

SALVATION

101

Jesus is the Son of God. He came to this earth as the Son of God and to be the Christ, the Messiah. Yes, Jesus was “God-Man.” He was 100% God, for He was the Son of God. He was also the Christ, the Messiah, because He was also 100% man, being born of Mary.

We must know without a shadow of a doubt that Jesus “always was.” God, the Father, Jesus (God, the Son) and God, the Holy Spirit, “always were.” They have no beginning and they will have no end. Neither one came first. They were just “always there.” All things were created by God, the Father, through the Word, Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit. The angels were first. Then this world was created. All things were created by a “divine fiat” from God.

The term “divine fiat,” is the concept of an “authoritative command,” given by God, in which something is created out of **absolutely nothing**. This explains the concept of creation as seen in Genesis 1:1. In that scripture we learn that there was a world that God had created out of absolutely nothing. That world, unfortunately, became defiled by the forces of darkness.

In Genesis 1:2, we see God sent the Holy Spirit to throw those forces of darkness that were upon that world, this earth, off of it. God then began a “restoration process” of this earth. However, those forces of darkness always tried to come back and pervert this earth – again.

We read that God speaks the phrase, “*Let there be...*” (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, etc.) We read that after each of these utterances something was created - from nothing. We read that God brought forth different aspects of creation into existence. It is only God that can speak a “divine fiat” and create something from absolute nothing. We see this declared in Psalm 33:9, which states, “*For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.*”

From the beginning we see that God had created all things. His final creation was “man.” Man was created out of the dust of the earth, which God had created out of nothing except His spoken word. Man was created last but he was created to have authority over all of God’s creation. However, as we know, it was the sin of not fully believing and trusting in God and His the Word that caused man to ultimately sin and lose all the authority that God had given him.

However, God spoke the possibility of salvation immediately over man. He first gave them the opportunity to simply repent of their sin. Instead, they chose to refuse by blaming every one else instead of taking responsibility for their own actions. They rejected God's love. They rejected the availability to be "set at one again" with God.

However, before God removed them from the Garden, He chose to speak forth the "divine fiat" of salvation, the availability of being brought back into relationship with their God. We see this in Genesis 3:15 as God declares, "*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*" He did not do this when the angels rebelled against Him. But...He established it for man.

God spoke and put forth into existence the way of salvation. That way was to come through someone who could destroy the works of the devil and bring relationship back to the One true living God. Genesis 3:15 is speaking about Jesus.

It refers to the fact that the devil may kill the human aspect of Jesus, as we know he did on the cross. However, Jesus will destroy, and did destroy, the devil's rule over man by defeating the devil while in hell and taking the keys of death and life away from the devil. Jesus then gave man the ability to have not just life, but eternal life with God. This became available when Jesus rose from the dead and presented Himself to the Father in Heaven on that Resurrection Sunday. All "man" needs to do is believe and accept that truth.

Man could never get back that relationship on their own. That is why God established a plan to restore that relationship – through a "Messiah." To make it even better, it also was done by the Son of God. It could never be accomplished by any one person because every man would have some sin within him. Man could never be "sinless" because man is born with a sinful nature because of what Adam and Eve had done.

God established the process through His relationship with Abram to show the people who He was and to show them that God desired to set them back into relationship with Him. We know that did not work out. God knew this would happen. God knew relationship would only become truly available through a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the people. It could only come through a man who had no sin within them. It could only come through a "God-man."

That is where the concept of “Messiah” was first brought forth – first to Israel and then ultimately to be available for every person who would be on this earth. Belief in the eventual coming of the “Messiah” is a basic and the most fundamental part of Judaism. However, we must always remember that, Jesus came and, yes, He is the Messiah, but... He is also the Son of God.

The elements of the coming of Messiah were as follows: the Messiah would establish the ingathering of all the exiled Israeli people back to Israel. The Messiah would establish the rebuilding of Jerusalem. Messiah would come from the line of King David and be King over all Israel. The Messiah would oversee the completion of the restoration of Temple and its service. Ultimately, the Messiah would establish and invoke the rewards for righteousness.

The term “messiah,” or in Hebrew, "mashiach," does not mean "savior." It literally means "the anointed one." It refers to the ancient practice of anointing kings with oil when they took the throne. The “mashiach” is the one who will be anointed as the true King in the End of Days.

The Jewish people believe Messiah will be a great leader descended from King David (Jeremiah 23:5). The Messiah is often referred to as "mashiach ben David" (messiah, son of David). He will be well-versed in Jewish law, and observant of its commandments (Isaiah 11:2-5). He will be a charismatic leader, inspiring others to follow his example. If we look closely in all the Gospel accounts, we see that Jesus did all of these things at His first coming.

This Jewish Messiah will also be a great military leader, who will win battles for Israel. He will be a great judge, who makes righteous decisions (Jeremiah 33:15). We know that this will all take place at His second coming when Jesus defeats the “anti-christ” and all the forces of darkness.

It has been said by the Jewish “spiritual authorities” that in every generation, a person is born with the potential to be the messiah. If the time is right for the messianic age within that person's lifetime, then that person will rise up and be their messiah. But if that person dies before he completes the total mission of the messiah, or if he does not fulfill everything that the messiah should do, then that person was not the messiah – and they will keep waiting.

Even though the Jewish people believe that messiah will be one who will come to set the political atmosphere for Israel straight, they also say at the same time, that this “messiah” will bring about the political **and spiritual redemption** of the Jewish people by bringing them back to Israel and restoring Jerusalem (Isaiah 11:11-12; Jeremiah 23:8; 30:3; Hosea 3:4-5).

We must realize and know that this is where Jesus, who is the Messiah **and** who is the Son of God, has now brought **all who believe**, back into spiritual relationship with our God. He has redeemed our life from death. He has crowned us with His loving kindness. (Psalm 103:4)

This Messiah will establish a government in Israel that will be the center of all world government, both for Jews and gentiles (Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:10; 42:1). He will rebuild the Temple and re-establish its worship (Jeremiah 33:18). He will restore the religious court system of Israel and establish Jewish law as the law of the land (Jeremiah 33:15). As we know, through the scriptures, that this will all be fulfilled by Jesus at His second coming.

Throughout their long history, the Jewish people have renewed the messianic hope during times of persecution and suffering, but that hope seemed to have always become dim when the Jewish people lived in peace and security. They would get satisfied and forget about their God. This has been the pattern of the Jewish people as seen throughout the scriptures. Isn't this what we sometimes do – even though we do not want to admit it. Hmmm.....

We see that Jesus did and will do all these things. He first gave us the ability to be restored back to God. Spiritual redemption came first. We are now able to become “born again.” Our spirit is made alive and we become a new creation in and through Jesus. But...He will come again to restore all things. He will rule on this earth for the 1000 year millennial reign.

Jesus came to this earth to restore people back to the truth of who God really was. He came to restore the people back to the truth of everything found within the first five books of the Bible – the Pentateuch. God's desire was to get all man to come back into relationship with Him. The Hebrew people were to be the example for all to follow suit.

God chose Abram for no other purpose but to work through Him with the desire to make people see who God really was for the purpose of restoring them back into relationship with

Him. Unfortunately, they failed. They were destined to fail on their own. Why? Because they were sin-filled people. God wanted to show man that they could never do it on their own.

They would need someone to help them get back into true relationship with their God. The Jewish people's failure paved the way for the true path of salvation – Jesus. Yes, He was to be the Messiah. He was to set the people back on the right path back into relationship with their God while they were on this earth. However, He also was the Son of God who would provide a way to have eternal life with God, forever and ever in eternity. Jesus did this through His resurrection. Yes, Jesus was and is both, the Messiah and He is the Son of God.

As stated in the beginning, Jesus was, is and always will be, the Son of God. He came to this earth, as a man, to encourage us to get back to the basics and be the child of God in which God desires each of us to be. He lived His life teaching us the basics of what that really means. His teaching was not difficult to follow. Yet, it was difficult to truly believe if you were not really interested in living a lifestyle that was pleasing to God. Hmmm.....

People loved the healing. They loved the deliverance from the devil. They loved the miracles. They loved the many the perks of being with Jesus. But...would they truly believe in Him for who He truly was. When things got difficult, where did they all go???

That is the question that is still out there today. We love God's grace and mercy but do we truly love our God by choosing to put our flesh under our feet and by doing what God wants us to do whether it is easy or difficult? Am I willing to give up my life on this earth for the joys and blessings of eternal life in heaven?

We must believe all that Jesus did for us. Not just the miracles while He was walking this earth but do we believe all that He did for us? He died for you and me. Yes, Jesus died a horrible death. He died for all of our sinfulness. He died for all of our wickedness and evil. He took the punishment that each of us truly deserved for our own sin. Instead, He took our place. He took all of our sins that we have done, the sins of the entire earth, of all man, upon Him while He was on that cross.

He didn't only die for our sins but...He also took our punishment in the pits of hell. He had the forces of darkness upon Him. He was mocked and jeered on by not just men but by all the forces of darkness. But...

Three days later, He made an open show of them all. He threw them off of Him. He took the keys of death and life away from Lucifer, himself. He opened the doors of Abraham's bosom. All those who were waiting for their Messiah were set free and allowed to enter into paradise with Him.

Jesus rose from the grave. He rose from the dead. He rose out of hell. He went and presented Himself to the Father and brought forth the gifts of redemption, Himself. The Father accepted all that was done. Salvation was now available to everyone who would believe.

We have been given the Holy Spirit to lead us, help us and guide us throughout our lives until the day of Jesus return. Until that time comes, our main goal, our main objective, is to live a life that is pleasing unto Him. And... we are to tell others about the Good News of salvation through Jesus.

Yes, Jesus is the central figure of our faith. We believe that He was and is the Messiah but also Jesus is the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity. The prophets who wrote hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, envisioned a messianic age as a period of universal peace, in which war and hunger are eradicated, and humanity accepts God's sovereignty. This is all true concerning Jesus. However, that speaks of His second coming.

The prophets foretold of this Messiah as the one who would cause us to turn back to God. Jesus does this. However, ultimately, as the Son of God, Jesus gave us true salvation, eternal life, by resurrecting from the dead. Through Jesus, the believer is now betrothed (engaged) to Jesus and we are waiting for His return to take us away to be with Him as His bride.

Salvation 101 is very, very simple. It is the basics of our faith. Everything else can be discussed and agreed or disagreed on. I know that sounds a little far fetched. But hey, let's face it. There will always be some who see things one way and some who see things another way or some who do not see anything at all. The most important thing about being a true

believer in Jesus is that we must agree on the basic foundations of our faith. That is what God sees as the only way of salvation – Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life...

In John 17, we read of the prayer that Jesus prayed for His disciples, both at that time and I believe it is for us even in this hour. In John 17:15-17 we hear the heart of Jesus as He prays, *“I pray not that thou should take them out of the world, but that thou should **keep them from the evil**. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* Yes, God’s Word is the truth!!!

Notice, that Jesus does not pray that we should be taken out of this world but rather He prays that we should be **kept from evil**. That is interesting. We are to be in the world but we should keep ourselves from the evil things that are in this world. Obviously, this is difficult. Therefore, Jesus prays to the Father to help each of us to be kept from the evilness that is in this world.

The evilness that Jesus is speaking of are the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. (1John 2:16) These are the categories of sin that is in the world today. Yes, we need God’s help in these areas. We can not do it in our own strength or ability. We need God.

John 17:22,23 tells us that Jesus prayed, *“And the glory which thou gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”*

Jesus’ desire is that all those who are truly His would be one, just as the Father and Jesus are one. If we are walking in that oneness with our God, and with each other, than the world will know that Jesus came from the Father. God loves each and every person on this earth.

May we stop bickering about “things” and doctrines but get back to the true bottom line basics of the faith in God. Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus came to this earth. Jesus died for our sins. Jesus took the punishment for our sins. Jesus rose on that third day from the dead and went to be with the Father. We now have been given the Holy Spirit to help us until Jesus returns.

When Jesus does return, we will rule and reign with Him on this earth for 1000 years. After which, we will then be with the Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit, forever and ever in that “New Jerusalem.” Praise the Lord and Amen!!!