



## Saved from What?

### Merry Christmas/Happy Advent!

December 20, 2020

#### Holy Texts: Luke 2:1-21 (Focus on verses 10-11)

**Luke 2:10-12 (KJV)** *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Saviour**, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

Today, I'd like to put before you two questions, and hopefully answer them:

1. What does “Savior” mean?
2. What are the “saved” saved from?

In the answer to these questions, we find the real meaning of the Advent...the coming of Jesus, or the Christmas season!

#### What does “Savior” mean?

1. In our Text, the angel declared that the tidings—the news— was good and should produce great joy! Why?
2. A Savior is born!
  - **Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)** *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*
  - **Galatians 4:4-5 (KJV)** *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*
3. In Luke 2:11, the word **Saviour** (KJV spelling) is “sōtēr” in Greek. It means “a deliverer.” Its usage in many other passages indicates such:
  - **Acts 5:29-31 (KJV)** *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.*
  - **2 Timothy 1:7-10 (KJV)** *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*

- **Philippians 3:20-21 (KJV)** *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: **21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*
  - **Titus 2:11-14 (KJV)** *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; **14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*
4. The coming of a **Savior** or Deliverer declares something important: **that we need one!** This point is made more emphatic when we consider who Jesus is: the Son of God and God the Son! Only God could save us!
- **Colossians 1:15-19 (KJV)** *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: **16** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: **17** And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. **19** For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;*
5. Jesus came because we need saving; we need deliverance; we need emancipation; we need rescuing! From last year's Christmas message, even His name says as much:
- Jesus is *lēsous* in Greek. *lēsous* is the Greek transliteration (way of writing) the Hebrew name *Yeshua* or *Yehoshua*.
  - The English spelling of *Yeshua* is "Joshua" and the English spelling of *lēsous* is "Jesus."
  - **Jesus (Joshua in Hebrew) literally means "Jehovah is Salvation."**
  - God Himself showed up to save His people!
6. Just and devout Simeon, who was led of the Holy Spirit to perceive the baby Jesus when He was presented at the Temple by His parents, was glad to see God's provided *sōtērion*; His salvation!
- **Luke 2:29-32 (KJV)** *Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: **30** For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, **31** Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; **32** A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*
7. But why? Why do we need a Savior?
- **Matthew 1:18-21 (KJV)** *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. **19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing*

to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. **20** But while he 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 Ghost. **21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

### **Saved from what?**

1. So we know that we Jesus came to save His people from their **sin**. But what does that mean? Does it mean the saved are saved from...

- An arduous life?
- A life devoid of joy or fun?
- A life where “purpose” or “destiny” is missed?
- The inability to self-actualize?
- A lack of money or resources?
- Failure to live your best life now?

Despite the consistent cultural (and even church!) messages that affirm the above, the answer is **NO!**

8. Thankfully, when our LORD saves us He guides us and provides for us. But the true answer is also extremely unpopular: **We are saved from the wrath of God...from the judgment to come!**

- **Matthew 3:7-8 (KJV)** *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:*
- **John 3:36 (KJV)** *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*
- **Romans 2:3-6 (KJV)** *And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? **4** Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? **5** But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; **6** Who will render to every man according to his deeds:*
- **Ephesians 5:6 (KJV)** *Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*
- **Colossians 3:5-6 (KJV)** *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: **6** For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

9. Beloved, **God is loving, but God is also holy and just** and must punish all transgression of His laws, also called sin. (1 John 3:4) He will do this at the coming Judgment:

- **Acts 17:30-31 (KJV)** *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: **31** Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*
- **Romans 6:23 (KJV)** *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- **2 Corinthians 5:10 (KJV)** *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*
- **Revelation 20:11-15 (KJV)** *And 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. **12** And 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. **13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. **14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

10. The wrath of God culminates in eternal punishment in a terrible place called Hell. In the Old Testament, it was often referred to in Hebrew as *She'ôl*. In the New Testament, the Greek word *Gehenna* or *Hades* is often used. There are various metaphors and symbols associated with these words, but the bottom line is this: they point to a place of conscious, eternal punishment away from the Presence of the LORD for those who die in their sins. It is a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth; outer darkness, burning and brimstone where the worm dieth not and fire is not quenched...

- **Psalms 9:17 (KJV)** *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*
- **Matthew 8:11-12 (KJV)** *And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. **12** But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
- **Matthew 10:28 (KJV)** *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*
- **Matthew 13:41-42 (KJV)** *The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; **42** And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*
- **Mark 9:43-44 (KJV)** *And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: **44** Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.*
- **Matthew 25:41 (KJV)** *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

- **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 (KJV)** *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **9** Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*
- **Revelation 14:9-12 (KJV)** *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, **10** The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: **11** And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. **12** Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

11. Sadly, but with total justification, dying in one's sin means the judgment of Hell. **But Jesus "saves" us from this deserved punishment! Beloved:**

- **John 8:24 (KJV)** *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*

**But...**

- **John 3:16 (KJV)** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- **John 5:24 (KJV)** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*
- **John 6:40 (KJV)** *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

### **What must you do to be Saved?**

**Mark 1:14-15 (KJV)** *Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, **15** And saying, *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

1. **Repent of your sins.** (Repent is from the Greek: *metanoēō*. It means to change one's mind; to shift one's thinking about sin and become sorrowful; to know one's state before a holy God. To repent is to see one's sin as exceedingly sinful (Rom 7:13) and, by God's grace, turn from it and to God in Christ.)
2. **Believe in Jesus Christ.** (Believe is from the Greek *pisteuō*. It means to trust or have faith in. To believe is to trust in Christ's finished work for salvation!)

The writer of Hebrews said:

- **Hebrews 2:3 (KJV)** *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;*
- **Hebrews 2:9 (KJV)** *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*
- **Hebrews 12:1-2 (KJV)** *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

God offers us a great salvation!

Christ came to take our sins upon Himself, suffer, and die for us!

Look to Jesus alone for salvation; He alone is our Savior!

Amen!