

HOW WERE THE PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT SAVED?

They could not have been saved by keeping the Ten Commandments 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. *“¹⁰For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. In Galatians 3:11 we find ¹¹But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith.”*

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 *“⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.”* Also, Acts 15:1-11 teaches that the people of the circumcision (the Jews) were saved by grace just as we are. *“¹¹No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are” Acts 15:11.* This fact is also taught in Romans 3:24-31, Romans 4:1-25, Romans 5: 1-21 and Genesis 6:8, just to name a few.

Hebrews 10:1-4 says that the blood of bulls and goats can not take away sins. It will not pay our sin debt.

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. *“⁶But we are all like an unclean thing and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.” Isaiah 64:6*

“⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9”

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). 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 for 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 12:5-8 and Revelation 3:19 (just to name two passages) teach that those who have been adopted into the family of God through God's salvation are chastised here on this earth for unrepented and unforgiven sins. 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 will be chastised for eternity for each sin they commit during their lifetime. 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
Quoted from “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*

This was the ministry of the Patriarchs, Jehovah’s’ **first publishers of the good news of salvation from the Lake of Fire. God gave them the ability to do the work by immersing His workers in special Holy Spirit Power (Called the Spirit of the Lord in the Old Testament).**

Unfortunately, most of the Patriarchs failed to take advantage of Jehovah’s free offer for salvation. Because of their failure, **God rejected them and replaced them with a **second** publishing agency.**

WHEN GOD ESTABLISHED THE HEBREW THEOCRACY WITH THE PROGENY OF ABRAM, ISAAC AND JACOB, HE MADE AN ORAL COVENANT WITH THEM ON MT. SINAI. THEY PROMISED THEY WOULD NOT WORSHIP ANY OTHER ELOHIM (THREE MIGHTY ONES) AND GOD AGREED THAT THEY WOULD BE HIS PRIESTS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD (EXODUS 19:1-8).

Exodus 19

¹In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on the very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ²After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain

³Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

⁷So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. ⁸The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

They agreed to observe His moral laws as well as the ceremonial laws, which included the circumcision of each male who participated in the covenant. This was the first covenant of service with the Hebrew Theocracy. We commonly refer to it as the Old Covenant or the Old Testament.

God gave them the ability to do the work by immersing His workers in Holy Spirit Power (Again called the Spirit of the Lord in some Old Testament passages and called the Glory of the Lord in others).

Unfortunately, the Hebrew nation, as a whole, did not do what they covenanted to do and God finally had to reject His **second publishing agency as well.**

Hosea 4:6-7

⁶*my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.*

“Because you have rejected knowledge,

I also reject you as my priests;

because you have ignored the law of your God,

I also will ignore your children.

⁷*The more the priests increased,*

the more they sinned against me;

they exchanged their Glory for something disgraceful.

Ezekiel saw The Glory of The Lord (Special Holy Spirit Power) depart from the Temple and recorded the event in Ezekiel chapters 8, 9, 10, and 11. The last Ezekiel saw of the special Holy Spirit Power that they lost was as ***“the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city” Ezekiel 11:23.***

The Hebrew Theocracy lost special Holy Spirit Power rather than the Holy Spirit, Himself. If they had lost the Holy Spirit, who would have convicted them of their sins and called them to salvation?

“¹This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: ²That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior:

³Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, ⁴And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. ⁵For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: ⁶Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: ⁷But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

⁸But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

⁹The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the

heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 2nd Peter 3:1-10

*“⁴³Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves, **⁴⁴No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:** and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. ⁴⁶Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. ⁴⁷Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.”*
John 6:43-47

As we shared a little earlier in this article, the Hebrew nation, as a whole, did not do what they covenanted to do and God finally had to reject His **second publishing agency as well.**

When Christ came upon this earth, His Father gave Him two tasks to accomplish. The first, and most important, was to give Himself as a payment for the sin debts of each person who would come to him for salvation.

The second purpose was (1) to call out, (2) to train, (3) to organize, (4) to authorize, and (5) to empower a third agency to publish the good news of salvation – His local, scriptural New Testament Churches.

Please allow me to repeat the above statement and give proof from the Holy Scriptures.

The second purpose was to (1) call out (Matthew 4:18-25; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 1:35-49, **(2) train** (there are 23 references in Matthew alone, not counting the other three Gospels, that speak of Jesus training His disciples including Matthew 5:1; 9:37; 12:49; 13:36; 15:12; 16:13; 16:29-24; 17:10; 19:10; 19:23-25; 23:1; 24:1; 26:1; 24:17-46; and 28:7-13), **(3) organize** (Luke 12:32; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1st Peter 2:5; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:11-16 and Ephesians 3:20-21, just to name a few), **(4) authorize** (Matthew 28:18-20; and Acts 1:1-8), **and (5) empower** (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; Acts 3:12; Acts 4:7; Acts 4:33; Acts 6:8; Acts 8:10; Acts 8:19; Romans 15:17-19; 1st Corinthians 2:4; 2nd Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 3:20-21; and 1st Thessalonians

1:5) a **third agency** to publish the good news of salvation – His local, scriptural New Testament Churches.

One day in the future, the members of God's local, scriptural Churches will be presented to Him and will dwell with Him as His Bride (2nd Corinthians 11:1-2; Hebrews 12:22-24; Revelation 19:7; Revelation 21:9-10 and Revelation 21:22-26)

Have you noticed the one distinguishing gift from God that the Bible says He gave to the three authorized agencies that He called to publish the gospel? **IT WAS SPECIAL HOLY SPIRIT POWER.** I cannot find where any other saved person outside of these three agencies had such a large measure of **SPECIAL HOLY SPIRIT POWER** available to them. This **Holy Spirit Power**, of course, was given in order to enable us to do the work we have been called to do. If you know of any such scripture, please consider it your duty to share it with me.

Every saved person, from Adam and Eve to our present day, has the Holy Spirit as their Companion. The Holy Spirit is in constant contact and in constant fellowship with their spiritual (inward) body. We are not referring to that. Every person who has repented of his or her sins and accepted Christ as their Savior has that blessing.

There is a difference, however, between a person who just has **salvation** (and that is very, very important) and a saved person who is surrendering their body as a living sacrifice for **service** through one of His authorized agencies. It was to those servants that God promised Special Holy Spirit Power.

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 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?

ARE YOU GOING TO MISS IT????

FOR THE WORLD???

I WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD!

Yours in Christ,

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