

03-GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

God's plan of salvation has always been the same. The only difference has been that the redeemed people who lived **before** the crucifixion looked **forward** in faith. They asked that the payment Christ would give one day in the future be applied to the sin debt they owed God.

⁶Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."
⁷Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. ⁸The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and **announced the gospel in advance to Abraham**: "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (Galatians 3:6-9 New International Version)

The redeemed who have lived since the cross have looked **backward** in faith and have asked God to apply the payment Christ gave on the cross to the sin debt they owe (1st Peter 2:21-25). Salvation is obtained through faith. The people who were saved before the crucifixion did not need to exercise any more faith to believe He would die than we exercise by believing He has died.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah (Isaia) spoke of the coming Messiah. "6 We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the Lord laid upon Him the guilt of us all." (Isaia or Isaiah 53:6 Confraternity–Douay Version (Saint Joseph New Catholic Edition))

We are not exercising saving faith in Christ until we admit there is nothing we can do to help to gain eternal life. There was not one saved person mentioned in the Old Testament who was baptized or who belonged to a local church. The thief who was saved on the cross (Luke 23:39-43) did not receive baptism nor did he become a member of a local church. Neither are we exercising saving faith until we admit that there has never been anyone else whose merits will pay for our sin debt, not even His mothers merits. " ¹² There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved." Acts 4:12 (New American Bible–United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

" ¹² Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given to men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12 (Douay-Rheims Version, New Catholic Edition)

Your Bible tells us that if we can live our entire life and only commit one sin, the Living God holds us accountable as if we broke all of His laws. " ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it." James 2:10 (New International Version)