitation to walk out our true identities, to be molded into the likeness of God, and to be filled with His love, wisdom, joy, peace, courage, etc!
 - » Ephesians 2:22
- **FUTURE:** We are saved to walk into the fullness of God's promises as laid out in Scripture & vision for our lives and all of creation. We can joyfully join the divine dance with all those who have gone before us since the dawn of time.

Definition

ἁμαρτάνω (*hamartanō*)

sin: to wander from the right path

Let's Discuss...

- Read Exodus 15:2.
 - » What has it meant to you that God has "become your salvation?"
 - » Is God your "father's God"? Have you grown up as a Christian, or are you initiating this new tradition in your family?
- Romans 6:20-23 MSG says, *As long as you did what you felt like doing, ignoring God, you didn't have to bother with right thinking or right living, or right anything for that matter. But do you call that a free life? What did you get out of it? Nothing you're proud of now. Where did it get you? A dead end. But now that you've found you don't have to listen to sin tell you what to do, and have discovered the delight of listening to God telling you, what a surprise! A whole, healed, put-together life right now, with more and more of life on the way!*
 - » Do you agree that we need to be freed from ourselves?
- What does it look like in this lifetime to be separated from God?
- Rocky says that "the death & resurrection of Christ was a universally transformative act of grace and love by God." What does this mean to you?
- What the heck is Rocky talking about when he says we can "choose to join the circle dance that has been raging since the beginning of time"??

Let's Pray...

- Take a moment to reflect on the immeasurable love and grace of God, that caused Him to go to such great lengths to ensure our salvation. In your own words, thank Him for this gift that truly does "restore our past, redefine our present, and transform our future".

Let's Go Deeper...

- *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis [book]

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- *The Reason for God* by Timothy Keller [book]
- *Why Jesus?* by Nicky Gumbel [book]
- *Searching for Enough* by Tyler Staton [book]
- *Eternal Life* by BibleProject [video]