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## **Soteriology – The Doctrine of Salvation**

I believe the Bible is the inspired<sup>i</sup> and trustworthy<sup>ii</sup> word of God that declares the story of mankind from creation and the fall of man in Genesis to God's act to redeem and restore His creation in Revelation.<sup>iii</sup> I believe according to God's divine plan He created all that is as a reflection of His glory and created mankind in His image to fill the earth and rule over His creation.<sup>iv</sup> He created man with free<sup>v</sup> will to accept His love and live in relationship with Him. In His divine omniscience<sup>vi</sup> He established a plan to redeem<sup>vii</sup> man from his foreseen<sup>viii</sup> rebellion. Soteriology is the plan to save mankind from the just penalty of his rebellion and restore relationship with a holy God.

### **God Chooses**

I believe God chose Abraham, the direct descendant of Adam,<sup>ix</sup> and his family to be a blessing to all the peoples on the earth and initiate God's redemption plan for all mankind.<sup>x</sup> God promised Abraham a child from his own flesh and descendants to be as numerous as the stars.<sup>xi</sup> God promised Abraham land between the river of Egypt and the Euphrates.<sup>xii</sup> Abraham's wife Sarai bore Isaac.<sup>xiii</sup>

### **God Rescues**

As declared to Abraham, his descendants were enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years, but according to God's intention they would be liberated.<sup>xiv</sup> God prepared, called and empowered Moses through a series of plagues ending with the death of the first born in Egypt except those whose homes were marked with the blood of the lamb.<sup>xv</sup> God instituted the feast of Passover celebrating deliverance from the land of Egypt.<sup>xvi</sup> Following the miraculous dividing of the Red Sea,<sup>xvii</sup> Moses was given the Law by God<sup>xviii</sup> and established the tabernacle<sup>xix</sup> and sacrificial system requiring a blood sacrifice for the people to experience His presence.<sup>xx</sup>

### **God Promises**

David, of the family of Abraham,<sup>xxi</sup> is established as king over Israel.<sup>xxii</sup> David planned to build a permanent temple for the Lord and God makes a covenant with David to raise up a descendant after him whereby God will establish his kingdom and he shall build a house for the Lord and the Lord will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.<sup>xxiii</sup> David would be the king promised to Abraham to bring a blessing for all the people. God promises His kingdom would last forever<sup>xxiv</sup> becoming the basis for the hope of a Messiah.<sup>xxv</sup>

### **God Saves**

Jesus begins His ministry declaring, "the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."<sup>xxvi</sup> Jesus, in the family line of David,<sup>xxvii</sup> perfectly fulfills the law and the prophecies<sup>xxviii</sup> comes as the Passover lamb,<sup>xxix</sup> declared innocent,<sup>xxx</sup> to offer his blood to cover the sins of all men.<sup>xxxi</sup> I believe Jesus offers salvation from the just penalty of sin<sup>xxxii</sup> to all who repent of their sins<sup>xxxiii</sup> and believe in Him.<sup>xxxiv</sup> Salvation through Jesus cannot be earned,<sup>xxxv</sup> but is a gift of grace available to all men.<sup>xxxvi</sup> A gift so complete<sup>xxxvii</sup> no sin is too great to ever overcome the saving power<sup>xxxviii</sup> of the grace bestowed on those who believe.<sup>xxxix</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Many scriptures in both the OT and NT proclaim that the human writers of Scripture were given visions, prophecy and words by God through the Holy Spirit to be given for the purposes of warning, instruction, training Deut.29:29, Jer. 1:9, Hab. 2:2, 2Tim.3:16, 2Pet. 1:20-21.

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<sup>ii</sup>Bill Bright, "Is the Bible Trustworthy," 2004, Crosswalk.com, <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/is-the-bible-trustworthy-1262196.html> ; Ps. 119:160, Jn. 17:17, Luke 21:33, Heb. 6:18; For centuries the Scripture has been challenged and proven to hold up to criticism as truth.

<sup>iii</sup> The story of creation, Gen.1-2; The fall of man, Gen.3, The story of redemption and new creation, Gen 1 – Rev. 22.

<sup>iv</sup> Gen. 1:26-30.

<sup>v</sup> Gen. 2:16-17, Deut. 30:19, Mark 8:34, Jn. 1:12-13, Jam. 1:13-16, Rom. 10:9-10, Rom. 13:2; These Scriptures establish free will given to mankind following creation to choose to follow God's commands, and to choose to accept or reject the sacrifice of Jesus to redeem us from our sin.

<sup>vi</sup> His understanding is unsearchable. Isa. 40:28; He knew us before we were born. Ps. 139:13-16, Jer. 1:5.

<sup>vii</sup> Rom. 3:23, Rom. 6:26, Rom. 5:8, Jn. 3:16, Jn. 1:12, Eph. 2:8-9.

<sup>viii</sup> Eph. 1:4, Rom. 11:2, Rom. 8:29. God provided a path of redemption for us before creation.

<sup>ix</sup> Gen. 5:1-32, 10:1-32, 11:10-31 list the descendants of Adam to Abram, son of Terah.

<sup>x</sup> Gen. 12:1-3, 15, 17, 21 Known as the Abrahamic Covenant, God chooses Abraham to be the father of a great nation to bless "all the peoples of the earth." Through his wife Sarai, he was given a son Isaac to inherit the land of Canaan and be the father of His chosen people.

<sup>xi</sup> Gen. 15:4-6.

<sup>xii</sup> Gen. 15:18.

<sup>xiii</sup> Gen. 21:1-3

<sup>xiv</sup> Gen. 14:13-14, Ex. 12:41.

<sup>xv</sup> Ex. 12:1-13

<sup>xvi</sup> Ex. 12:1-50.

<sup>xvii</sup> Ex. 14:13-31.

<sup>xviii</sup> Ex. 20:1-26.

<sup>xix</sup> God instructs Moses to build the tabernacle. Ex. 25:1-9, God's presence fills the tabernacle. Ex. 40:34.

<sup>xx</sup> The prophet Isa. 7:13-25

<sup>xxi</sup> 1 Chron. 1:28-2:15.

<sup>xxii</sup> 2 Sam. 5:2.

<sup>xxiii</sup> David plans to build a permanent temple. 2 Sam. 7:1-7; God makes a covenant with David.

<sup>xxiv</sup> The Lord's promise to David is that his kingdom shall never end. 2 Chron. 7:18, Ps. 89:3-4, Jer. 33:14-17.

<sup>xxv</sup> Old testament scriptures regarding the coming of the Messiah. Gen. 49:10, Num. 24:17, 19, Ps. 60:7, Ps. 2:7-9, Isa. 42:1,4.

<sup>xxvi</sup> Mark 1:15, Jesus came to save sinners. 1 Tim. 1:15.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Matt. 1:1-25, Luke 3:23-38. Jesus a descendant of David.

<sup>xxviii</sup> Matt. 5:15.

<sup>xxix</sup> John the Baptist introduces Jesus as the Passover lamb who comes to take away the sin of the world. Jn. 1:29; Jesus was sacrificed on Passover. Jn. 19:14, Mark 15:25.

<sup>xxx</sup> Judas declares Jesus innocent. Matt. 27:4; Pilate declared Jesus innocent. Lk. 23:4.

<sup>xxxi</sup> We are saved by the blood of Jesus. Matt. 26:28, Heb. 9:14, Eph. 1:7, 1 Pet. 2:24.

<sup>xxxii</sup> The penalty from sin is death. Rom. 6:23, Rom. 5:8

<sup>xxxiii</sup> The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. Mark 1:15; Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. Acts 2:38; If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1Jn. 1:9, Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. 1 Cor. 15:3.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Repent and believe in Jesus and you will be saved from the just penalty of your sins. Jn. 3:16, Rom. 10:9, Eph. 2:8, 1 Jn. 5:13.

<sup>xxxv</sup> The law cannot save us. Heb. 10:1-4, Rom. 8:3; Salvation cannot be earned. Eph. 2:8-9;

<sup>xxxvi</sup> The angel declared at Jesus' birth, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for "all the people;" today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.; The grace is available for all people. Tit. 2:11, Rom. 1:16.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Jn. 19:30, Jesus proclaims "It is finished." The work of atonement is complete and cannot be undone; Heb. 9:24-26, The old covenant has been replaced with a new covenant.

<sup>xxxviii</sup> 2 Cor. 5:21 The gift of Jesus bestows on us the "righteousness of God in Him." If believers are secured by the righteousness of God, no sin or power can separate us from Him.; Rom. 8:38-39, Paul declares that no power can separate us from the love of God.; Jn. 10:28-29 Upon receiving the gift of eternal life, no one is able to "snatch them out of His hand." This promise is secured by the almighty power of God the Father.

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<sup>xxxix</sup> 1Jn. 5:12-13, John follows his writing on the great power of God's love in chapter 4 to assure believers that He who has believed in the Son has eternal life.