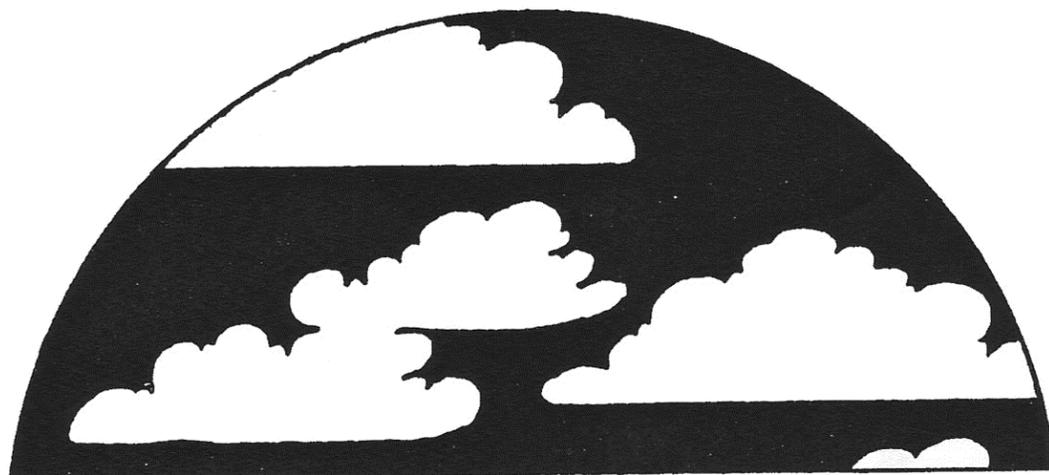


THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

By Ben Williams



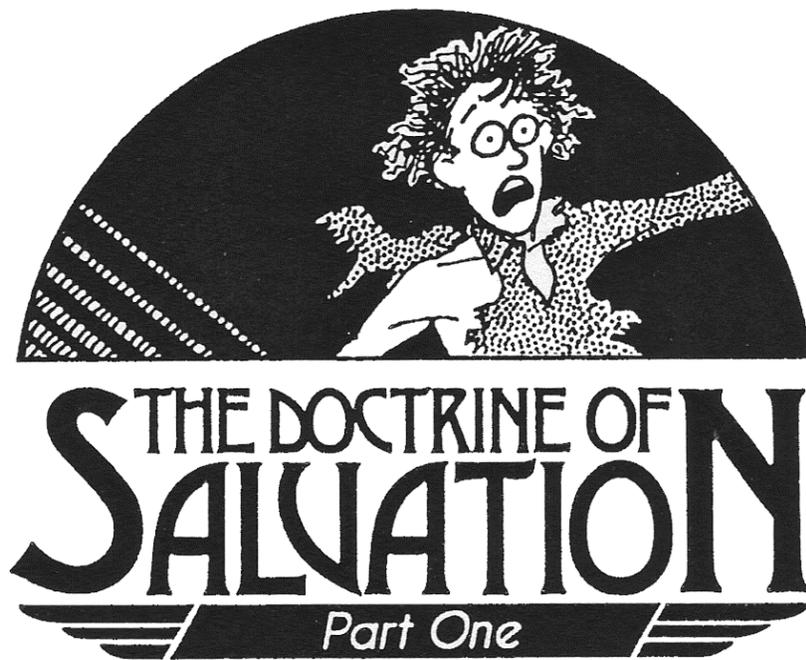


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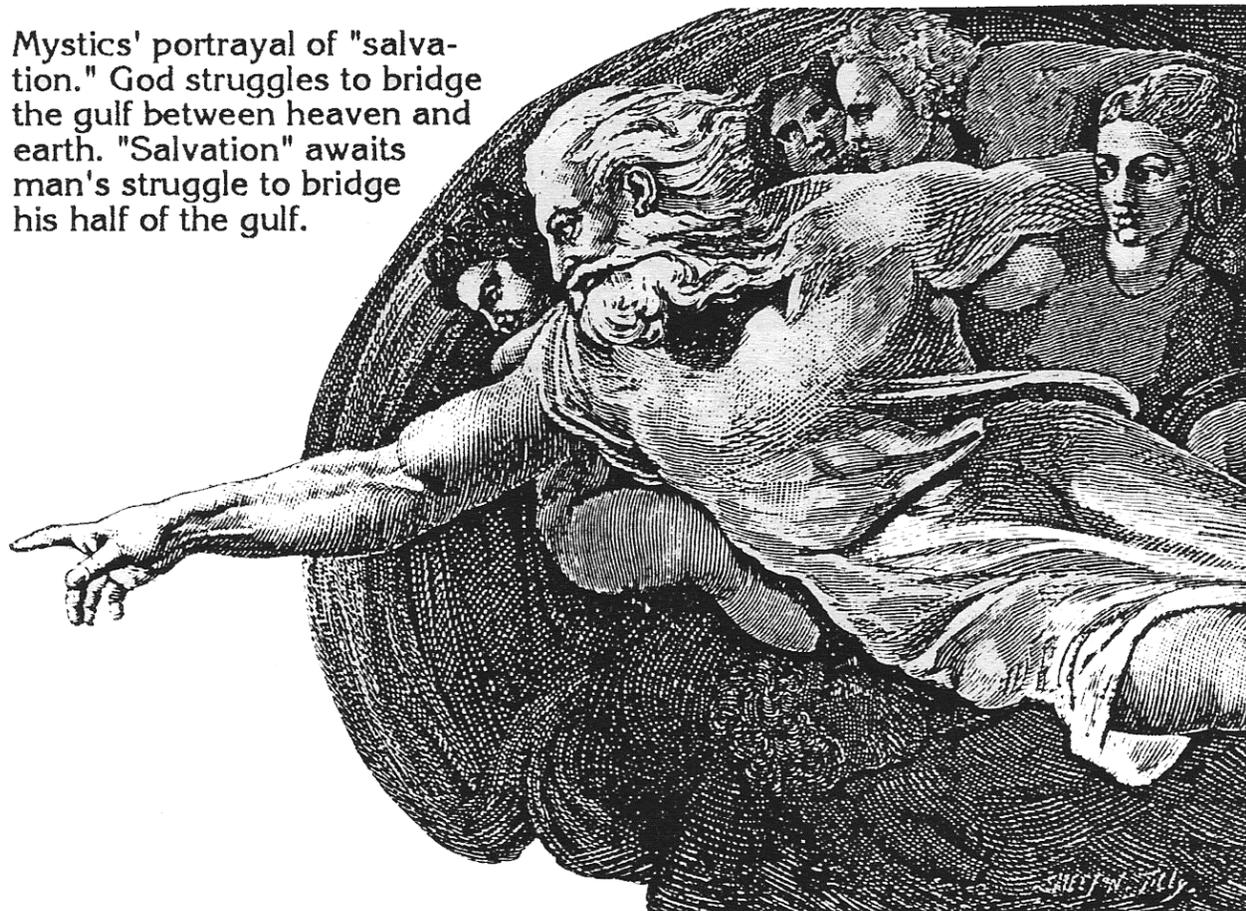
Of all the doctrines of the organized churches, the doctrine of salvation is the most widely heard. It is taught from many different angles but is always the central theme around which a church's doctrinal system is built. This subject relates to all church denominations - both pagan and Christian - as "salvation" is the theme of all churches.

Yes, the pagan churches have their version of "salvation" too. The great importance of this book centers around the question that is probably forming in your mind as you read this - namely, "What is the difference between a Christian salvation and a Pagan salvation?" Correspondingly, the tragedy is that the majority of professing Christians, today, have never before even considered the possibility of various "salvations."

Since the Bible tells of only ONE Jesus, the Savior of Israel ... and only ONE salvation ... then it follows that all other "saviors" and "salvations" are counterfeits. We should not be surprised, then, to find that the other "saviors" are patterned, to some extent, after Jesus. Thus, the challenge is to distinguish between the genuine and the many counterfeits, And, sadly, it appears that the churches of the last several centuries have given us counterfeits more than the genuine article.

Since salvation is a fundamental doctrine, proper understanding of it is essential to understanding other doctrines of Scripture. If you fail to lay this

Mystics' portrayal of "salvation." God struggles to bridge the gulf between heaven and earth. "Salvation" awaits man's struggle to bridge his half of the gulf.



foundational stone correctly, the entire structure will be faulty.

16. Therefore, thus saith Yahweh the Lord, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation:

(Isaiah 28:16)

From Scripture and history we already know that there are many different "christs" in the world (2 Corinthians 4:5). Jesus the Christ is only one of the many "christs" which are being preached in the world. Many of these false "christs" are promoted with biblical terminology, thereby confusing Christians. All religions have a "christ" of one sort or another. However, they are NOT the Christ of Scripture. We know there are many different gods and lords in the world.

5. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

6. But to us there is but one God, the Father, . . . and one Lord Jesus Christ, . . .

(I Corinthians 8:5-6)

In Scripture, other gods are called “no-gods” because they are only myths or fictions created in people’s imaginations.

Since there are different gods, lords and christs, it follows that there are also different “saviors” in the world. And since there are different saviors, then there are DIFFERENT SALVATIONS and DIFFERENT GOSPELS OF SALVATION.

Most of us know some of what the churches teach about “salvation.” But what does the Bible say about salvation? You may be surprised to find it is somewhat different than you’ve been taught.

Let’s begin with a general statement showing the typical church’s teaching on salvation:

Typical Church’s Teaching on Salvation

1. Adam and Eve were originally created immortal in the Garden of Eden.
2. Satan caused Adam and Eve to sin the “original sin.” This, then, caused man to fall from the state of perfection and immortality to a state of degradation and physical mortality (the “soul” was still immortal but the body became capable of death). Thus, dominion of the earth fell to Satan.
3. At that point (at “the fall”) perfection was lost. Death and mandatory punishment in “hell” (after death) became incumbent upon all men due to Adam’s sin. All mankind was detoured toward “hell.”
4. Jesus’ purpose, through his birth, crucifixion, death and resurrection, was to gain power back from Satan and “save” man from the torments of “hell.”
5. People, now, must “get saved” by choosing to “accept Christ” so that after death we will escape “hell fire” and instead get reinstated to that perfection which was lost by our first parents.
6. This earth is not our home. This life is not God’s original plan – it is “plan B”: mankind’s punishment for what Adam did. In the next life, in heaven, we hope to regain “Eden.” In this life we are only living out the curse of mortality, under Satan, caused by “the fall” in the Garden of Eden.

7. "Salvation," then, is a special dispensation (indulgence) for the few who choose to recite "the sinner's prayer." At death, then, these few are allowed to escape from this earth, this life, and from their scheduled torment in Hell under the earth.

Now, this common "gospel" of the churches is expressed in different ways. With some people it may amount to nothing more than an unexplained belief in "going to heaven." But the idea is usually found somewhere in the seven points listed above.

In our society - the churches, T.V., radio, books and magazines are brainwashing our brethren into believing that God's original creation went haywire. He couldn't sustain it, and it was overthrown by a "fallen angel." Therefore, they reason, God's plan for us today is nothing like the original plan of immortality and bliss, which failed. God is now offering plan B (or perhaps plan C, or D), trying to come up with something to replace the original plan. So, the way we regain our immortality, according to the churches, is to go to church, "get saved," and "accept Christ." Almost all churches also hold that those who have "gotten saved" (so-called) will be "raptured" off, away from this earth at some future date, to some place called "heaven." Then, this old evil earth can be destroyed. Also, all the people who haven't "gotten saved" will be annihilated, or they will go to hell and burn forever - depending upon one's doctrinal preference.

If you follow this in its simplistic form, you can see that, in most churches, emphasis is placed NOT on what happens to us HERE AND NOW but what happens AFTER we are dead and gone. Only the next life is considered important, and what happens to us now is not important. All we need to do is learn how to "get saved" and "escape" into heaven. If we don't learn how to "get saved," we are destined to "go to hell" and suffer "everlasting fire and torment" at the hands of Satan and his demons. So, whether we go to heaven or hell, the common doctrines of salvation focus on a time LATER - after we die. It's all AFTER death!

In the churches, almost nothing is taught about the God whose kingdom is with us TODAY, and who reigned over our forefathers IN THE PAST. Nothing is taught about kingdom life in the HERE AND NOW, and the benefits of obeying His law NOW - in this life. They avoid the question of how government is to be handled in this life, or that the Bible even addresses these issues. In fact, some churches go so far as to say that it is ungodly for Christians to concern themselves with the mundane things of this life: government, economics, and the land.

Thus, we have a generation of Christians today who know practically nothing about what God really tells us in His Bible concerning matters of family and community-self-government. All they can think about is how to escape into heaven and abandon this earth to the “god” they call Satan. That’s the extent of their theologies. The upshot is that the people in churches tend to conclude that the only useful purpose for this earth is for an abode for Satan and evil people – which is its ultimate destiny, once the righteous are “raptured.”

Since the time of Israel’s apostasy from the true faith delivered through Moses, our people have continued to follow pagan religions which carry them away into specious thinking patterns. This has made us vulnerable to subjugation by religion (i.e. the priests/officials and rulers in pagan law systems). It has been an on-going pattern. When our thoughts are molded by pagan religion, we fall subject to priests (and evil rulers) who obscure freedom and our true salvation.

Today’s pagan priests come in varied but typical forms. For instance, the International Bankers, with “temples” called banks, and their international public relations department called the United Nations (in New York), are still subjugating people and brainwashing them by sanctioning and promoting false religions in the name of “state,” “church,” and/or “government.” They don’t want Christians thinking about God’s government, and about honest money, because it might interfere with their congame of “confuse, control and manipulate.” Since they control the state, they tell the state to sanction some churches but not others. And they even grant certain churches “tax-exempt status” if they bow to Caesar. Thus, instead of recognizing Christ as their King, churches just treat Him as a name on a plaque, and the real head of the church turns out to be the State. They fall down and worship the high priests of government and banking. They get a tax number, a savings account and a registration/license. Then they don’t get into trouble from their State, National, or International rulers. Churches must get a number if they want to buy and sell! Sound familiar? To be at peace with Caesar they must have a number.

Today’s Judeo-Christian churches teach a pagan salvation which is sanctioned by the state. It teaches religious people not to make waves, The only thing that it addresses is the NEXT life; how to get to heaven; how to be “spiritual.” That’s all they want to talk about. They leave all the things of this life in the hands of – guess who? – Caesar! Caesar commissions the churches to help keep him in power.

Jesus' Radical Doctrine

The Christianity which was taught by Jesus and His Apostles is a message that is still hated today, just as then. It was radical doctrine; a radical gospel. It threatened, made waves, turned the world upside down, and it didn't patronize Caesar. Truth cannot be blackmailed or bribed. It has no friends except the righteous.

The true gospel of the kingdom taught that **Christ was greater than Caesar!** Caesar didn't like this! He couldn't sanction such teaching. It was sedition! Treason!

This also points to another error of the churches. They teach about a Christ that is a babe in the manger – and that's where they leave Him. But the Christ of our Bible is no longer a baby in the manger. He is a Sovereign King ruling over the kingdoms of the earth. But the churches prefer to keep Him in the manger. They don't want Him to rule the kingdoms of the earth because that would put their present government system out of business. But Jesus IS greater than Caesar. Christ does not bow to Caesar! Rather, Caesar must learn to bow to Christ. That's the long and the short of it. It's a radical gospel; a radical Christianity. And that's the gospel that Jesus taught. It's the gospel His Apostles taught, of whom it was said "*these are they who are turning the world upside down*" (Acts 17:6). That's the real gospel! That's why the pharisaic rulers killed Christ. And the pharisaic Csars of today are still killing those who preach this radical doctrine. We see, today, a growing number of our people murdered, thrown in prison, slandered and persecuted. Many more sincere Christians will yet suffer likewise. Jesus told us that the cup that He took (persecution and death), we would also take (Matthew 20:23); that a servant is not greater than his master (John 13:16); that we would suffer persecution in this world (John 15:18-20).

To find out what the Bible really teaches about salvation, one needs to consider this overall picture. You can begin to understand why we must learn to question every doctrine that we hear coming out of the mainline churches - the Judeo-Christian churches in this Judeo-Christian society. Now, I am not saying that every doctrine is wrong, but I AM SAYING that you can't take anything for granted; not any more, You must test everything that you hear being taught by the churches. Don't trust them! It becomes a matter between God and you. We are to "test all things" and "see if we be in the faith" which was "once delivered!" We must do our homework and test all teachings. We cannot afford to be apathetic.

The Definition of “Salvation”

The Hebrew word, in the Old Scriptures, translated “salvation” (and this may surprise you) is the word “yeshuw’ah” - Strong’s #3444 (yesh-oo’-aw). The meaning of the word is “to be saved, or delivered or helped.” It comes from the verb “yasha” - Strong’s #3467 (yaw-shah) which means “to save, help or deliver.” “Yasha,” in its many different derivatives (including yeshuwah) appears 353 times in the Old Scriptures. The root meaning in Arabic is “to make wide” as opposed to being “narrow” (constricted, restricted or distressed). “Salvation,” or “saved,” means “to be made sufficient or large.” So you can see that “salvation” is closely related to “freedom” or “liberty.” In principle there is little difference between “salvation” and “freedom” in the way these two words are used in the Hebrew language.

“Salvation” in the Old Testament

As we investigate what the Bible says about salvation, we will find that it was not the Hebrew faith that gave the wrong connotation to the word “salvation” as we have come to see it used today, and as it is taught in the mainline churches. Rather, it was the Greek myths, the Persian religions and other pagan world philosophies that have changed it and made it into something new and different - something which would not be familiar at all to our Hebrew ancestors.

As we have seen, the Hebrew word “salvation” (yeshuw’ah) means “to be delivered or helped.” A deliverer, or savior, is someone who “saves” a person from a condition of trouble, to one of safety. In the Old Scriptures, the kinds of distress that we read about were both national and individual. They included such enemies as natural catastrophes, nations, plagues or famines, sicknesses and other things. The one bringing deliverance was known as “the savior.”

DAVID —

1 Samuel 17, starting in verse 40, speaks of David:

40. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag which he had, even in a scrip (purse or pouch); and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

41. And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him,

42. *And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.*
43. *And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.*
44. *And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.*
45. *Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of Yahweh of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.*
46. *This day will Yahweh deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that **there is a God in Israel.***
47. *And all this assembly shall know that YAHWEH SAVETH [yasha] not with sword and spear: for the battle is YAHWEHs, and he will give you into our hands.*

The Philistines learned that THERE WAS INDEED A GOD IN ISRAEL! That is the message! But, today, the nations don't realize that we have a God because WE don't show forth His "salvation." The nations, today, don't know that there is a God in Israel.

But David showed that there was a God in Israel that day. "The Lord SAVETH!" Here is a day when the God of Israel was a "Savior" to David and to Israel. This is the Hebrew word translated "salvation" or "savior."

MOSES –

The Hebrew word for "savior" was used in everyday life also. Moses, for example, "saved" the daughters of Reu'el, his future father-in-law, from being driven off by the shepherds. The story begins in Exodus 2:15. Here is "salvation":

15. *Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.*
16. *Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.*
17. *And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and HELPED [yasha – "saved"] them, and watered their flock.*

18. *And when they came to Reu'el their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon today?*

19. *And they said, An Egyptian DELIVERED us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock.*

Moses was a “savior” that day, in the true sense of the word. At various times, Israel was oppressed by her neighbors and had to go to war to win or to maintain her freedom. In these battles, the nation turned to God for help and believed that the outcome of the battles belonged to Him,

The focal point of God’s saving deeds in Israel, in the Old Scripture, was the time when He delivered Israel from the Egyptian bondage. We can read about it in Exodus 14. In each of these cases you should understand that He-



Mystic interpretation of Salvation
(St. George slaying the dragon)

brew Scripture uses “yasha,” the word translated “salvation,” so you can see just what is meant by “salvation.” Exodus 14:13:

13. And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the SALVATION [yeshuw'ah] of Yahweh, which he will show to you to-day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

You know the scene. The Egyptians were pursuing the children of Israel who were backed up against the Red Sea. Moses held up his staff and shouted, “Stand still and see the YESHUW’AH [the salvation] of Yahweh...” The sea parted, and they were “saved” out of the hand of the Egyptians. And when the Egyptians tried to follow them through the Red Sea...

26. And Yahweh said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

27. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and Yahweh overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

28. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

29. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

30. Thus Yahweh SAVED Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

31. And Israel saw that great work which Yahweh did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared Yahweh, and believed Yahweh, and his servant Moses.

Israel became known as “the people SAVED by their God.” This great event was published abroad, and Israel, whose name means “led by God,” became identified with their God of salvation.

Now let’s look at Deuteronomy 33:

26. There is none like unto the God of Jesh’urun [Israel], who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky.

27. The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

28. Israel then shall dwell in safety [i.e. salvation] alone: the fountain of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine; also his heavens shall

- drop down dew
29. Happy art thou, O Israel; who is like unto thee, O people SAVED by Yahweh, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

God saved Israel again and again. Look at 1 Sam 4:

5. And when the ark of the covenant of Yahweh came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.
6. And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of Yahweh was come into the camp,
7. And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.
8. Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

Israel's "salvation" made an impression on the other nations. Psalms 106, beginning at verse 4:

4. Remember me, O LORD, with the favor that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy SALVATION;
5. That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory in thine inheritance.
6. We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.
7. Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea.
8. Nevertheless he SAVED them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.

Again, the word is "YASHA" – Israel's God "saved" them!

And, when the children of Israel were gathering and preparing to go to the promised land after they were delivered from Egypt, Moses said:

4. ...Yahweh your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to SAVE you.

(Deuteronomy 20:4)

God fulfilled that promise through Joshua. His name, "Joshua," was

“Yeshuw’ah” in Hebrew. He was called to deliver Israel into Canaan, the promised land. He was called to be “a savior” to the people; he was called to conquer and possess the land of Canaan.

Biblical “Salvation” vs. Pagan “Salvation

Hopefully, you are beginning to understand why we are reading these passages. This is “**SALVATION!**” The problem we face is that the churches have given it a change of meaning. In the churches today, “salvation” no longer means what it meant in the Scriptures.

It is the purpose of this book to disabuse you of the pagan definitions which have caused confusion. When we speak about “salvation,” we should be careful to use it as the Scriptures use it. “Salvation” is “deliverance from trouble”; “being **saved** out of distress.”

As you can see, the concept of “salvation” is not restricted to Jesus in the New Scriptures. And, contrary to popular belief, the Bible does not associate it with the pagan concept of going to “heaven.” Israel has been **SAVED** with the **SALVATION** of God many times and in many ways. To be sure, the salvation that Israel received through Jesus was the apex or ultimate salvation! But it wasn’t mystical, and in principle it wasn’t unlike the other salvations Israel had experienced. Jesus rescued the scattered [“lost”] and godless sheep of Israel! He raised up, regathered, and re-educated [ie. “saved”] the “lost” sheep. The salvation which God often wrought in Israel reveals His love for Israel.

For more input on the biblical meaning of “salvation,” notice Isaiah 33:22:

22. For Yahweh is our judge, Yahweh is our lawgiver, Yahweh is our King; he will SAVE us.

So God “saves” Israel. His “salvation” sometimes includes destroying the enemies of Israel. In other words, the “saving” of Israel sometimes causes others to be destroyed (like the Egyptians, the Philistines, etc.). Look at Psalm 74:12:

12. For God is my King of old, WORKING SALVATION in the midst of the earth.

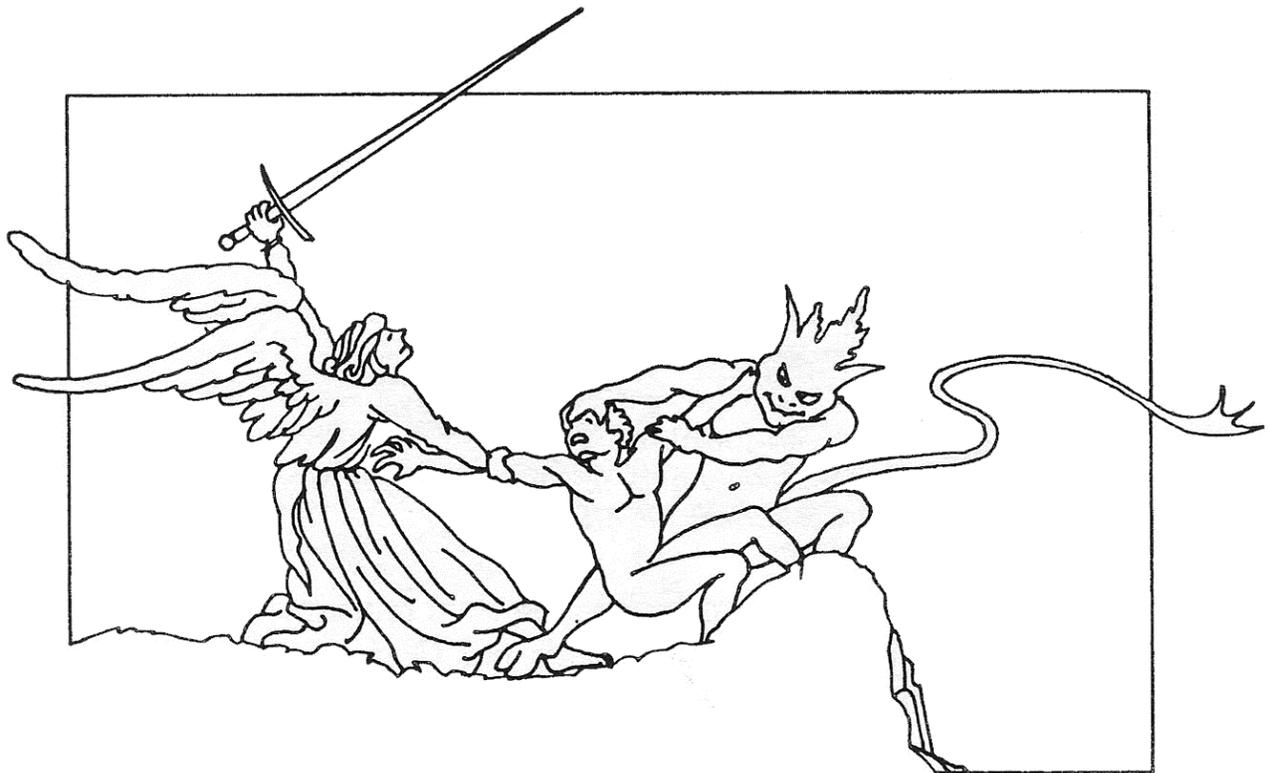
This was not a future salvation. Rather, it is in the present-active tense. God **WAS** working salvation in the midst of the earth – at that very time. Isaiah reminds them of the salvation of Israel and destruction of Pharaoh:

13. *Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou BRAKEST THE HEADS OF THE DRAGONS in the waters.*
14. *Thou brakest the HEADS OF LEVIATHAN in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness."*

“Leviathan” is comparable to the dragon government system portrayed in Revelation 12, 13 & 17. God, in working salvation for His people, breaks the heads of the beast and gives it to be used by the people He is saving.

The Only God That Saves

Israel’s God is identified as **the only God that saves**. He is the ONLY real God; therefore any other saviors, or hopes, are false gods. And these false gods are ridiculed in the Bible. They are challenged to bring deliverance or to “save” the people who believe in them. You may recall the time Elijah invited the priests of Baal up to Mount Carmel (I Kings 18). He taunted them and asked, “Can your gods save you?” But, the Baals never showed up. The Baal priests were executed that same day and there was a big, black charred spot on the mountain where Yahweh, the God of Israel, sent fire down and consumed the altar.



In Judges 6, we read about Gideon:

24. *Then Gideon built an altar there unto Yahweh and called it Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.*
25. *And it came to pass the same night, that Yahweh said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it:*
26. *And build an altar unto Yahweh thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.*
27. *Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as Yahweh had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night.*
28. *And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built.*
29. *And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.*
30. *Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it.*
31. *And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will YOU plead for Baal? WILL YOU **SAVE** HIM?...*

This is sarcasm! Joash was flaunting the obvious before people who preferred to believe lies. He asked them, "Is this god capable of saving anyone at all?" "Can't he even save himself?" "Do you have to do his work for him?" "Must you even save your god?"

- 31b. *...he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar.*

Joash was using sarcasm to belittle the Baal religion. If Baal was a god then he should be able to do what gods do! Gods should be powerful! Gods should be able to save themselves and their people.

His point, of course, was that Baal could save no one – not even himself. He was nothing more than the product of man's imagination ... only

wood and stone. Baal was a fraud, foisted off on the public by the priests who invented him for the purpose of brainwashing the public. The God of Israel is the ONLY real God – the only God that can save.

3. *Harken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb:*
4. *And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.*
5. *To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?*
6. *They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship.*
7. *They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor SAVE him out of his trouble.*

(Isaiah 46:3-7)

False gods can't even move, let alone save someone.

22. *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and THERE IS NONE ELSE.*
23. *I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear,*
24. *Surely, shall one say, in Yahweh have I righteousness and STRENGTH: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him SHALL BE ASHAMED.*
25. *In Yahweh shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.*

(Isaiah 45:22-25)

These are examples of “salvation” in the Old Testament. Biblical “salvation” cannot be pigeon-holed into the single perspective of “personal salvation,” It certainly cannot be confined to the New Testament. Neither have we seen any indication, thus far, that it infers anything about going to “heaven” or “hell.” We’ve seen nothing to indicate anything other than the saving of a person, or a nation, from danger and distress and delivering them to safety [ie. into salvation].

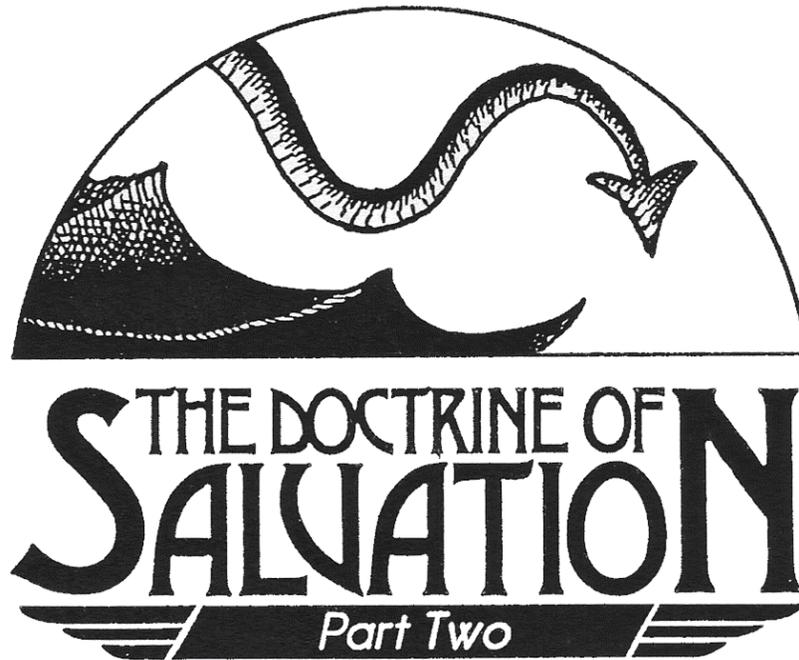
Likewise, the “salvation of Christ,” as we will see, was not a mystical barter for human souls. Rather, it is the very practical and understandable

redirecting of the interests of Israel back to the only true God, and His Law
— **the ONLY place of safety (salvation)!**

74. That He [Yahweh] would grant unto us [Israel], that we being delivered [SAVED] out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear,

75. In holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life,

(Luke 1:74-75)



THE DOCTRINE OF
SALVATION
Part Two

In part one of this study, we looked in the Old Scriptures to see how the Bible used the words “salvation” and “save.” We discovered the usages are quite different from the way they are normally used in today’s churches. However, it is hard for most people to think about “salvation” without being prejudiced by the myths which have infected their thinking from long years of Church attendance.

In Luke 3, we see an interesting application of practical salvation:

- 2b. *...the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.*
3. *And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;*
4. *As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*
5. *Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;*
6. *And all flesh shall see the SALVATION of God.*



WINGS OF SALVATION

Young Icarus, of Greek mythology, tried to fly to heaven on defective “wings of salvation” built by his father. As he soared too close to the sun the wax, which held the feathers, melted and the wings fell apart, dropping Icarus into the sea. Just as the sun’s illumination and heat exposed the flaws in Icarus’ defective wings, the light of truth from God’s word will expose and dismantle the false “salvations” preached in churches today.

Note: All FLESH shall see the salvation of God! Through Jesus the whole world witnesses Yahweh's salvation as it inexorably operates upon His people, Israel.

46. *Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of life, lo, we turn to the Nations [tribes].*

47. *For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Nations, that thou shouldest be for SALVATION unto the ends of the earth.*

(Acts 13:46-47)

These faithless Judeans were merely playing their part in the overall plan of God.

3. *And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I WILL be glorified.*

4. *Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with Yahweh, and my work with my God.*

5. *And now, saith Yahweh that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of Yahweh, and my God shall be my strength.*

6. *And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Nations, that thou mayest be my SALVATION unto the end of the earth.*

(Isaiah 49:3-6)

The tribes of Jacob, Israel, are lesser lights reflecting the greater light of Yahweh's SALVATION to the ends of the world.

6. *Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I.*

7. *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings [gospel], that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth SALVATION that saith unto Zion, **THY GOD REIGNETH!***

(Isaiah 52:6-7)

This declaration was the true essence of the good news: the "gospel of the kingdom." It first came from the mouth of Jesus and was then repeated

by his apostles and disciples. The good news was published “upon the mountains” (symbolic of nations or kingdoms) by the apostles. The good news was: “YOUR GOD REIGNS!” Speaking “unto Zion,” they took the message to the highest places. The message defined Christendom and caused multitudes to convert to Christianity. JESUS WAS THE SAVIOR AND KING OF ISRAEL:

8. *Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with thy voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when Yahweh shall bring again Zion.*
9. *Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for Yahweh hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.*

Now, we know that He didn't redeem that little town called Jerusalem in the Middle East. In fact, He condemned it and brought righteous judgment upon it in 70 A.D. – destroying it completely. Old Jerusalem was not redeemed. But God has redeemed New Jerusalem – i.e. His People in Christendom.

10. *The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the SALVATION of our God.*

THIS gospel of Salvation is one which encompasses the whole Bible – the general relationship between Yahweh and Israel. This is quite different from what the “churches” are teaching as their “gospel,” is it not?

The “Jesus” of Moses’ Time

We have already discussed the Hebrew word for SALVATION – “Yashua” – which means “safety,” “deliverance” or “to be helped.” This Hebrew word can also be pronounced “Joshua.” Joshua, also, was a “savior” to the children of Israel. He led them into the promised land after the death of Moses, who also had been a savior to Israel. Joshua brought deliverance, or help, and thus “salvation” to Israel. Joshua, then, is the Hebrew word for “Jesus.” The Hebrew “Yashua” is pronounced “Yasus” in Greek (spelled *Jesus*). In early English it was spelled and pronounced the same as Greek. Later, the “I” was changed to “J” in English usage, and it became “Jesus.”

The “J” (in Joshua) and the “Y” (in Yashua) are interchangeable – “Joshua” is just the Anglicized form of “Yashua.” If you trace the English

usage of these letters, you will find that the “J” is the Anglicized replacement for “Y” or “I” at the beginning of a word. The English “Y” and “I” were replaced by “J” not more than 300 years ago.

The New Testament is written in Greek; but His name reads “Jesus” in your English Bibles as it was transliterated from the Greek. Thus, “Yashua” (Hebrew), “Joshua” (Anglicized Hebrew), “Iesus” (Greek) and “Jesus” (Anglicized Greek) are one-and-the-same name. In Hebrews 4:8 we see an example.

8. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. (KJV)

Here, the word “Jesus” refers back to the time of Moses and is speaking of Joshua. But since the words are interchangeable the translators chose the wrong one – they used the Greek rendering instead of Hebrew. It was not referring to the Jesus of New Testament times, but to Joshua – the “Jesus” of Moses’ time.

The fact is, “salvation,” in itself, wasn’t something new to Israel. Israel’s God was known as “the God of Salvation” because of all the times He had saved Israel. So, the salvation He wrought through Jesus the Christ was not His first or only act of salvation. It was unique, however, in that it was His GREATEST act of salvation.

The Corrupting “Immortal Soul” Doctrine

So far in this study, we have found nothing in the Old Scriptures that would indicate that “salvation” would take us off somewhere into outer space, or some other dimension, to a place called “heaven.” Neither have we found anything in the Scriptures which indicates that there is some invisible part of us (that the Jews, mystics and Judeo-Christians call a “soul”) which must be “saved.” This so-called “soul” of the pagan religions is supposed to be immortal (meaning it can’t die). Therefore, it is supposed to go on living, somewhere, after our physical death. They say it will live forever in heaven, in hell, or some variation of one or the other.

Depending on the religion you look at, there are many different ways that “souls” can be “saved.” And, in almost every case, it depends on an act by the person himself to accomplish it. You must do something yourself. And you can help others to save their souls by getting them to do whatever must be done so they can go to heaven too. Before we look at the New Testament concerning salvation, let’s consider this doctrine of the “immortal

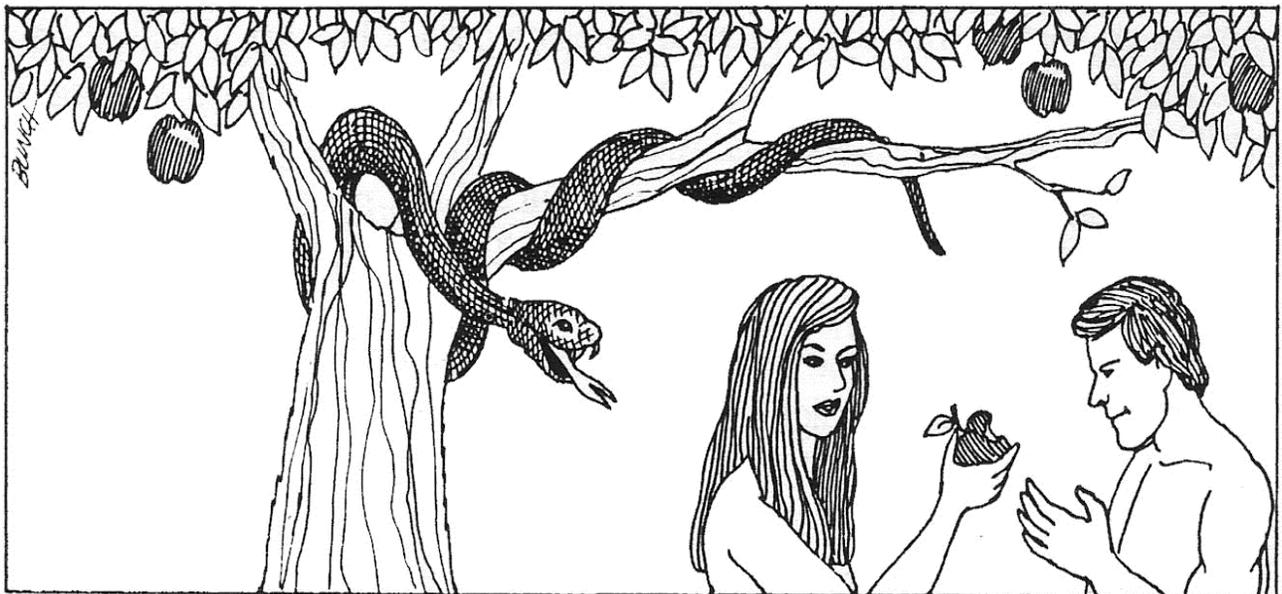
soul.” You may not be able to put all the pieces of this puzzle together right away, but you need the pieces at hand if you are ever to understand just what the doctrine of salvation is really about.

The belief in an immortal soul is responsible for much of the confusion we find in the churches today. It has been a burden and a plague to our people for centuries. Part of the reason for this confusion has been because most Christians have not understood just what Jesus Christ saved. Christ saved something; but what? With a little help from their pagan neighbors, Christians began to think (or, in some cases, continued to think) that they indeed did have immortal souls and this was what Christ needed to save.

With the pagan concept of heaven and hell already prominent in their culture, it was an easy step for them to believe that they had to get their soul “saved” in order to avoid living in a burning hell forever. They were taught that the soul couldn’t die; the soul had to spend eternity somewhere. So this came to be known as the “orthodox” doctrine of salvation: save the soul from hell so it can spend eternity in bliss with God in heaven.

If they had not been deluded (or taught wrongly) about what a soul is – and what man is – then they probably wouldn’t have accepted the rest of the serpent’s lie. Remember the serpent’s lie: “*you shall NOT surely die*” (Genesis 3:4). God had said, “*thou SHALT surely die*” (Genesis 2:17); but the serpent doctrine taught, “*thou shalt NOT surely die...ye shall be as gods.*” So we have had generation after generation of Christians who have accepted this false doctrine and believed the serpent instead of God. They believe they will not die. Their flesh dies, but their “soul” supposedly goes right on living somewhere – so they didn’t truly die.

If they hadn’t been confused on these points, the doctrine of salvation



probably wouldn't have been confused either. But it was. If they had not been confused, they would have realized that Jesus came to save men; he didn't come to save some kind of invisible thing the pagans called a "soul."

This doctrine of the immortality of the soul has been perhaps the greatest corrupting influence upon man's understanding of the Bible.

"Soul" Correctly Defined

What is a soul? Can it die? Turn to Genesis 2:7 (this is the first time you will find the word "soul" in your King James translation of the Bible, BUT it is not the first time it appears in the Hebrew Text):

7. And Yahweh God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul [NEPHESH Heb.].

Notice it does not say man was "given a soul," it says he "became a soul." And that is translated accurately. The word for soul in the Hebrew is "nephes." It is also described as a man, an animal and sometimes even God himself.

20. And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving NEPHESH [soul] that hath life...

(Genesis 1:20)

It says "creature" in your King James Version, but the actual word is "nephes" - usually translated "soul."

20, ...Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving NEPHESH that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

21. And God created great whales, and every living NEPHESH [soul] that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good:

24. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living NEPHESH [soul] after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, the beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

(Genesis 1:20,21,24)

Notice that the word "soul" is being used for animals. Animals are not usually thought of as creatures which have immortality. However, they are

clearly called SOULS.

Jeremiah 9:9 speaks of Yahweh as a soul:

9. *Shall I not visit them for these things? saith Yahweh: shall not my SOUL be avenged on such a nation as this?*

So even God is referred to as a “soul.” It certainly becomes evident that a “soul” is more than a section of man. Souls are animals, men, and even God. The definition of “SOUL” is: the whole composition of traits, characteristics and form which define a person or thing. The essential individual identity which distinguishes one creature from another. A “soul” is the whole person, or thing (dead or alive) as he/it is perceived.

Blood, also, is sometimes equated with soul.

3. *Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.*
4. *But flesh with the SOUL thereof, which is the blood thereof (i.e. raw meat), shall ye not eat.*

(Genesis 9:3,4)

In the King James Version it reads “...flesh with the life thereof...” The word in Hebrew is “nephesh”: “flesh with soul.” It’s almost equated with blood, but it goes further than that in verse 5:

5. *...your blood of your souls will I require...* (souls can apparently have blood).

“Soul,” then, is uniqueness of form, makeup and identity. It’s what makes you You!

Your “soul” is your individuality. You will notice that the soul of the flesh is the blood, and the soul of the blood is the life. Soul, then, is that constituent of a thing, or a being, which defines it. Our soul is that which makes us what we are, or what makes our flesh what it is, our blood what it is - or makes anything what it is.

11. *For the life [the soul] of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*
12. *Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood.*
13. *And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood*

thereof, and cover it with dust.
14. For it is the NEPHESH [soul] of all flesh; the blood of it is for the NEPHESH [life] thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the NEPHESH [life] of all flesh is the blood thereof: who soever eateth it shall be cut off.

(Leviticus 17:11-14)

So, it becomes evident that Biblical writers considered blood an indentifying component of flesh ... that is its life [its soul]. Even if you are a bit confused at this point, you can at least understand that the soul is NOT some invisible, immortal essence of mortal man.

We can see that the word “soul” applies to a variety of things in the Bible and that it is most closely identified with “distinctiveness” and “uniqueness.” We have seen that the Hebrew word “nephesh” is not only translated “soul” in English versions of the Bible, but “life” as well. Soul is what defines a complete person or creature.

A soul can also be dead. The Bible actually talks about dead souls – a fact which, in itself, should end the “immortal soul” question for any Bible believer.

11. Neither shall he go in to any dead NEPHESH [soul].

(Leviticus 21:11)

The soul [NEPHESH] can die. Even in death there is distinctiveness. There are “live souls,” and “dead souls” (translated “bodies”) and “dead” in Numbers 6:6, Leviticus 19:28; 21:1; Numbers 5:2; 6:11; 9:6,7,10.

4. Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, IT SHALL DIE.

(Ezekiel 18:4)

The Serpent’s Delusion

So much for the doctrine of the “imortal soul!” At this point someone might argue, “But, its the ‘spirit’ in man that’s immortal – not the ‘soul.’” The answer to this objection is found in logic and common sense. The spirit in man is the life of that man; and when that life is gone, so is that spirit. If the spirit is not gone, then that man is not dead – he’s still alive. When life is gone, the spirit is gone. In the book THOU SHALT NOT SURELY DIE, by Hilbourne & Wark, we find a good illustration:

Let us for a moment consider an electric light bulb and its operation.

The bulb itself corresponds to the body (physically complete, but without life). The electricity needed to light the bulb corresponds to spirit or the breath of life from God which energizes the body. The union of the bulb with electricity produces light, corresponding to “soul” [awareness, sensation, personality].

When the electricity is cut off, what happens to the light? Does it go somewhere? Does the light continue to exist in another place? No, when the electricity is cut off, light ceases to be [i.e., it dies].

So it is with ‘spirit and soul and body’ (1 Thessalonians 5:23). When the breath of life, or spirit, is cut off from the body, soul [life] ceases to be [i.e., it dies]. It does not continue to exist independently of the body and spirit in another state, or location.

As we speak of an energized bulb as ‘a light,’ so also we speak of an energized or living body as ‘a living soul.’

Scripture gives no support for the “immortal soul” theory. Nonetheless, the delusion has permeated Christendom and our society. From this heresy we developed a belief in nonsensical “spirit-beings” – ghosts, if you will. Pagan delusion!

Go to countries like Brazil, Africa, Jamaica and you will see people who are absolutely terrified of imaginary demons, spirits and ghosts. This idolatry is also promoted in America through books, newspapers, T.V., movies, and especially churches. It is not Christian! It is pagan!

From most churches we hear, “When you die your spirit [ghost] continues to live somewhere, in some way, in another dimension which is called ‘the spirit realm.’” They claim man’s spirit (or soul) is immortal, and it needs to be “saved” so it will “go to heaven” and not to “hell” when it is released from its cage of flesh. However, in some cases, their stories seem to indicate that these “spirits” can become landlocked – unable to leave the land of the “living.” And this is the origin of the idea of “haunted houses,” “poltergeists,” “familiar spirits,” etc.. In some cases, apparently, these figments of superstition (ghosts) seem detained from their trip either to heaven or hell.

If you still harbor the idea that you can continue to live as a “spirit” while you are dead, then you need to read SPIRITS ON TRIAL (from ACM) which deals with this idea of “spirits,” or what are called “spirits” or “ghosts.” If you continue to live while you are dead, then you are not really dead. And that seems to be a very simple answer to the whole question. Jesus came to save flesh and blood men, not ghosts or invisible, immortal souls/spirits. Notice the clear statement found in 1 Timothy 1:15 where Paul says:

15. *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners [i.e., men – not immortal spirits]; of whom I am chief.*

Even if immortal “spirit-beings” or “ghosts” actually existed, they couldn’t be “sinners.” Why? Because “the wages of sin is death.” Anything that sins must die. Flesh and blood people can sin because they can die. Inability to die equals the inability to sin. Immortals cannot die, therefore, they can’t sin. So-called immortal spirits/souls of men would not need saving (if, indeed they even existed) because they would be incapable of sin!

Bible Terms or Salvation

There are four other words relating to Salvation which we need to define. They are: Redeem, Reconcile, Atonement, and Justify.

I. The word “REDEEM” means: **a)** to *loosen*; to *release*, and **b)** to *buy back a relative’s forfeited property*. So we can see the meaning of this word with respect to the salvation brought by Jesus Christ:

- a.** Jesus REDEEMED us by loosening and releasing us from the debt [penalty] of sin.
- b.** He, as our kinsman, REDEEMED us [bought us back] from the world to whom we had given ourselves as slaves.

It is obvious, from this second meaning, that the term had mostly to do with Israel, since Israel was the only nation which could be “bought back.” They were the only people who had been “put away” in the first place, and then could be “redeemed” by Jesus :

2. *You [Israel] only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”*

(Amos 3:2)

They were the ones “put away” from Yahweh, and who needed to be “bought back” or “redeemed” by their Savior – Jesus:

24. *But he [Jesus] answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

(Matthew 15:24)

We can also see another facet of this “salvation-by-release” by looking at the Sabbath law. The Sabbath law is a memorial to God’s Salvation. Salvation is part of the meaning of Sabbath, especially as pertaining to the Sabbath Year. The Sabbath Year is the YEAR OF RELEASE or loosening. So, when debts are loosed or released, this is a “salvation.” Also, in the Jubilee Year, in addition to the debts being released, the land returns to those who inherited it, thus REDEEMING the land. This cannot be seen as anything less than “an act of His Salvation!” If people will follow this law, the resulting blessings and abundance are clearly indicative of the “Salvation of God.” This is all part of God’s great Salvation Plan for His people.

II. The words RECONCILE and ATONE both come from the same word and mean the same thing both in the Old (Hebrew) Scriptures and in the New (Greek) Scriptures.

In the Old Scriptures, it means 1) *to cover* – 2) *to bring together*. In the New Scriptures, it means to *change completely*. So, it’s not too difficult to see how they apply to our salvation.

Jesus ATONED and RECONCILED us by:

- a. Covering our old sins, and forgiving them; and
- b. Changing us from reprobates to repentant disciples [Children of God; Christians].

III. The word JUSTIFY is a courtroom term. To JUSTIFY means *to declare to be right*. The opposite of “justify” would be to “accuse” or “condemn.” This ties in with the definition of salvation in that Jesus found us ACCUSED and CONDEMNED in our sins. But He forgave us and JUSTIFIED us, giving us a new start while erasing our old record of crimes. Thus, scripture tells us that Jesus “justified” us:

14. Blotting out the handwriting (unpaid debt) of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

(Colossians 2:14)

1. There is therefore NOW no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

(Romans 8:1)

The four words we have just defined should help you understand biblical

salvation. But, please notice, not one of them indicates anything about going off to heaven, an immortal soul, a burning hell, or any of the things typically tied in with “salvation” as taught in most churches. Rather, it deals with the sins of man. Man (Adam) opted to pursue his own course and must be rescued back from the errors of the world – ie. reconciled back to God. It happens during this life, and on this earth. It is accomplished first to (and through) Israel, then others.

Saved From What?

Thus far from our study, we have seen that salvation has to do with the HERE and NOW! It is not relegated to some distant future (after we die) and in a place called “heaven.” Salvation is NOW – with living people! Jesus was not sent to help “immortal souls” or “spirits” (which don’t even exist). Jesus came to help man.

We might ask, “WHAT WAS IT THAT JESUS SAVES US FROM?”

- Does Jesus separate “spirits” [or ghosts] out of our bodies, thus releasing them from their prison of physical flesh – SAVING SPIRITS out of the material world and taking them into the “spiritual world?” If that is what you believe, then you believe Gnosticism.

“Gnosticism” is Greek for “THE RELIGION OF KNOWING.” This ancient mystical religion teaches that by “knowing” certain special things we can work out our salvation, get released out of our bodies and become just “spirits.” That doctrine was prevalent even in the first century. It was a mixture of pagan Greek, Egyptian, Persian and Jewish religious beliefs. It was the pagan world-view at that time. Today, it is the main theme of Freemasonry, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and many of the Judeo cults, such as Catholicism, Protestantism, Mormonism, Christian Science, Jehovah’s Witnesses, etc. It is NOT Christian!

So, the obvious answer to our question is NO! Obviously, Jesus did not “save” us by taking our ghosts out of our bodies to “save” them from the “evil material world.” He didn’t come to save spirits. He came to save SINNERS – flesh-and-blood men.

1 John 4 addresses Gnosticism, which was already a problem even in that day:

1. *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out Into the world.*
2. *Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is COME IN THE FLESH [a MAN] is of God:*



Ancient alchemists tried unsuccessfully to work salvation by magic formula. Modern priestcraft (churches) continues to work its own form of magic, offering formulas of "heaven" and "hell" as incredible as alchemy.

3. *And every spirit that confesseth NOT that Jesus Christ is come IN THE FLESH is not of God: and this is that spirit of ANTE-CHRIST... (Greek "ante" means "in place of." Thus, another christ "in place of" the real Christ.)*

What does John mean by this? It would be hard to understand unless one knows the doctrines of Gnosticism. John is referring to the beliefs of the Gnostics. They taught (and still teach) that Jesus didn't come in the flesh, They taught that Jesus came in ghost form. The flesh was only "an envelope," and when Jesus died on the cross, He really didn't die – just His flesh died. Thus, His "spirit" [the real Christ] didn't die. Judeo-Christian churches still promote a form of this doctrine by claiming that Jesus was actually Yahweh (the Father) confining himself in a body of flesh.

Christian Gnostics (so-called) will also tell you that, while His body was in the grave, His "spirit" struck out on its own to regions beneath the earth, to a place called "hell," to preach to "spirits" who had been trapped there. Churches today teach this same false doctrine! In other words, when you die, you really don't die – just your body dies. The "real you" – your "soul" or "spirit" – goes up to a place called "heaven."

I've even heard people say that they saw "the spirit" of a dead person ascend out of the casket at a funeral they attended. It's amazing what a mind can conjure up, and what people can imagine they see when they have been programmed long enough and convincingly enough.

The human mind is programmable, and we can pick up many false things if we hear them over and over every week. We end up believing. In fact, sick people who think they are about to die commonly hallucinate and see and hear delusions of "going to heaven" or "seeing hell," These are often referred to as "out of body experiences," and "death bed experiences." These are natural results of having been programmed year after year, after year, to believe and expect such things. They apparently do experience something, but not what they think. It's mere trickery of the mind – hallucinations implanted by doctrines from serpent religions.

Now let's ask another question:

- Did Jesus come to save our "immortal souls" from burning forever in a hell-fire? Of course I'm being facetious. The "hell-fire" to which I refer is the pagan doctrine taught in most churches. This strange doctrine did not come from Jesus, but rather it came to our age from the religion of Persia, called Zoroastrianism (named after Zoroaster, the Persian/Babylon prophet and founder of their religion.).

Zoroaster developed his ideas sometime around the 8th to 6th century

B.C.. His beliefs have shaped many of the basic doctrines of Judaism, as well as the modern Judeo-Christian churches.

For instance, he taught the doctrine of **heaven**; the doctrine of **hell**; the doctrine of a super demon called **Satan**; the doctrine of **salvation and judgment after death**. In fact, you can go right down the line and find MOST DOCTRINES IN THE MODERN CHURCH HAVE THEIR ROOTS IN ZOROASTRIANISM INSTEAD OF THE BIBLE.

Zoroaster was a product of his environment. He was the result of the superstitions of Babylon society. This religion became one of the most influential in the history of the world. Zoroastrianism (i.e., Babylonianism) made a lasting impression on the Judah Kingdom when it went into captivity. It was from that influence that Talmudic Judaism was born in the “tradition of the elders” of Babylon.

Zoroaster is credited (by the religious world) with being the first to formulate a theological concept of “the origin of evil.” Can you imagine that? Zoroaster is the one behind the heresies being taught in most of the churches today: heaven, hell, Satan and demons. These concepts didn’t come from Christ, nor Moses, nor the Prophets. **They came from Zoroaster** ... the renown prophet of **Babylon** (Persia).

So, it wasn’t Jesus who wanted to “save” our “immortal souls” from never-ending hell fire. It was Zoroaster! It was also Zoroaster who taught that salvation was for the NEXT world. **By contrast, Jesus saved us for THIS world!**

- The other option is that Jesus’ salvation really hasn’t come yet and we are still waiting for it. Judaism and Futurism teach a future salvation. Judaism, of course, doesn’t believe that the Christ came at all. They are still waiting for one. By the same token, the churches believe He came, and then turned around and left – leaving only a few good words to sustain us for a few thousand years. They say He is coming back sometime in the distant future, and THEN we’re going to be “saved.” So, you see, the churches teach pretty much the same as what Judaism teaches. The Jew’s “messiah” hasn’t come yet, but when He comes ... THEN He will save them and make them rulers over everyone else. Sound familiar?

Salvation Here and Now!

Why am I reviewing all these FALSE teachings? I am hoping to shock people back to reality. Americans have been deluded by these pagan, false teachings and we must expose them for what they really are and reveal their non-Christian origins! They came from the pagan minds of men from ser-

pent religions of men.

Some form of salvation is taught in ALL religions, but each sees it from their own perspective. And the perspective with which most Christians are being duped today comes from man-made serpent religions - not Scripture. Remember, we got our first glimpse of the serpent religion in Genesis 3: "thou shalt NOT surely die," The trick is to start off by convincing people that they can be gods. They will follow you to the ends of the earth if they believe you are able to teach them how to be gods.

Salvation is being taught wrongly in most churches in Christendom today. And while preachers are hoodwinking their people by getting them to waste their time trying to save "immortal souls," and "spirits," the wicked men of the earth continue to conquer, use, and destroy the weak. Christians are helpless against REAL enemies because the dumb-dog preachers are telling them to worry about the wrong things - like an invisible being they call "Satan." Or, about saving their invisible soul, or some other nonsense, while everything visible is being taken away by wicked men of the physical world. Talk about anti-Christian doctrine - that's it!

We ought to be concerned about the REAL evil on this earth; the flesh-and-blood devils and their evil actions against the helpless and the ignorant. That's real wickedness in action! Evil men and their conspiracies to overpower and control others is what should concern us! The HERE-and-NOW! NOT some far-off time in the future, after we are dead! We are to be the "salt of the earth" NOW, not in "the sweet by and by." We are to pursue and enjoy the blessings of salvation NOW. It is the grossest of sins to believe that the world, and your life today, is under the dominion of anyone other than Jesus Christ – not "Satan," and not man. Nobody!

My Bible says that the earth belongs to God and to His People - not to evil men, and not to any so-called "Satan." Therefore, it looks to me like the only thing we need to be saved FROM is our own stupidity and carnality. Our own sins are blinding us and destroying us.

Our own sinful nature slew us, and we were "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1) before Christ SAVED us. He SAVED us from ourselves – from sin, We had followed man's system instead of Gods. Jesus turned us away from the world system and back to Yahweh.

21. And she [Mary] shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

(Matthew 1:21)

Know and Teach His-Story

This great salvation that Christ wrought is not generally recognized by Israel. We haven't kept it and esteemed it. We haven't informed the next generation. It can't be done by simply saying, "Oh, Jesus loves you," or "accept Jesus as your savior." If you don't learn about His-Story [History], about His family history, the history of His People – Israel, and about the mighty acts of Yahweh in history, or any of the Biblical reasons that led up to Jesus, His birth, crucifixion, and resurrection – then you don't know Him! Most people don't even know who Jesus is, No wonder they can't "accept" Him. What, then, are the Judeo-Christians accepting? Only feelings! Only a name which they do not recognize!

They say, "**I love Jesus!**" But I ask, "**Really? Which one?**" If they don't know Him, can they really love Him? Most people who claim to know and love Jesus don't even know who He was. They think He was a Jew. They don't even know that He was in Nazareth and Capernaum, up in Galilee; that He was known as "a Galilean" – not a Jew. And, most people wouldn't even know there was a difference in the first place. They don't even know who their Savior is!

Observe how a "christ" and a "salvation" are being preached today in most churches and you will see that it is basically the same as most of the other "christs" and other "salvations" being preached in all the other pagan churches of the world – past or present.

The preachers say "come forward and accept Christ! Get saved!" What kind of salvation are they peddling? Not Christian! Christ's salvation of His people is an accomplished fact – not something they must still "get."

Christians don't need to "get saved!" Indeed, it is impossible to "get saved." If we could "get saved," we would, in effect, be saving ourselves. The nature of salvation, in every usage, is that it must be accomplished by someone other than the one who is being saved.

We have not fallen short on "getting" salvation, for indeed salvation cannot be "gotten"! However, it was wonderfully accomplished for us over 1900 years ago. Where we've fallen short is in RESPONDING to our great salvation. We should, therefore, act accordingly; like people who are saved. We should show it by learning and teaching the Truth; by teaching History; by showing our children who the real Biblical Christ is; by obeying His Law; by showing people the way out of the fog; by helping them to realize that Jesus has saved them. Jesus IS their Savior, and IS their King. They have a sovereign King whose Law is to be obeyed now. We should obey His law – not to "get saved," but because He SAVED us and we have faith in Him and in His way!

Jesus is Savior and King whether or not we accept Him. His position

doesn't depend upon our acceptance of Him. Rather, OUR position depends upon His acceptance of us. Jesus saved us from ignorance and spiritual death in sin, into LIFE and LIBERTY in His Reign.

26. Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this SALVATION sent.

(Acts 13:26)

9. And having been perfected, he became the author of this age's SALVATION unto all them that obey him.

(Hebrews 5:9 -literal translation)



In this study, we are demonstrating that the particular doctrine of salvation taught today in most churches comes from sources other than the Holy Bible.

It may be discouraging, initially, to learn that the teachings we received as children growing up in our denominational churches were not Christian in origin. It may even make some folks angry. But, the truth is, the rituals that Judeo-Christians go through to “get saved” are pagan in nature. Furthermore, after the people participate in the salvation rituals (works) they must do to “be saved” – prescribed by their church or preacher – they are more confused and more lost than they were before.

Lord, deliver us from shepherds who confuse and destroy the flock! Concerning dishonest leaders, Jeremiah said:

22. If they [the shepherds] had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

(Jeremiah 23:22)

This is an important scripture with a very important principle: a truism.

It declares that if the preachers speak God's word, then the people will turn from their evil way. It doesn't say that they might turn, but that they WILL turn! This simple principle is immutable.

Today there are more preachers doing more preaching than ever before in the history of mankind – yet the people are not turning to God. If only a small percentage of these men were really speaking “God's words,” then the people would turn from their evil – according to the immutable principle of Jeremiah 23.

Logically, then, since our people have NOT turned from their evil ways, it can only mean that the preachers are not causing the people to hear “Yahweh's word.” Anyone can understand that simple logic.

Therefore, we have a great problem today. It is called “organized religion.” These are the churches and denominations which promote false doctrines of salvation. Organized religion [Churchianity] may be America's greatest adversary today.

First, the challenge is to find our own way out of it, and then we must help others escape. It's a great challenge because they (and we) are constantly bombarded with false doctrines and ideas – over and over and over again.

Preachers would have us believe that we must “save souls from hell” by getting people into church. However, the truth is that we are not called to “save souls from hell,” nor to get people into churches. We are called to fight error and hopelessness [sin] by the Word of God.

In 1 Peter 3:15 we are told to equip ourselves with truth; not so we can “save people from an eternal burning hell,” but to edify and help our brother:

15. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Other Christs and Other Salvations

This leads us to ask: “If the words from today's churches are not Jesus' words, given to Him by Yahweh, then whose words are they, and how can they possibly convey Yahweh's “salvation”? If their “salvations” are not from Yahweh, then from where do they originate? What kind of salvations are the churches teaching?”

The Bible warns of “other gods,” “another Jesus,” “another spirit” and “another gospel.” This means that there are other “christs” and other “salvations.” Each religion has its own “christ” and its own “savior.”

3. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent [false prophet] beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
4. For if he [any false prophet] that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive **another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well tolerate it.

(2 Corinthians 11:3-4)

Paul feared that we would tolerate the false prophets who teach strange doctrines of salvation. His fears have certainly proven to be justified. We are surrounded by strange “christs.” Pagan religions, and their “christs” are being adopted as Christianity in churches in America!

In Manly P. Hall’s book, THE SECRET TEACHINGS OF ALL AGES, An Encyclopedic Outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic and Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy, in the chapter titled THE ANCIENT MYSTERIES AND SECRET SOCIETIES, he writes:

Sun worship played an important part in nearly all the early pagan Mysteries. The Solar Deity was usually personified as a beautiful youth, with long golden hair to symbolize the rays of the sun (Notice the solar disc behind the head of christ in religious drawings. It is usually called a halo). This golden Sun God [christ/savior] was slain by wicked ruffians who personified the evil principle of the universe (much the same as Jesus crucified by the Pharisees). By means of certain rituals and ceremonies, symbolic of purification and regeneration, this wonderful God of Good was brought back to life and became the Savior of His people (much the same as the resurrection of Jesus). The Mysteries were organized for the purpose of assisting the struggling human creature to reawaken the spiritual powers which, surrounded by the flaming ring of lust and degeneracy, lay asleep within his soul (doctrine of the “immortal soul”). In other words, man was offered a way by which he could REGAIN HIS LOST ES-TATE (Edenic perfection).

[My comments in parentheses. – ed.]

Notice the striking similarity between these pagan heresies and the common church doctrines of salvation. What you have here is a pagan interpretation of the story of Jesus. This nonsense contributed to the oxymoronic monster called “Judeo-Christianity”! It is not Christianity at all, even though half of its title claims it. It is a new thing – a newly conceived paganism, But the most unfortunate thing is that millions of people are gullibly accepting it as “Christian.”

Modern Mithraism

Here is another quote from Manly P. Hall's book on Freemasonry, under the subtitle THE RITES OF MITHRAS (Persian messiah figure symbolized by light, sun or fire)

There are many points of resemblance between (Judeo) Christianity and the cult of Mithras. One of the reasons for this probably is that the Persian mystics invaded Italy during the first century after Christ and the early history of both cults was closely interwoven. The Encyclopedia Britannica makes the following statement concerning the Mithraic and Christian Mysteries:

“The fraternal and democratic spirit of the first communities, and their humble origin; the identification of the object of adoration with light and the sun; the legends of the shepherds with their gifts and adoration, the flood, and the ark; the representation in art of the fiery chariot; the drawing of water from the rock; the use of bell and candle, holy water and the communion; the sanctification of Sunday [their “Venerable day of the Sun”]; the 25th of December [Christmas]; the insistence on moral conduct, the emphasis placed on abstinence and self-control; the DOCTRINE OF HEAVEN AND HELL, of primitive revelation, of the mediation of “the Logos” emanating from the divine (god) (the Greek “Word,” John 1:1 – “the Logos was God”), the atoning sacrifice, the constant warfare between good and evil (Dualism) and the final triumph of the former, the IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL, the last judgment, the resurrection of the flesh and the fiery destruction of the universe. These are some of the resemblances (between the churches and Mithraism).”

Carefully consider what you just read. Mithraism, a heathen religion originating in Persian (Babylonian) Zoroastrianism, centuries before Christ, bears a striking resemblance to modern Churchianity. We had better re-evaluate the form of “religion” that is all around us. Is it truly Christian, or just adaptations from Mithraism and Zoroastrianism? The accepted doctrines of our parents and grandparents must be re-examined by Scripture. We can no longer afford the luxury of taking them for granted!

Lewis Browne's textbook on World Religions, THIS BELIEVING WORLD, published in 1930, assists us in uncovering the counterfeit:

It is true that the cults of Cybele, Isis, and Bacchus began to wane a little in their popularity; but that was only because a new cult had come to take their places. It was the cult of Mithras, imported from

Persia, where it had arisen out of those primitive elements which the



"Deo Invicto Mitrae" (The Unconquered Mithras) carved on a second century pillar now in an English museum. The light rays (halo) beaming from his head appear as spikes – similar to the Statue of Liberty.

Typical illustration of Judeo-Christian type christ with halo inherited from Mithras. The halo is only one of the many obvious proofs that the churches have given Mithraic attributes to their christ.



prophet Zoroaster had failed to stamp out. It had spread since from one land to another, from Persia to Babylonia, from Babylonia to the Ionian Isles, and from the Ionian Isles finally to Rome. It entered there about the first century B. C., and so ready were the Romans to receive it that soon it was almost dominant in the empire.

The root of the mystery was an ancient Persian legend which told of a divine hero named Mithras whose miraculous birth had been witnessed only by a few shepherds come from afar with gifts to adore the wonder-child. Mithras grew up to be the most strenuous champion of the sun-god in his war against the god of darkness ...

Long before the advent of Christianity we find a significant religion and an elaborate ritual crystallizing around that legend of Mithras. To this day there exist along the Danube and in Northern Africa certain subterranean caves in which are statues and carvings depicting scenes in the tale. Those caves were the secret churches of the Mithraists, and in them all manner of magic rites were once performed. Three times a day, with especial elaborateness on the Sun-day and the twenty-fifth of December, the Mithras priests offered services in the caves. Libations were poured, bells were rung, hymns were chanted, and many candles were burnt ... When they died on this earth they expected to ascend to Heaven through seven gates, unlocked by seven keys which the Mithras priests possessed, and in Heaven they hoped to dwell with Mithras until the final Judgment Day. All unbaptized, both living and dead, were to be totally annihilated on that Judgment Day. Only the redeemed were to be saved, and Mithras, come to earth a second and final time, would administer to each of them a fast sacrament, and then cause them to inherit the world in peace and blessedness forevermore ...

— *This Believing World*

The above quote gives new meaning to the warning of Paul in 2 Corinthians 13:5a, where he tells us:

5. Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves...

And in 1 Thessalonians 5:21:

21. Prove [test] ALL THINGS; hold fast that which is good.

Paul didn't want Christianity confused with Mithraism!

In the light of this information we have no choice but to re-examine our current beliefs. Are they from Jesus, or from Mithras and Zoroaster?

From Persia we find:

1. *The birth of a god-man witnessed by shepherds.*
2. *The sacrifice of a savior.*
3. *The immortality of the soul.*
4. *A baptism.*
5. *A resurrection.*
6. *A heaven and hell.*
7. *A “second coming” and “future kingdom.”*
8. *A “final judgment” and fiery destruction of the wicked.*
9. *Christmas.*
10. *A “god of darkness” [“Satan”].*

Did I miss any? All these doctrines were taught in the pre-Christian, heathen cult called Mithraism - the worship of a Persian sun god. It is more than mere coincidence! The counterfeit obscures the genuine!

With a little adjustment here, and a little adapting there (hardly noticeable to most Christians with their heads in the clouds), Mithraism was re-named “Christian,” and perpetuated through the churches.

IN FACT, most people who think they are hearing Christian doctrine from their preachers are actually being taught Mithraism instead. And most people who think they are hearing how **Jesus the Christ** saved them are instead hearing how **Mithras the christ** saved them from “hell” so they could go to “heaven.” The churches have accepted the counterfeit christ and are ignorant of the True Christ.

Beware of Imitation Jesus Christs

It isn't enough to use a certain NAME. We need factual history. If we are not diligent, we may end up following a WRONG christ who has simply taken on the RIGHT name!

So beware! There are many so-called Christians in this land who think they are following Jesus when in fact they are actually following some invented myth whom they have given the name “Jesus.” It is “*another Jesus, another gospel and another spirit*” - not the true Jesus, the gospel and the spirit from Yahweh the God of Israel!

That is, perhaps, why Jesus, the true Christ of Israel, spoke these words in Matthew 24:4-5:

4. *And Jesus answered and said unto them, TAKE HEED that NO MAN*

deceive you.

5. *For many shall come in MY NAME (claiming my authority), saying I AM CHRIST [I am The Anointed]; and shall deceive many.*

And in verse 11:

11. *And MANY false prophets [preachers and teachers] shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

And, then in verses 23 and 24 He said:

23. *Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.*

24. *For there shall arise FALSE CHRISTS, and false prophets [preachers], and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

Jesus' words apply especially today! This explains how there can be so many different churches - each claiming to follow "Christ," but each with their own different set of beliefs about salvation. They have different christs! One may have a Mithraic Christ, another may have a Hinduistic Avatar/Christ, while another may have the Jewish Christ ("Messiah"). Others may have various combinations of these and other christs with their own contrived doctrines of salvation.

Judeo-Christian Roots: Zoroastrianism

The college textbook, MAN'S RELIGIONS by John Noss, gives further insight into religion from Persia. In the chapter covering the Persian prophet Zoroaster, we read this concerning Zoroastrian doctrines:

The religion of Zoroaster grew ever more elaborate: the doctrine of the future life was worked out in graphic detail, highly stimulating to the imagination.

Who was Zoroaster? Zoroastrianism began in Persia sometime between 1,000 and 600 B.C. He is the hero of world religions. His doctrines are regarded highly – especially in the West. So, we are talking about a religion which originated centuries before Jesus was born.

*This fragment
from the bas-relief
of Virunum shows*

SCENES FROM THE LIFE OF MITHRAS

Among them, Mithras is crown-
ing the sun-god with a radiant
halo; his ascension in the solar
chariot to Heaven, and his smit-
ing the rock from which the wa-
ters flowed. Note the "Phrygian"
cap which became the universal
symbol of the Oriental cults, be-
ing worn by Mithras, Attis, med-
ieval Masons, Osiris, and the tia-
ra for Shiva and the Pope.



Continuing in MAN'S RELIGIONS, we read:

Much attention was paid to the drama of INDIVIDUAL judgment. This was not supposed to take place until the fourth day after death. For three nights, it was thought, the soul of the dead man sits at the head of its former body and meditates on its past good or evil thoughts, words, and deeds.

That may sound a little strange at first, but it is a point of concern when you consider stories from people of our day insisting that they witnessed the “soul” of a dead relative waft off to “heaven.” These experiences abound in modern Churches.

When George Washington (who claimed to be a Christian) was dying, he told his wife to not allow his body to be buried until after the fourth day! Now, why would he request that? That idea is not in the Bible. In fact, Israelites were often buried before sundown the same day.

We do know that George Washington was a Freemason, and we also know that Freemasonry contains Mithraic and Talmudic beliefs. I am not trying to single out George Washington, but I think it shows a link between the Churches and Zoroastrianism which teaches to wait four days before burying the corpse. Here is record of a well known Church man doing just that.

These points, and scores of others, prove that doctrines of Zoroaster and ancient Persia define the modern American church.

Immortal Soul / Reincarnation

According to Zoroaster, the body dies but not the “soul” – thus it is IMMORTAL. This doctrine of the “immortal soul” migrated westward from India (out of Hinduism). The Hindu believes that immortality is expressed through TRANSMIGRATION [reincarnation]. Reincarnationists believe that after a man dies, his “SOUL” rises out of the corpse and migrates to another newly born body. It can be the body of a human, an animal, or an insect. In its new body it continues to live as another person, animal, etc..

That's the way it was taught in India by the Hindu gurus long before the time of Zoroaster. Later, however, and with some minor changes, we see this same doctrine spreading through Persia, promulgated by Zoroaster who taught that man's immortal soul sits at the head of his dead body for three nights after his death, waiting for ... something.

End-Time Judgment

Noss continues Zoroaster's teaching about the immortal soul at the time of one's death – and the following four days:

During this time it (the soul) is comforted, if it has been a righteous soul, by good angels, – and tormented, if it has been wicked, by demons hovering about ready to drag it off to punishment. On the fourth day the soul makes its way to the CHINVAT BRIDGE, to stand before its judges, MITHRA and his associates Sraosha and Rashnu, the last of whom holds the dread scales for the FINAL WEIGHING OF MERITS AND DEMERITS. Judgment rendered and sentence passed, the soul then walks onto the Chinvat Bridge. In the middle part of the bridge, there is a sharp edge [blade] which stands like a sword, ... and HELL is below the Bridge. Then the soul is carried to where stands the sharp edge [blade]. Then, if it be righteous, the sharp edge presents its broad side (permitting passage to Paradise across the bridge) [but] ...If the soul be wicked, that sharp edge continues to stand edgewise, and does not give passage. The soul is cut down from the head of the bridge, and falls headlong down into HELL!

Resurrection

As you can see, Mithraism, Judaism, and the typical Church share much common ground. Most of the elements in their teachings concerning “salvation’ are so compatible as to be easily adapted from one to another.

We further find this apocalyptic description of “the end of the age” in Zoroastrianism:

With the appearance of Soshyans, the last Messiah, the “final days” would begin. All the dead would be raised; heaven and hell would be emptied of all their residents (“immortal souls,” whether in heaven or hell, must all come back to earth for judgment) in order to make up the great assembly where the final judgment would be passed upon all SOULS. The righteous and the wicked would be separated, and a flood of molten metal would pour out upon the earth and roar through hell, purifying all regions with its scorching fires.

In the final conflict, Ahura Mazda [the good god] and his angels would hurl Ahriman [the bad god – also called Satan] and his devils into the flames and they would be utterly consumed. Then, all the survivors of the fiery trial would live together in the new heavens and new earth. Adults would remain forever at forty years of age, and the children at fifteen friends and relatives would be reunited forever.

SOUND FAMILIAR? With little exception, this same line is taught today by the TV evangelists, almost every “Christian” seminary, and virtually all churches. By viewing God’s Word through the lenses of “Mithras” and “Zoroaster,” the reader actually turns the Bible into nothing more than supportive text for the Avesta (the holy book of Zoroastrianism).

Satan’s Origin

Zoroaster invented and patented the orthodox doctrine of Satan – “the fallen angel” myth embraced by most churches. This myth has become such an integral part of churches that without him their singular purpose for existence would be lost. Thus, the churches desperately need their “Satan”!

Zoroaster’s apex of theological achievement was his so-called discovery of the “**origin of evil**”: his doctrine of “**ethical dualism.**” The theory of ethical dualism is that there are two coequal powers: one good, one evil (two gods if you will). These two gods are in constant battle with each other for control of your soul, and the world. The battle is between Ahura Mazda [the good god] and Ahriman [Satan – the bad god]. In its modern church version, it is the battle between “God and Satan.” They are identical in principle, but the names have been changed to protect the guilty.

In the next chapter of Noss’ book, which coincidentally speaks about Judaism, we read:

The Jews came to know Zoroastrianism from observations near at hand in Babylonia and certain Persian beliefs about Satan, the angels, the afterlife ...

Now, remember, these “Jews” at that time were living in Persia and Babylon, right there where Zoroaster’s beliefs were the most powerful and pervasive. The Jewish Talmud was written and compiled in Babylon and is called “the Babylonian Talmud.” Judaism – the religion of the Pharisees – was born in Babylon and Persia, not too surprisingly, about the time of Zoroaster. The followers of Zoroaster, **EVEN TO THIS DAY**, are called **PARSEES**. You may notice that the name “Parsee” is very similar to “Pharisee.” Etymologies don’t reveal where the name “Pharisee” came from, but the evidence seems to tie it to Zoroastrianism. Continuing to read from MAN’S RELIGIONS:

Before they met the Satan of Zoroastrians, the JEWS had pondered the old stories about the serpent in the Garden of Eden and “the fallen angels” who had taken wives from among the daughters of men before the days of Noah. These stories antedated the exile (i.e., before the Babylonian captivity), and in NONE of them is there the suggestion

that the Spirit of Evil is a cosmic being, manifested from the beginning of time, and of a strength and creative power EQUAL to that of the Spirit of Good. But AFTER THE EXILE (after the influence of Zoroastrianism) the Adversary (“Satan” in Hebrew) became, for the Jews, an evil and infinitely malicious power, wholly in opposition to God – in fact, almost a rival sovereign, with attendant devils to match the angels who stood before God. In another direction, Sheol (meaning grave), the shadowy land of the dead, was REPLACED by a HEAVEN and a HELL.

Zoroastrianism = Tradition of Elders

So, we find that Judaism adopted “a Salvation,” “a Heaven,” “a Hell” and “a Satan” – all from Zoroaster, NOT the Bible!! These, then, are traditional, historic pagan beliefs.

Thus, we are better able to understand Jesus’ confrontation by the Pharisees in Matthew, chapter 15:

1. *Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,*
2. *Why do thy disciples transgress the TRADITION OF THE ELDERS [the Persian/Babylonian Traditions] ?...*

And, what did Jesus say?

3. *...Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?*
6. *...ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.*
8. *This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*
9. *But in vain they do worship me, TEACHING FOR DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.*
14. *Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*

If we follow “traditional” doctrines and beliefs of men, the Word of God will be lost to us. We won’t understand it. We, too, will be lost because we follow blind leaders. Is this not happening today in the Judeo-Christian world?

This chapter in MAN’S RELIGION shows many more examples of how Zoroaster’s systematic theology shaped the religion of Judaism which, in turn, has shaped the religion of Judeo-Christianity (but not true Christianity).

That the evidence I have just given you from these books is correct is

further proven by the writings of Josephus, the noted Jewish historian of the first century A.D. He wrote extensively on the History of the Jews and the Wars of the Jews. In the back of his book, JOSEPHUS' DISCOURSE TO THE GREEKS, is a chapter titled, HADES (Greek word for Hell). In this discourse, Josephus explains about the alleged subterraneous region of "Hades" where souls are kept temporarily until the final judgment. At the judgment, the wicked souls are dragged by angels to a BURNING HELL where they must be TORMENTED forever; the good souls are escorted by angels to HEAVEN, where they spend ETERNITY in happiness and light. Is not this exactly what we hear from the churches of today?

Can anyone show anywhere in the Old Testament where such a doctrine existed at the time of Josephus? If it was not in the Old Testament, isn't that sufficient evidence that Josephus (and the Jews of his day) acquired it from some other source? And if it came from Zoroaster, via the Jews, why should Christians believe it?

Judeo-Christianity = World Religion

We have now traced the DOCTRINE OF SALVATION in the ancient and accepted religions as it is commonly preached from practically every pulpit in Christendom today. We have traced it from Persia to Babylon where it was incorporated into the religion known to us today as "Judaism." We can follow it into Palestine during the time of Jesus. We see its subsequent transmission through Judaism into the abominable religion known by the oxymoronic title of Judeo-Christianity! Not Christianity, but Judeo-Christianity (notice the "Judeo" precedes "Christ"). It is a hybrid mixture of Judaism and Christianity.

The Futurists keep harping about a so-called "coming one-world religion." Well, open up your eyes! It is already here and it has been here for some time! It is a false doctrine of salvation preached by nearly every preacher in America. From this abominable religion our people still learn how to "get their immortal souls saved" and how to "go to heaven" while the "unsaved" "burn forever in hell."

At the beginning, I asked this question: If these teachings are not the words of Yahweh, and His Christ, THEN whose words are they? I think I have given ample proof that these are the words of the Persians, who gave them to the Babylonians, who in turn gave them to the Pharisees [Judeans], who then gave them to Judaized churches of their day, which have carried it down to present-day Judeo-Christian preachers. These preachers are today's false prophets [the serpents] in the churches and seminaries. Their teachings come from Persia – not from your Bible.

Church Myths

There are endless examples which I could continue showing you; but as you can see from these few, the theologies and doctrines of the churches are built around UNREAL things: things that take your mind away from the REAL world and off into a world of MAKE-BELIEVE and fantasy. Instead of dealing with men's sins and the real problems in the world, they keep your mind busy with mythological wars between spirits, gods, angels and devils, or other crazy hoaxes intentionally designed to keep you from the simple common sense truths of God's Word. This they have done for generations.

If you visit a church [synagogue] today, you leave thinking about devils, angels, heaven and hell, and your so-called immortal soul. BUT you don't know why your inheritance is stolen from you, or how the banks rob our country, or why government is corrupt. You will not hear the answers to these questions because churches do not teach God's Word. They teach man's word. They will not teach you that following God's Law will bring an end to misery. Rather, you will be learning how to get raptured off the earth and that you need not care about anything else. You can go back the next Sunday to "feel good," "feel the presence," or "feel" this or that while America is being ravished by evil men in the real world – right in front of stupefied "Christians" who have become cryptic Zoroastrians!!

I hope you are beginning to understand that Jesus brought salvation to MEN, in order to affect MEN, not devils, angels, spirits, immortal souls, or so-called gods. MAN was in need of salvation, and that was Jesus' mission! The Great and Glorious Salvation of Jesus the Christ, who is enthroned and given all authority in heaven and earth, is a salvation that is meant for THIS time, HERE and NOW – on this EARTH, and among US mortal, flesh-and-blood men.

Matthew 1:20-21 tells us that Jesus came to save us from OUR SINS, NOT from a burning hell, nor from some so-called evil god called "Satan." Jesus exposed evil and taught righteousness; He didn't come to teach us the magic Mysteries so we could work good magic and win our own salvation. He created a new heart in us, one which loves and follows Him. He didn't teach us about reincarnation or how to get out of this body into some other body. Nor did He come to teach us about "*the god that is inside all men,*" and "*christ consciousness.*"

Saving the Lost

Let's look at Matthew 1:20-21:

20. *But while he [Joseph] thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the holy spirit.*
21. *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall SAVE HIS PEOPLE from THEIR SINS.*

And again, in Matthew 18:11 we have the words from our Lord Jesus:

11. *For the Son of man is come to save that which is lost.*

He continues to talk about His sheep in Luke 19:10, where he says:

10. *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was LOST,"*

What was lost? In Acts 13:16 & 26, Paul is preaching a sermon of salvation to lost sheep:

16. *Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, MEN OF ISRAEL, and ye that fear God, give audience.*
26. *Men and brethren, children of the STOCK OF ABRAHAM, and who-soever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.*

New Covenant

Who were these "lost" who were going to be brought back and saved and redeemed? In order to save or redeem something, it first must have been lost or taken away. There is only ONE people on this earth who had belonged to Yahweh and then had become lost, That family of people was Israel. They were His people but they had gotten lost. They are the only people who ever had "the Old Covenant." The theology of salvation is summed up in a very concise way in Hebrews 9:11&15:

- 11, *But Christ being come an high priest of good things having occurred, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;*
- 15, *And for this cause He (Jesus) is the mediator of the NEW COV-*

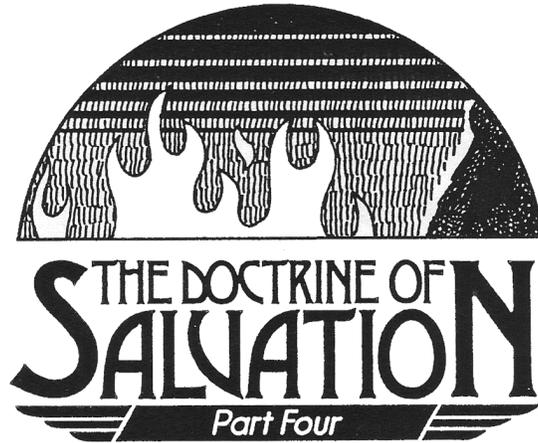
ENANT, that by means of death, FOR THE REDEMPTION OF THE TRANSGRESSIONS THAT WERE UNDER THE FIRST COVENANT they which are called might receive the promise of this age's inheritance [the New Covenant]."

What did Jesus' death redeem? The debt of sins that had been committed under **the first covenant!** What people were under the first covenant, and committed sins under that covenant? ONLY ISRAEL.

Our Heavenly Father has much more planned for the people on this earth than is written in our Bible, but let's not pervert and change what IS written there. The people who needed to be saved, who had sinned against their God and lost themselves off into the world were the Israel people. Yahweh's salvation centers around His people Israel. The salvation He sent, through Jesus, to Israel, is going to benefit the whole earth. But it was sent to Israel first. They had broken the covenant and committed sin which had to be reconciled – which was exactly what Jesus accomplished. The doctrine of Salvation has nothing to do with trying to get us back into heaven, or back to living as a spirit instead of flesh, or saving our "immortal soul," or anything of that sort. It has to do with salvaging Israel out of depravity; out of the muck and mire into which they had wandered. It has to do with cleaning us up and setting us aright so we could again be His SERVANTS through His Son. **That is the doctrine of salvation.**



This second-century stone sculpture shows Mithras being born on Winter Solstice from an egg (easter) as the "Firstborn God of Light." The two halves of the egg symbolize the polarity of positive and negative forces (good and evil) which animates all creation. He is portrayed both as the Creator (who breaks the egg), and the Mediator (Savior) standing between the opposite poles, making reconciliation (balance). With a sacrificial knife in one hand and a torch in the other, he is called the "Light of the world" – born on the darkest day of the year.



We are putting the central doctrine of the churches to the test. Some will find the results surprising. Some may be offended. At the very least, our readers must consider the probability that some of their favorite church doctrines came from pagan sources rather than from the Bible.

Then, we ask the next logical question: *If the churches' central doctrine is pagan, then is it also possible that the institution of "church" itself is pagan? And if so, then what of our past religious concepts?*

By Their Fruits

Some may reason that so many thousands of preachers can't possibly be wrong about salvation! But think about it. If they were not wrong, wouldn't their works bear good fruit and affect America in a positive way?

22. But if they [the preachers] had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

(Jeremiah 23:22)

Have they turned? Of course not! The people are confused and dissipated. The churches are keeping people busy playing mythological, childish games while the bankers, politicians and lawyers are using us as cattle and slaves.

An honest treatment of our situation is offensive to religious people. However, it is not my objective to be inoffensive. Being inoffensive requires that you do nothing. Besides, offenses are inescapable. When Jesus conducted His ministry in Jerusalem, He offended everyone! His honesty especially offended those in organized crime [religion and politics] who, in turn, began planning His murder. The people quickly decided that it wasn't fashionable or healthy to be associated with this honest man. They avoided Him lest they, too, be considered honest by association. At the time of His crucifixion, not one soul would identify himself with this Man from Galilee. Not even Peter!

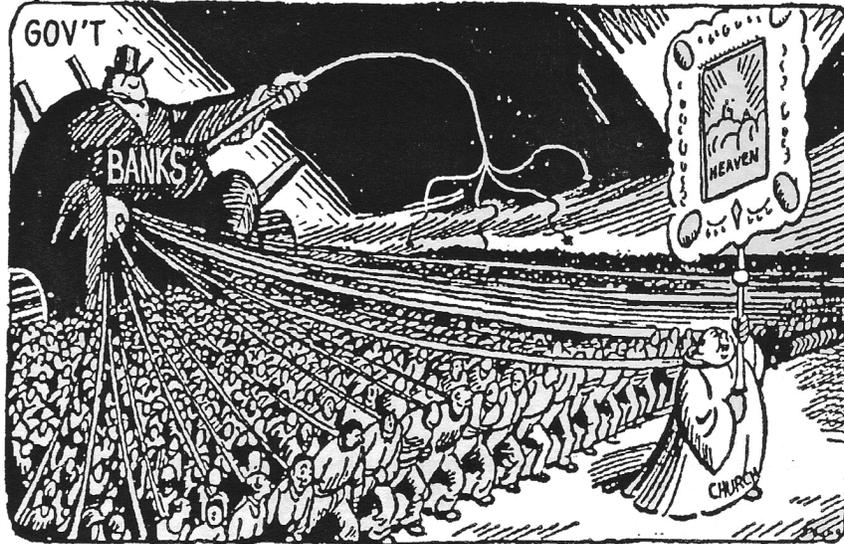
Jesus' message to institutionalized religion and government of that day was essentially the same as His message in our day – namely, 'You are nullifying God's law by your tradition [man-made laws]!' Those in "the system" considered Jesus their enemy. The laws of "the system" were different from Yahweh's laws. This formed a natural enmity between Jesus and "the system."

Statist politicians, and those whose fortunes depend upon the system, have always considered Jesus their enemy. And rightfully so! Statist systems always end up at war with Jesus in a contest to see who is sovereign. Consequently, those of us who still believe that Jesus is King are usually considered enemies of "the system" too, because we don't recognize it as sovereign. But, our reasons are generally misunderstood by the media-manipulated public. They are told that we are anarchists.

Acceptable "Truths"

Communication and credibility have always been hurdles for teachers. Having truth is not enough. People generally are not drawn to truth. Rather, they accept that which is acceptable. In other words, they accept that which they have been programmed to believe. The multitudes who came to see Jesus perform miracles still refused to believe what he said. Why? Because He was not considered "acceptable" even though He had truth. His doctrines went squarely against what the people had heard all their lives. He preached against the doctrines being taught in the accepted, denominational churches of His day.

As I said, truth is generally unrecognizable to most people. It has been



pretty well proven that people tend to accept things as being true in this order of priority:

1. Because they hear it **first**,
2. Because they hear it **most often**,
3. And lastly, because it is **the truth**.

You can see that truth, of itself, is neither credible nor attractive to the public. “Truth,” as people see it, is therefore established upon the principle of acceptability. Since that is the general nature of man, it makes my job all the harder because people usually hear, both first and most often, that statist type “governments” and “churches” are necessary and good.

Judea, at the time of Jesus’ death, was a very religious place. Not only was their “holy city,” Jerusalem, located there, but the Judeans (called “Jews” in your English Bible) considered themselves to be religiously superior to any other people. They had been programmed to believe that God needed them because of their inherent qualities, and that He had preferred them over all the nations and peoples of the earth. They claimed to be the best, when in fact they were possibly the worst people on earth. They had “the oracles of God” in their possession but refused to hear them.

We can’t say they were out in left field because they weren’t even in the ball park. But, nonetheless, they were very religious – much like Americans

today. They had religious organizations and fundamental churches, all teaching doctrines of salvation much like Americans are hearing yet today. These doctrines weren't from Jesus, but they did teach a salvation (from a pagan viewpoint). These doctrines didn't come from Scripture, but they were believed by the multitudes: the common religious people of Judea.

Truth Was Unacceptable

The true doctrine of salvation has always been radically different from the common pagan teachings of the churches, and that is as true today as it was at the time of Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus taught a different Salvation! It was unacceptable to those in "the system"! They didn't believe Him, and they murdered Him.

Now, here is an important point! Christians today are being handed the lie (by their preachers) that the problem with the Jews who crucified Jesus was that they *just didn't understand Him*. In other words, the reason they hated Jesus was because they didn't know Him. Jesus wasn't able to communicate His message well enough to be understood. We are told, *they just never realized that He was their Messiah!* However, it is absurd to assume that they would crucify an innocent man simply because they didn't recognize him, or because they thought he was crazy!

The truth is, He really **wasn't** their messiah! Their religious tradition trained them to expect a "messiah," but not the true Messiah of Israel. The religion of the Jews [Judaism] is NOT from the Old Testament. Jews have a cultural religion which amounts to a conglomeration collected from millennia of heathen, anti-Christ teachings. Much of Jewish culture is Babylonian, including their "holy book" the Talmud. The Old Testament is only one of the many books they consider part of their "legal library." However, they do not think of the Old Testament writings in the same way that Christians think of them. Jews use the Old Testament like lawyers use law books. They disrespect and dishonor it. They misuse it, manipulate it, pervert it, and change it to fit their purposes. They refer to it only for the sake of giving themselves credibility in the public eye. They give it lip service but they don't honor it.

8. This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

(Matthew 15:8)

The Jewish culture of that day was clearly un-Biblical – even as today. The majority of the people in Jerusalem were probably not Israelite (although many were Semitic). Many were Babylonish, Edomite people who worshipped the gods of Babylon and Persia. Jesus came to Jerusalem and talked of a **different God!** He taught a **different salvation!**

The religious leaders of Judea charged Jesus with blasphemy. Was He guilty of blasphemy? Yes, without a doubt! Let me make this as clear as I can. **Jesus blasphemed the god of the Jews by teaching that their god was not the God of the Hebrew Scriptures.** He told them that their gods were “no-gods;” “nothings.” Jesus also taught that He, Himself, was the Son of the true God of Israel.

What bothered them about Jesus was that no one was able to discredit Him. You see, they truly hated Him – not because they didn’t understand Him, but rather because they DID! Nobody, not even the Pharisees, would do to a person what they did to Jesus just because they couldn’t understand Him. No! The fact is, they DID understand His teachings! The doctrines He taught were in direct opposition to their churches [synagogues] . **He taught a different doctrine of salvation** than was taught in their synagogues, and He taught His doctrine from the Old Scriptures. He taught with an authority they could not dispute.

Jesus -vs- Churches

Jesus used Scripture to refute synagogue [church] doctrine, That proves that the Judeans developed their doctrines from other sources. Now, it is true that they “used” some of the Hebrew Scriptures in the synagogues at that time, but it was interpreted after the manner of Babylonian tradition much like it is in churches today. Jesus told the Pharisees that their method of interpretation, called “the tradition of the elders,” actually made the Scriptures “of none effect.”

We have the same thing happening in America today. Judeo churches and “Christian” preachers claim to be teaching Christian doctrine, using the Christian Scriptures. Some churches even place the Bible in a respected position on their altars. But they wrest and pervert the Scriptures skillfully to say anything they want it to say. Just as the Pharisees wrested the Scriptures back then, the Pharisees of our day (Judeo-Christian preachers) are wresting the same Scriptures and preaching heathen, anti-Christ doctrines of salvation. There is nothing new under the sun.

Jesus did not accept the Judeans’ god, nor their messiah, nor their so-called salvation ... which was only another Babylonian scheme to control

and use people! Therein lies the reason for their hatred for Him. That is why they conspired against Him and murdered Him. It wasn't because they couldn't understand Him, or because they didn't realize that He was the Messiah. They knew that He was the Messiah, and they hated Him because He threatened their system by teaching freedom to the common people!

38. ...this is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

(Matthew 21:38)

The Babylonian doctrine of salvation is sometimes called "Priestcraft." Babylonian Priestcraft is a conspiracy of Religion, Finance and Politics working together to control and enslave people.

Their teachings enslave and control people the same way statist religious institutions have always enslaved people in all ages. They do it by demanding particular rituals, sacrifices, and reverence from the people toward the "state." They even provide ways for you to "go to heaven" after you die. However, these rituals are administered only through the authority of the "priests/agents" and according to "the state's" dictates.



"...and on behalf of our stockholders in Washington DC, congratulations on a successful year. Now, change your uniforms, get back in your pulpits and keep giving those altar calls!"

The priests/agents claim to have authority to send a person to prison or the gallows, and can even send your so-called “immortal soul” either to heaven or hell.

The Babylonian priests wielded the power of life and death – heaven and hell – over the people. So, the people lavished the priests with bribes of gold, silver and slave labor, In effect, this teaching convinced the people to enslave themselves to the priest NOW so that they could go to heaven LATER; a form of bribery. All emphasis was placed on the AFTERLIFE, and the important things of THIS life were down-played.

Of course, you recognize that this Priestcraft is still being practiced today in America – only with slight variations. The ruling Priests are not in the buildings usually associated with religion. Rather, they are in the banks, the courts, and the State Department buildings. These high priests have hired preachers (by threats and tax bribes) to keep the people spiritually opiated and subdued. The preachers subjugate the people spiritually, then the high priests in the banks and government hire policemen to subjugate them physically. They brutalize and kill some of them so that the rest are scared into submission. The people still bestow all their earthly wealth upon these high priests in the banks, the courts and the legislatures. And, these elite priests, today, still brainwash people through their hireling preachers who occupy the people’s minds with so-called “spiritual” things, “heavenly” things and “Never Never Land”. The people are taught to be “tolerant” and passive like the depraved and starving Hindus; and to worry about their so-called “immortal souls” instead of the real things; their land, their children, their heritage.

How are the preachers kept under control by the High Priests? The IRS gives preachers a tax break! Did you ever wonder why churches are exempt from taxes? Did you ever wonder why donations to these churches are tax deductible? These are some of the ways that the High Priests in the banks, courts and Congress bribe the preachers to preach the type of State-sanctioned doctrines of salvation that keep people under control.

Christ’s Government

Did Jesus teach the kind of **salvation** taught in the modern churches? NO! The churches teach a “salvation” that corresponds with pagan religions. Jesus, and the Old Testament, teaches “salvation” as an *act of helping or providing safety and freedom*. This has absolutely nothing to do with the popular myth of floating off into outer space to some place called

“heaven” when we die.

When we talk about the salvation that Jesus gives, both organized religion and organized government get all stirred up! People who pursue this openly often find their property confiscated by the State, and themselves imprisoned and/or killed. The church and state rulers want them silenced! Why? Because their thoughts are no longer confined to programmed, “safe,” imaginations of the churches. They begin thinking about things that affect us right HERE and NOW. When these things are discussed intelligently, and within the context of the Kingdom of Christ, it is a THREAT to present tyrants. What are we talking about? We are talking about a DIFFERENT KING, a DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT, a DIFFERENT SYSTEM OF CIVIL LIFE. We are talking about JESUS AS PRESENT RULER, instead of human rulers, and human kingdoms!

5. *But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort [like IRS agents and policemen], and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them (the Apostles) out to the people (to be lynched).*

6. *And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, **These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.***

(Acts 17:5-6)

So, they hunted them down, arrested them without a warrant, dragged them out of their houses and took them before the city council, saying ‘These are the sedition people we’ve been hearing about. They teach men to believe in another king, and now they are here in our own city!’

7. *...and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar [their present legislature], saying that there is ANOTHER KING, ONE JESUS!*

(Acts 17:7)

That is bad news for Caesar – but “**Good News**” for Christians!

8. *And they TROUBLED the people and the RULERS of the city when they heard these things.*

(Acts 17:8)

Why was the City Council, the Churches, and local Police involved in this incident? What did they have in common against these disciples of Christ?

Weren't the Apostles just religious men who taught about the love of God? NO! These weren't gurus or psychologists! These weren't Judeo-Christians trying to save "souls" for an outer-space heaven. Rather, these were reformers! They were spreading "the gospel of the kingdom" – a revolutionary way of life under the Reign of Heaven. They gave the good news of Christ's Reign. They were talking about another FORM of government.

Salvation = Freedom

These were fighting words! Tyrants, dictators, rulers and congresses will never willingly recognize Jesus as their King. To do so would mean they would have to accept Yahweh's laws and could no longer make up their own laws. Making laws is considered the prerogative of rulers. "Sovereignty" is equated with "lawmaking." They can't allow the gospel of Christ's Reign to spread! They would lose their "sovereignty." So, they will call it "sedition," "conspiracy," "anti-Semitic," or "hate crime." They will do whatever is necessary to shut it up and prevent it. Governments consider themselves "sovereign." They are "the state," and they must be in control - they cannot allow people to think that Jesus is in control. They want to rule. They want to be god!

Churches are designed to keep the minds of the people in subjection to "the state." This idolatrous mind set is what Jesus came to "save" us from. Understanding the true Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ SAVES US from Babylonian Priestcraft and the insanity which it inflicts upon the people it enslaves! THAT IS TRUE SALVATION! THAT IS THE REAL GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM! It is anti-statist, and the Bible describes states (and statist, centralized governments) as BEASTS!

Review

A. Yahweh called out a people for a special purpose and named them "Israel."

- 1. ARISE, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of Yahweh is risen upon thee.*
- 2. For, behold, the darkness [Babylonian Priestcraft] shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but Yahweh shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*
- 3. And the Nations shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness*

of thy rising.

(Isaiah 60: 1-3)

There was a period in the early days of America when the “nations” of the world looked to America to learn of freedom. America seemed to be doing things right and was being blessed. So, the nations observed America and learned of her ways.

What was God’s purpose in this?

1. *But now thus saith Yahweh that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O ISRAEL, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.*
9. *Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, it is truth.*
10. *YE ARE MY WITNESSES, saith Yahweh, and MY SERVANT whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.*
11. *I, even I, am Yahweh; and beside me there is no savior.*
12. *I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore YE ARE MY WITNESSES, saith the Lord, that I AM GOD.*

(Isaiah 43 :1, 9-12)

For what purpose did He call Israel? “**Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God!**” Through His dealings with Israel He is showing the world that He is the True God.

3. *And (God) said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, IN WHOM I WILL BE GLORIFIED.*
6. *And he said, It Is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: **I will also give thee for a light to the nations, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.***

(Isaiah 49:3&6)

To accomplish these ends, Yahweh has established Covenants with Israel, and He has used Israel to show His salvation.

B. Israel was “lost.”

9. *And Jesus said unto him [Zacchaeus], This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.*
10. *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

(Luke 19:9-10)

What was lost? The sons of Abraham! The word “lost” is the Greek word APELLUMI which is also used in Matthew 8:23-25 where Jesus and his disciples were out in a boat and a storm came up.

23. *And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.*
24. *And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.*
25. *And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish (apollumi) – (i.e., “we are lost”).*

Now, that is what it means to be “lost.” Then Jesus “saved” them. This also clearly tells who needed saving; who were the sinners; who had fallen from grace; for whom Jesus came.

“*The Son of man has come to seek and save that which was lost,*” Israel was perishing [they were lost in a sea of sin]. They had become inept at navigating the storms. The ship of state was floundering and lost.

1. *Hear this word that Yahweh hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,*
2. *YOU ONLY have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.*

(Amos 3:1-2)

1. *Thus saith Yahweh, Where is the bill of your mother’s divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.*

(Isaiah 50:1)

This is speaking to the descendants of the kingdom of Israel in Judah. Yahweh had “put them away” (divorced them). Israel had abandoned her husband (Yahweh) and was lost because of her sin; her faithlessness and transgressions. She was “put away.”

9. *O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.*

(Hosea 13:9)

He is talking to the “put away” people of Israel; the “lost” of Israel.

1. *O Israel, return unto Yahweh thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.*

(Hosea 14:1)

Can there remain any question as to who was lost?

Who are the sheep that are scattered? Who are the ones that need to be redeemed and brought back into the fold? ISRAEL! The only answer to these questions is ISRAEL.

We’re still talking about the doctrine of salvation, so let’s notice another important point:

C. Israel was saved.

Luke, chapter 1, gives us the answer. This came at the time of the birth of John the Baptist:

67. *And his father Zacharias was filled with the holy spirit, and prophesied, saying,*
68. *Blessed be the Lord God of ISRAEL; for he hath visited and redeemed HIS PEOPLE,*
69. *And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;*
70. *As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:*
71. *That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;...*

(Luke 1:67-71)

The churches tell us we were saved to go to heaven! But that’s not what this Scripture says, is it? It says that we are SAVED from our enemies, and those who hate us!

That’s a different kind of “salvation” than you hear in the churches. They say we are saved to go to heaven, but Zacharias said we are saved when we are delivered from our enemies and all those who hate us!

72. *To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;*
73. *The oath which he swore to our father Abraham,*

74. *That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,*
 75. *In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of OUR LIFE.*

(Luke 1:72-75)

Does that say that Jesus is going to save us to go to heaven, or serve Him in heaven after we die? Scripture plainly says that He saved us from our enemies so that we can serve Him without fear. **But when? And is that in heaven or is it here on earth?**

“All the days of our life” is the time period in which this is supposed to happen. We are saved for the purpose of serving Him *“All the days of our life.”* That means here, now, during this life. **We are saved in, and for, THIS LIFE!**

76. *And thou, child [John] shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;*
 77. *To give knowledge of salvation unto HIS PEOPLE by the remission of their sins,*
 78. *Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,*
 79. *To give light to them that sit in darkness [ignorance and priestcraft] and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

(Luke 1:76-79)

John the Baptist was born the forerunner of Christ, and we are told that “the salvation” which was about to be revealed would be so that Israel could worship their God and live for Him all the days of their lives. It was to give light [understanding] to people [Israel] who sit in darkness [ignorance & sin].

When Jesus was yet an infant, there was a man named Simeon who believed that he would see **“the salvation of Israel.”**

26. *And it was revealed unto him [Simeon] by the holy spirit, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.*
 27. *And he came by the spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,*
 28. *Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,*
 29. *Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:*
 30. *For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,*
 31. *Which thou has prepared before the face of all people;*
 32. *A light to lighten the nations, and the glory of thy people Israel.*

(Luke 2:26-32)

The theme is the same. Israel was created for a purpose: to be “a light’ to the nations of the earth. Jesus redeemed and saved Israel so that Israel could go ahead and do what it was called to do – to become a blessing to the world. Jesus was The Light which has illumined Israel, turning us into Christians so that we could, in turn, reflect the light of Christ into the world. This is the theme of the Bible. Israel was not saved for the purpose of populating an outer space utopia after death! We were saved to minister the truth and righteousness of Jesus right now – “all the days of this life.”

Jesus saved Israel from the sins of the world. She had been lost off in the world, dead in sins, buried in depravity, ignorance, darkness and superstition. Jesus redeemed her and raised her from the dead in the form of the “new bride.” She is now called New Jerusalem, or New Israel. We also refer to her as Christendom [the Dominion of Christ or the Kingdom of Christ on earth]. “Christendom” is a word that was used more often in years past, before people were brainwashed into forgetting the Reign of Christ.

D. The New Covenant was with Israel.

8. *For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days are come, saith the Lord, and I will fulfill a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah [together they form the Kingdom of Israel]:*
9. *Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. (they were alienated).*
10. *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

(Hebrews 8:8-10 – quoting Jeremiah 32:37-42)

E. Israel was the only people who sinned against the Old Covenant ... therefore, they were the only ones who needed to be “redeemed.”

15. *And for this cause he [Jesus] is the mediator of the new covenant, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the FIRST covenant, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

(Hebrews 9:15)

Through Jesus, Yahweh redeemed Israel who had broken the first covenant. This was “salvation” for a people – a family – a nation.

F. Jesus is King today!

7. ...there is another king one Jesus.

(Acts 17:7b)

G. Jesus reigns today!

18. ...ALL AUTHORITY is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

(Matthew 28:18)

25. For he [Jesus] must REIGN, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

(1 Corinthians 15:25)

The denominational churches that teach “dispensationalism” tell us that Jesus can’t reign until sometime in the future - a time they call “the Millennium.” The “dispensationalists” would have Jesus waiting somewhere in outer space until some future time when He is allowed to come back to try again to set up His kingdom, having failed His first attempt.

But that’s not what the Bible says! It tells us that Jesus is reigning right NOW, and He is presently putting His enemies under His feet!

H. We are living in His salvation.

4. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5. Even when we were dead in sins [lost], hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace YE ARE saved;)

6. And HATH raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7. That in the ages coming upon us [not after they are dead, but the ages already begun] he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9. Not of works, lest any man should boast.
10. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,
which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

(Ephesians 2:4-10)

When are these good works? Right now – today!

I. Christians are presently governed under Jesus!

Listen carefully to what Romans 13:1 says:

1. Let every soul be subject unto the higher authorities ...

The King James Version says “powers,” but “authorities” is the correct translation. An “authority” is someone who has been *authorized* by another who is higher. Yahweh [the Highest] “authorized” Jesus. Jesus, in turn, “authorizes” those under Him. Where “authority” is concerned, there is always the chain of authority. Every chain link above you is a “higher authority.” That means that a child is below the authority of his parents. The parents, in turn, are below Christ. This analogy applies to all those in “authority.”

1. Let every soul [man] be **SUBJECT** unto the higher authorities. For there is no authority **BUT OF GOD**: the authorities that be are ordained of God.

Thus, all authority is of God!. That means there are no recognized authorities outside of God’s appointed chain of authority. If someone comes along and claims to be “an authority,” but is outside of God’s law, then he is not a true authority, not authorized, and does not deserve our allegiance!

Applying this simple logic to our day, we can see that there are a great many illegitimate “authorities” that rule unlawfully (i.e., by force). They are fake “authorities”! I don’t care what their title is. Jesus is the only sanctioned means to authority. He is the only one who appoints true authority in heaven and earth. And, He will reign until He has put all of His enemies under His feet. We reign with Him during this time if we are loyal to Him – His kingdom – His authority. We can either reign with Him, or we can live in degradation and darkness by joining those who are fighting against Him. You can’t fight Jesus and win!

Victory IN LIFE TODAY

We have seen what Biblical “salvation” is, but we haven’t dealt with the physical raising of the dead. One purpose of this study was to show that the “salvation” Christ wrought for us upon the cross was much more than a promise of “the physical raising” [“the afterlife”]. In fact, the future raising from the physical grave is another subject unto itself. This particular study has been on the “salvation” of the cross of Christ – not “the afterlife.” The salvation of Christ was for this life. The next life is another subject.

The Bible clearly tells us that a time will come when we will be “raised” from our physical graves – but that is not the “salvation” that He worked on the cross. The salvation on the cross saved us from the present world, IN THIS LIFE. He died on the cross to reach the lost: the spiritually-dead – not the physically-dead. His blood cleanses man’s heart. You don’t have to worry about a sinful heart after you’re dead and in the grave.

Jesus wasn’t crucified to raise people from the physical grave. He had already demonstrated that He could raise people out of their graves. He raised Lazarus. He had worked miracles. His purpose on the cross was to raise people from their spiritual graves during their mortal lives.

4. *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*
5. *Even when we were dead in sins, hath made us alive together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*
6. *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*

(Ephesians 2:4-6)

When men die, their sins are paid. Death is the result of sin, and the ultimate payment for it. *‘The wages of sin is death, but the GIFT of God is eonian life.’* According to God’s law, when a man is dead his sins are settled – whether he was a great sinner or a small one. Therefore, our raising from the grave comes, not because our merits demand it, but because our Creator will freely grant it. It will be simply a gift from a loving, sovereign God. It has nothing to do with our performance in this life. Our performance in this life affects us only in this life.

12. *Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?*
13. *But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: (here, it unquestionably refers to a physical raising from the dead)*

14. *And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*
15. *Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.*
16. *For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:*
17. *And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.*
18. *Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.*

– **Now notice**

19. **IF IN THIS LIFE ONLY** *we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

(1 Corinthians 15:12-19)

In other words, our hope transcends this life. We have hope **beyond** this present life! But notice that this verse admits the subject of “hope” is mostly in reference to this life (but not **ONLY** this life).

The Bible clearly promises life beyond the grave, but it reveals very little about the details and technicalities of that next life: the raising from the grave – probably because it involves matters which cannot be understood by our finite, mortal brains. “*If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?*” (John 3:12). But that is another subject.

Our present concern is with this life, right now. There is no question that we will be resurrected from the physical grave. But the imminent danger for us is that we will fail to understand that Christ has already raised us from our spiritual graves and saved us from the death and darkness of idolatry and its priestcraft. He has also delivered us from bondage to our carnal sin nature.

Christ saves us in this life, and puts us on the right path. Until Christians start thinking along this line, their enemies will continue to trick, enslave and use them because they do not understand who it is that reigns over them. It is not “Satan,” devils, demons, nor even governments of men. Jesus reigns over this earth! He is the King of Israel!

Our Christian brothers have been told that salvation is only for the next life. Let’s tell them the GOOD NEWS. We were saved for this life – to live in Christ’s Kingdom **RIGHT NOW!**

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY GUIDE ON

“THE SOUL”

The English word “soul” in the Old Scriptures is translated from the Hebrew word “**nephesh**” (Strong’s #5315). “Nephesh” comes from another Hebrew word: “naphash”— meaning “to breathe” or “to be breathed upon.”

The rules of usage of the English word “soul” in the King James Bible is somewhat of a mystery as you can see by the following definitions and examples.

According to Gesenius’ Hebrew Lexicon, the Hebrew word “nephesh” has been used to mean:

1. **Breath or breath of life;**
2. **Soul or life;**
3. **The Mind:** the seat of the senses, affections, and various emotions,
 - a. the mode of feeling and acting,
 - b. to will and purpose,
 - c. to understand and the faculty of thinking;
4. **Animal or living creature,** including a man or person as well as a dead person.

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS:

This Hebrew word, “nephesh,” was translated into the following English words by the King James translators (Authorized Version of 1611):

1. **Person(s):** Gen 36:6; Num 35:11, 15,30; Deut 10:22; 2 Sam 14:14; Prov 28:17; Jer 52:29
2. **Man:** Ex 12:16; 2 Kings 12:4; Is 49:8
3. **Body:** Nu 6:6; Nu 9:6,7,10; Nu 19:11, 13,16; Hag 2:13
4. **Creature(s):** Gen 1:21,24; Gen 2:19; Gen 9:10,12,15,16; Lev 11:46
5. **Beast:** Lev 24:18
6. **Thing:** Lev 11:10; Ez. 47:9
7. **Dead:** Lev 19:28; Lev 21:1; Num 5:2; Num 6:11; Num 9:6,7,10
8. **Mind:** Gen 23:8; Deut 18:6; Deut 28:65; 1 Sam 2:35; 1 Chron. 28:9; Jer 15:1; Ez. 23:17,18,22
9. **Heart:** Ex 23:9; Lev 26:16; Deut 24:15; 1 Sam 2:33; 2 Sam 3:21; Prov 23:7; Jer 42:20; Ez 25:6,15

10. **Will:** Deut 21:14; Psa 27:12; Psa 41:2
11. **Appetite:** Prov 23:2; Eccl 6:7
12. **Desire:** Eccl 6:9; Jer 22:27; Jer 44:14; Mica 7:3; Hab 2:5
13. **Lust:** Ex 15:9; Ps 78:18
14. **Ghost:** Job 11:20; Jer 15:9
15. Various pronouns (i.e., **he him, himself, her, herself, me, myself, yourselves, themselves, we, thee, any, anymore, etc.**)
Gen 37:21; Lev 2:1; Lev 4:27; 11:43; Num 23:10; Jos 23:11; Ps 35:25; 105:18; 131:2; Is 5:14; Jer 2:24; 3:11; 40:14
16. **Life/lives:** Gen 1:30; 9:4,5; Ex 4:19; 21:23,30; Lev 17:11,14; Num 35:31; Deut 12:23; 19:21; Jos 2:13,14; 9:24; Jud 5:18; 18:25; 1 Sam 19:5,11; 22:23; 2 Sam 4:8; 19:5,6;; 1 Kings 1:12; 19:2,3; 1 Ch 11:19; 2 Ch 1:11; Job 6:11; Ps 31:13; Ps 38:12; Prov 1:19; Jer 4:30; Jer 19:7
17. **Soul(s):** Gen 2:7; 46:15, 18, 22, 26, 27; Ex 1:5; Lev 23:30; Jos 10:28; 11:11; 1 Sam 24:11; Ps 22:29; Ps 30:3; 33:19; 35:17; 40:14; 63:9; 78:50; 116:8; Prov 6:32; Ez 13:18,19; 18:4,20,27; 22:25:27

The above scripture verses are only a few samples of how the Hebrew word “nephesh” was translated in the King James Version Bible. It would appear that the translators used the word in almost every conceivable way. BUT THEY DID NOT USE IT IN THE WAY THE MODERN CHURCHES USE IT. Neither the Bible usages, nor the definition, suggest an “immortal” or non-dying entity. In fact, many verses clearly indicate that a “soul” can die or be destroyed. The doctrine of the “immortal soul” simply cannot be supported by the Scriptures.

**RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTAL READING ON
THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION:**

Spirits On Trial, by Ben Williams

Rapture Of The Saints, by Duncan McDougall

The Two Babylons, by Alexander Hislop

ACM Kingdom Bible Studies, Lesson 11:
The “Immortal Soul” Doctrine, Part 1