

HOW WERE THE PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT SAVED?

They could not have been saved by keeping the "Law" because James 2:10 says that if we only commit one sin during our entire lifetime, God holds us accountable as if we broke all His laws. *"10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, **he is guilty of all.**" (King James Version)*

In Galatians 3:11 we find, " ¹¹ Now that **no man is justified by the law before God,** is evident: for, The righteous shall live by faith; ¹² and the law is not of faith; but, He that doeth them shall live in them. ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: ¹⁴ that upon the Gentiles might come the blessing of Abraham in Christ Jesus; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." *Galatians 3:11-14 (American Standard Version)*

They could not have been saved because they lived in a different dispensation because everyone who will be saved from Adam and Eve to the last person who will be saved will be saved because of the grace (unmerited favor) of God. In fact, we find in Galatians 3:8, " ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham,** saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." *Galatians 3:8 (Easy-To-Read Version)*

Also, Acts 15:10-11 teaches that the people of the circumcision (the Jews) were saved by grace just as we are. " ¹⁰ Now why are you trying to make God angry by placing a heavy burden on these followers? This burden was too heavy for us or our ancestors. ¹¹ But our Lord Jesus was kind to us, and **we are saved by faith in him, just as the Gentiles are.**" *Acts 15:10-11 (Contemporary English Version)*

" ²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all

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and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ **Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.** ²⁹ Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, ³⁰ since **there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.** ³¹ Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Romans 3:21-31 (New King James Version)

¹ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² **If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God.** ³ What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, **to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.** ⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: ⁷ "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ⁸ Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them." ⁹ Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? **We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness.** ¹⁰ **Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before!** ¹¹ **And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.** So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. ¹² And he is then also the father of the

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circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless,¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead.²⁰ Yet **he did not waver through unbelief** regarding the promise of God, **but was strengthened in his faith** and gave glory to God, **being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.**²² This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."²³ **The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone,**²⁴ **but also for us, to whom God Will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.**²⁵ **He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.**" Romans 4:1-25 (New International Version)

"¹ Standing then acquitted as the result of faith, let us enjoy peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom also, **as the result of faith**, we have obtained an introduction into that state of favour with God in which we stand, and we exult in hope of some day sharing in God's glory.³ And not only so: we also exult in our sufferings, knowing as we do, that suffering produces fortitude;⁴ fortitude, ripeness of character; and ripeness of character, hope;⁵ and that this hope never disappoints, because God's love for us floods our hearts through the

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Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ⁶ For already, while we were still helpless, Christ at the right moment died for the ungodly. ⁷ Why, it is scarcely conceivable that anyone would die for a simply just man, although for a good and lovable man perhaps someone, here and there, will have the courage even to lay down his life. ⁸ But God gives proof of His love to us in Christ's dying for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ If therefore we have now been pronounced free from guilt through His blood, much more shall we be delivered from God's anger through Him. ¹⁰ For if while we were hostile to God we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, it is still more certain that now that we are reconciled, we shall obtain salvation through Christ's life. ¹¹ And not only so, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now obtained that reconciliation. ¹² What follows? This comparison. Through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin, death, and so death passed to all mankind in turn, in that **all sinned**. ¹³ For prior to the Law sin was already in the world; only it is not entered in the account against us when no Law exists. ¹⁴ Yet **Death reigned as king from Adam to Moses** even over those who had not sinned, as Adam did, against Law. And in Adam we have a type of Him whose coming was still future. ¹⁵ But God's free gift immeasurably outweighs the transgression. For if through the transgression of the one individual the mass of mankind have died, infinitely greater is the generosity with which **God's grace**, and **the gift given in His grace which found expression in the one man Jesus Christ**, have been bestowed on the mass of mankind. ¹⁶ And it is not with the gift as it was with the results of one individual's sin; for the judgement which one individual provoked resulted in condemnation, whereas the free gift after a multitude of transgressions results in acquittal. ¹⁷ **For if**, through the transgression of the one individual, **Death made use of the one individual to seize the sovereignty, all the more shall those who receive God's overflowing grace and gift of righteousness reign as kings in Life through the one individual, Jesus Christ**. ¹⁸ It follows then that just as the result of a single transgression is a condemnation which extends to the whole race, so also the result of a single decree of righteousness is a life-giving acquittal which extends to the whole race. ¹⁹ For as through the disobedience of the one individual the mass of mankind were constituted sinners, so

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also through the obedience of the One the mass of mankind will be constituted righteous.²⁰ Now Law was brought in later on, so that transgression might increase. But **where sin increased, grace has overflowed;**²¹ in order that as sin has exercised kingly sway in inflicting death, so grace, too, may exercise kingly sway in bestowing a righteousness which results in the Life of the Ages through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:1-21 (Weymouth New Testament)

"⁸ And Noah found **grace** in the eyes of Jehovah." Genesis 6:8 (Youngs Literal Translation)

Hebrews 10:1-4 says that the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins. It will not pay our sin debt. "¹ For the law, having a shadow of the coming good things, not the image itself of the things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually yearly, perfect those who approach.² Since, would they not indeed have ceased being offered, on account of the worshippers once purged having no longer any conscience of sins?³ But in these [there is] a calling to mind of sins yearly.⁴ **For blood of bulls and goats [is] incapable of taking away sins.**" Hebrews 10:1-4 (Darby's Translation)

They did not "join a church" because there was no church to join.

They did not "get baptized" because there was no one to baptize them.

They were not saved by their good works because, in God's eyes, all their good works looked like filthy rags. "⁶ We are all dirty with sin. Even our good works are not pure. They are like bloodstained rags. We are all like dead leaves. Our sins have carried us away like wind." Isaiah 64:6 (Easy-To-Read Version)

WHY DID GOD SHED THE BLOOD OF AN INNOCENT ANIMAL IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN?

God had shed the blood of an innocent animal in the Garden of Eden in order to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). "²⁰ *The man named his wife Eve, because she was*

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the mother of all living. ²¹ *And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them." Genesis 3:20-21 (New Revised Standard Version)*

Could Jehovah have clothed their nakedness without sacrificing an innocent animal? Of course He could. But God was giving them a reality picture of their need for the sacrifice that His Son, Jesus Christ, would give one day in the future. From that day forward, every Patriarch testified about the coming Messiah each time He offered a sacrifice to Jehovah. As the innocent animal was dying, the people of the Old Testament went to God in prayer and asked forgiveness of their sins. While looking forward in faith, they asked that the sacrifice the innocent Son of God would give one day, pay the sin debt they owed God. **Every sin has to be paid** by either the Messiah or by us. Each time the Patriarch was asked by his friends and family why he was sacrificing animals and birds, he was to explain the gospel to them. He was to tell them about the death of the coming Messiah and he was to invite them to repent of their own sins and accept the coming Messiah as their personal Savior. **It did not take them any more faith to believe that He would die then it takes for us to believe that He has died.** All are saved by faith in Christ because of the grace (the unmerited favor) of God. The age or dispensation of Grace will last from the time of Adam and Eve to the last person who will take advantage of God's glorious plan of salvation (before we go back into unmeasured time, that is to say, eternity).

JEHOVAH'S GRACE, WHEN HE OFFERED SALVATION TO EVERY SINNER, DOES NOT EXCUSE US FROM KEEPING HIS MORAL LAWS.

Each of us is accountable for keeping His moral laws. We will, in this life (if we have accepted Christ as our Savior) or through eternity (if we have not accepted Christ as our Savior) be punished for every unforgiven sin that we commit. We find that *Hebrews 12:5-11* and *Revelation 3:19* (just to name two passages) teach that those who have been adopted into the

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Family of God through God's salvation are chastised here on this earth for unrepented and unforgiven sins.

"⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:5-11 (English Standard Version)

"¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and discipline. So be committed and repent." Revelation 3:19 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

On the other hand, *Romans 6:23* and *Revelation 20:11-15* (just to name two passages) teach that those who **have not** been adopted into the Family of God through God's salvation and consequently have not had their names written in the Lambs Book of Life, will be chastened for eternity for each sin they commit during their lifetime.

"²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 (International Standard Version)

"¹¹ Next I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. ¹² I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the Book of Life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. ¹³ The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool

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of fire is the second death.)¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was thrown into the pool of fire." Revelation 20:11-15 (New American Bible-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

I would suggest to those who want to "miss it for the world" that they commit as few sins as possible because each sin will make the torments in Gehenna (The Lake of Fire) that much greater. *"5but I will show to you, whom ye may fear; Fear him who, after the killing, is having authority to cast to the Gehenna; yes, I say to you, Fear ye Him." Luke 12:5 (Young's Literal Translation of the Bible)*

"10And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death (the grave) and hell (Hades-the place of the spiritual bodies of the departed dead) delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:10-15 (King James Version)

My observation of this world is that each of us must make three major decisions in our lifetime. (1) What will I live my life on this earth in? What will be my occupation? (2) Who will I spend my life on this earth with? Will I marry and if so, who will I marry? (3) Who will I live my life for? Will I live it in service to Jehovah in one of His scriptural churches after seeking salvation or will I grab all the gusto I can from this life and pay the price through eternity?

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ARE YOU GOING TO MISS IT?

FOR THE WORLD?

I WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD!

Yours in Christ,

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