Who is Our Savior?

Mark Sappingon Given on January 6, 2024

We have just come through the Christmas season in the western world. However, today, January 6, marks the day when the Greek Orthodox Church and the Russian Orthodox Church celebrate their Christmas. The difference between December 25 and January 6 (and sometimes January 7) originates from the shift in calendars from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar which was mandated in October 1582 by the Roman Catholic Church because of accumulative inaccuracies in the Julian Calendar.

Astronomers had noticed that the dates of the Julian calendar were getting further and further away from astronomical occurrences including solstices and equinoxes.

So, over the centuries since 1582, more and more western countries adopted the Gregorian Calendar. The shift in time was 12 days. However, the Greek Orthodox and Russian Orthodox Churches continued to use the Julian Calendar instead. So, these eastern churches celebrate Christmas on December 25 of the Julian Calendar which is January 6 in the Gregorian Calendar. This 12-day shift between the two dates of Christmas is the basis for what is known as "the twelve days of Christmas."

In this Christmas season universally observed by the modern Christian world, innumerable pronouncements and celebrations have been made concerning Jesus being born and being our Savior.

The question, however, to ask ourselves is whether Jesus is our only Savior.

In my sermon this afternoon entitled "Who Is Our Savior?", I would like to explore the subject of who is our Savior in order to accomplish our Heavenly Father's plan of salvation for humanity. We will cover this subject in three main points.

However, first, as always, we must define our terms, not just in English, but also in the original languages of the Bible.

According to the <u>Merriam-Webster Dictionary</u>, the word *savior* means "one who saves from danger or destruction, one who brings salvation."

In Hebrew, the word most often translated as the noun *savior* or *deliverer* in English is actually not a noun but is a verb participle used as a descriptor. The Hebrew verb for *to save* or *to deliver* is *yasha*, <u>Strong's</u> #3467.

In Hebrew just like in English, we have participle forms of the verb. Just like we have the verb "to save", we have the participle forms of that verb which are "saved" and "saving". For example, we can say "the saved man" or "the saving grace". The same is true in Hebrew.

Who is Our Savior? Page 1 of 14

The verb form *moshiya* is the hilfil form of this same verb yasha used as a participle "saving". However, the hilfil form of Hebrew verbs has a causative connotation. Therefore, the term *moshiya* literally means "causing to be saved" or "causing salvation".

So, the literal meaning of the Hebrew word *moshiya* translated as "savior" is "the one who causes to be saved" or "the one who causes salvation".

In Greek, the word translated as the noun *savior* in English is *sotér*, <u>Strong's</u> #4990, meaning "savior" or "deliverer", the same meaning as in Hebrew.

So, in both Hebrew and Greek, the words translated as *savior* have the meaning of "one who saves or delivers".

The title for the sermon this morning is:

Who Is Our Savior

The first point in answering the question "Who is our Savior?" is:

1) Jesus the Anointed One is our Savior

I think that we would all agree that all Christian churches believe that Jesus Christ (Jesus the Anointed One) is the savior of the world.

In Luke 2 an angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds in Judea. This birth was the fulfillment of the prophecy in Amos 5:2 concerning that the birth of the Messiah or Anointed One would be in Bethlehem and the angel announced that Jesus was a Savior.

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (KJV)

We all know the account of Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman at the well in the town of Sychar in Samaria. Later, that woman told the Samaritans in that town about Jesus and consequently, the multitude of Samaritans responded favorably toward Jesus.

John 4:42 And [the Samaritans] said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ [the Anointed One], the Saviour of the world. (KJV)

So, Jesus was viewed as the Anointed One of Yehovah and as the Savior of the world. In Acts 5. God Our Father exalted Jesus to be our Savior.

Acts 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

Who is Our Savior? Page 2 of 14

31) Him hath God [the God – God Our Father] exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. (KJV)

The prophecies of the Messiah or Anointed One all showed that the promised Anointed One would come through the lineage of David.

Acts 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

23) Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: (KJV)

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi that Jesus the Anointed One is our Savior.

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: (KJV)

Paul also wrote to Timothy about our Savior.

2 Timothy 1:10 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: (KJV)

He also wrote to Titus about our Savior.

Titus 1:4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. (KJV)

The Apostle Peter wrote about Jesus being our Savior too.

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: (KJV)

The Apostle John wrote that God Our Father sent His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world.

- **1 John 4:10** Herein is love, not that we loved God [the God God Our Father], but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- 11) Beloved, if God [the God God Our Father] so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
- 12) No man hath seen God [the God God Our Father] at any time. If we love one another, God [the God God Our Father] dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Who is Our Savior? Page 3 of 14

- 13) Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.
- 14) And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.
- 15) "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God [the God God Our Father] dwelleth in him, and he in God. (KJV)

Since I interrupted the flow of this section of scripture by stopping and substituting each occurrence of our Heavenly Father in the sentences, let's reread this passage with these substitutions.

- **1 John 4:10** (Retranslated) Herein is love, not that we loved God Our Father, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- 11) Beloved, if God Our Father so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
- 12) No man hath seen God Our Father at any time. If we love one another, God Our Father dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.
- 13) Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.
- 14) And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.
- 15) "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God Our Father, God Our Father dwelleth in him, and he in God Our Father. (KJV)

The Apostle John states in verse 14 that God Our Father sent His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world. That fact was a huge part of Jesus' ministry. There are 38 occurrences in the four books of the Gospels where Jesus announced that He was sent by His Heavenly Father.

Let's read just a few of these announcements beginning in John 9, and we will read a verse concerning Jesus healing the blind man.

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. (KJV)

In John 11 we read where Jesus prayed to His Father just before the resurrection of Lazarus.

John 11:42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. (KJV)

In John 12, Jesus was talking with certain Greeks in Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover.

John 12:49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. (KJV)

Who is Our Savior? Page 4 of 14

Again, in John 17, we read where Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane on Passover night before His arrest.

John 17:25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these [His disciples] have known that thou hast sent me. (KJV)

In John 20 the resurrected Jesus was greeting His disciples late in the afternoon on the Sunday during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. (KJV)

This important concept which Jesus proclaimed again and again was that God Our Father, Yehovah, the God that the Jews worshipped sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world.

So, it is very evident and easily provable in the books of the Gospels, in the preaching of Peter, and in the epistles of Paul, Peter, and John that Jesus the Anointed One is our Savior.

The second point in answering the question "Who is our Savior?" is:

2) God Our Father is our Savior

The concept of God Our Father being our Savior is most often overlooked and not explored in most churches. But much evidence in the Bible directly proves that our Heavenly Father is indeed our Savior.

Again, we believe and have proven that God Our Father is the Yehovah of the Old Testament. With that knowledge in mind, let's turn to a few Old Testament scriptures which proclaim that God Our Father is our Savior. Let's begin in 2 Samuel 22.

- **2 Samuel 22:1** And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:
- 2) And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;
- 3) The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence." (KJV)

David knew Yehovah as his Savior. God Our Father was his shield, his high tower, his refuge, and his Savior. In Psalm 106, David lamented that the Ancient Israelites forgot Yehovah, their Savior, when they were waiting for Moses at Mount Sinai.

Psalm 106:16 They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the LORD.

17) The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram.

Who is Our Savior? Page 5 of 14

- 18) And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.
- 19) They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image.
- 20) Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass.
- 21) They forgat God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt; (KJV)

In Isaiah 43 the prophet Isaiah proclaimed the words of Yehovah, God Our Father and God Our Father proclaimed that He was the Holy One of Israel and their Savior.

Isaiah 43:3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. (KJV)

Again, in Isaiah 49, Isaiah proclaimed the words of our Heavenly Father proclaiming that He was their Savior and Redeemer.

Isaiah 49:25 But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contends with thee, and I will save thy children.

26) And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob. (KJV)

This proclamation is repeated in Isaiah 60

Isaiah 60:16 Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shalt know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob. (KJV)

Yehovah or God Our Father proclaimed to Israel and Judah that He was their Savior. In Luke 1 the angel Gabriel came to Mary to announce that she would become pregnant with the Son of God.

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. (KJV)

Later in the chapter, we can read of Mary's acceptance of this and her reply to Gabriel in verse 46.

Luke 1:46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47) And my spirit hath rejoiced in God [the God – God Our Father] my Saviour. (KJV)

So, Mary was chosen to become pregnant and to give birth to the Son of God. The question is: "Who was Mary's God?" Again, Mary was a Jew living in Judea, and her God was Yehovah, who was the Father of her Son, Jesus. Again, Yehovah was and is God Our Father. So, God Our Father was her Savior.

Who is Our Savior? Page 6 of 14

In 1 Timothy 1 the Apostle Paul announced that God Our Father is our Savior.

- **1 Timothy 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope:
- 2) Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. (KJV)

The Greek construct in this sentence points to the commandment of two Beings – God Our Father and Jesus Christ. The first Being – God Our Father – is our Savior.

- **1 Timothy 2:1** *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;*
- 2) For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
- 3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
- 4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
- 5) For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (KJV)

In verse 3, Paul refers to God as our Savior, and in verse 5, he differentiates between God and the mediator, Jesus the Anointed One. So, God in this context is God Our Father, and consequently, God Our Father is our Savior.

In many scriptures of the Bible, God Our Father is referred to as the living God. Matthew 16 is one of those references.

Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. (KJV)

Jesus is the Son of the living God, so the living God is God Our Father. During Jesus' trial at the Sanhedrin, the high priest refers to Yehovah as the living God, because the Jews believed that Yehovah was their living God.

Matthew 26:63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. (KJV)

Therefore, in the Bible, the living God is Yehovah – God Our Father. In 1 Timothy 4. the Apostle Paul discusses the living God.

1 Timothy 4:10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially of those that believe. (KJV)

Therefore, Paul refers to God Our Father as the living God who is the Savior of all men. In Titus 1 the Apostle Paul further discusses our Heavenly Father being our Savior.

Who is Our Savior? Page 7 of 14

Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

- 2) In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;
- 3) But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour; (KJV)

In verse 3, through the grammatical construct in Greek, "God" is *the* God – God Our Father. Therefore, God Our Father is our Savior.

In Titus 2, Paul again equates our Heavenly Father with being our Savior.

Titus 2:10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. (KJV)

With the same Greek grammatical construct, "God" is *the* God – God Our Father and again in Titus 3. Paul shows that God Our Father is our Savior.

Titus 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

- 5) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost:
- 6) Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; (KJV)

Verse 4 refers to God being our Savior. The God in verse 4 also saved us according to His mercy, and in verse 5, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, which that same God shed on us abundantly through Jesus our Savior. So, that God is God Our Father who is our Savior (verse 4) as well as Jesus the Anointed One (verse 6).

From so many verses in the Old Testament and New Testament, it is readily clear from the pages of the Bible that God Our Father is our Savior.

The third point in answering the question "Who is our Savior?" is:

3) The plan of salvation requires two Saviors

The purpose for man's existence as shown in the Bible is to become part of our Heavenly Father's spiritual family as His own spiritual sons and daughters.

In Romans 8 we will read my favorite verse in the Bible.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (KJV)

Who is Our Savior? Page 8 of 14

So, Jesus is the Son of our Heavenly Father and we will be spiritual brothers with Jesus, all being the children of our Heavenly Father. We will have eternal life living in our Heavenly Father's Kingdom. That, in a nutshell, is the Gospel message. It is a message of spiritual salvation and eternal life for all who will love our Heavenly Father and obey Him. But what is the plan of salvation of our Heavenly Father?

John 3, is the most well-known and repeated verse in all the Bible. This verse concisely sums up the Gospel message.

John 3:16 For God [the God – God Our Father] so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17) For God [the God – God Our Father] sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (KJV)

Why does the world need saving? In Romans 6, we will read another very well-known and repeated verse.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God [the God – God Our Father] is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (KJV)

So, the penalty for sin, any sin, all sins, every one of them, is death, not physical death, but spiritual eternal death. But who has sinned? In Romans 3, we will read another well-known scripture.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God [the God – God Our Father]; (KJV)

How are sins and transgressions forgiven so that we are not condemned to eternal spiritual death?

Hebrews 9:22 In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. (NLT)

So, blood must be shed for the forgiveness of sin. But now, the question is what blood? Forgiveness did not come from the shedding of the blood of animal sacrifices.

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (NLT)

The answer is given in Hebrews 9. There is only one blood which forgives sins.

Hebrews 9:11 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world.

Who is Our Savior? Page 9 of 14

12) With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves – He entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. (NLT)

So, Jesus was our ultimate sacrifice who paid the penalty of our sins with His blood. In Romans 3, we continue to read about sin and redemption.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God [the God – God Our Father];

- 24) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- 25) Whom God [the God God Our Father] hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God [the God God Our Father]; (KJV)

We all have sinned and have come way short of our Heavenly Father's glory. Jesus willingly paid the penalty of our sins so that we can be washed clean and be redeemed by our Heavenly Father and be reconciled to Him.

- **2 Corinthians 5:20** Now then we are ambassadors for [in the stead of] Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God [the God God Our Father].
- 21) For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (KJV)

Jesus, the Son of our Heavenly Father, perfect in every way, spotless from sin, paid the penalty of our sins with His own life. In Colossians 1 Paul discusses the means of our redemption to our Heavenly Father.

Colossian 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

- 13) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
- 14) In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: (KJV)

We are redeemed by our Heavenly Father by the blood of His Son, Jesus the Anointed One. In 1 Peter 1 we read the Apostle Peter's words concerning the redemptive blood of Jesus.

- **1 Peter 1:18** Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
- 19) But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (KJV)

Who is Our Savior? Page 10 of 14

Peter proclaimed that there is no other way to spiritual salvation except by and through Jesus the Anointed One.

- **Acts 4:8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,
- 9) If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole:
- 10) Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.
- 11) This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.
- 12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (KJV)

There is no other way to spiritual salvation and to eternal life in our Heavenly Father's Kingdom except through Jesus the Anointed One by His shed blood and His selfless sacrifice for us in our stead.

In that way, Jesus the Anointed One is our Savior. Without Him and His shed blood and His death, we have no salvation. We cannot even begin to have a hope of salvation without Him and His selfless sacrifice.

But the death of Jesus in itself is not enough to give us spiritual salvation. Jesus' death itself does not give us eternal life. His death paid the penalty for our sins so that we may receive eternal life. But something else is needed and this important concept is mostly overlooked by the churches of the world. That something else was performed by another Being. We read about this other Being in Romans 5.

Romans 5:8 But God [the God – God Our Father] commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- 9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
- 10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God [the God God Our Father] by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (KJV)

What does this verse 10 mean? Is this verse talking about being saved by the physical life of Jesus? No. It is talking about being saved by the spiritual life of Jesus, which He returned to at His resurrection from the dead.

We read these verses in Acts 5 earlier, but they add much meaning now in the actions of our Heavenly Father.

Acts 5:30 The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on a cross.

Who is Our Savior? Page 11 of 14

31) Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as Prince and Savior. He did this so the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be forgiven. (NLT)

These verses show that God Our Father resurrected Jesus and exalted Him back to being at His right hand for the forgiveness of our sins. The whole deep meaning of the Wave Sheaf Offering is the acceptance by God Our Father of Jesus and His sacrifice after Jesus' resurrection.

After Jesus had spoken with His disciples after His resurrection, He left them and returned to our Heavenly Father.

Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

So, Jesus was received by God Our Father after He had resurrected Jesus, and He put Jesus back in the place of honor at the Father's right hand. The Apostle Peter preached that our hope lies in the resurrection of Jesus the Anointed One.

- **1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, (KJV)

So, our hope for spiritual salvation lies in the resurrection of Jesus the Anointed One by God Our Father.

The Apostle Paul tells us that without the resurrection of Jesus, our faith is in vain. Even though Jesus died for us and shed His blood for us, without His resurrection, our faith and our hope is in vain.

- **1 Corinthians 15:12** Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?
- 13) But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:
- 14) And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.
- 15) Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.
- 16) For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:
- 17) And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.
- 18) Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.
- 19) If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.
- 20) But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.
- 21) For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

Who is Our Savior? Page 12 of 14

- 22) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
- 23) But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. (KJV)

Brethren, the Apostle Paul wrote that without the resurrection of Jesus from the dead by our Heavenly Father, there is no salvation. Our faith is in vain, and we are still in our sins.

Consequently, God Our Father is our Savior, because without His resurrection of Jesus from the dead, we have no spiritual salvation. The plan of salvation requires two Saviors:

- (1) Jesus the Anointed One, who humbled Himself to be born a human and who willingly allowed Himself to be tortured and killed as a perfect sacrifice for our sins, which allows us to be made clean by His blood and to be reconciled to our Heavenly Father; and
- (2) God Our Father, who through His immeasurable power resurrected Jesus from His physical death and placed Him back at His right Hand. We are saved by the resurrected life of Jesus by God Our Father.

Today, we have explored the subject of identifying who our Savior is and we explored this subject with three points, which are:

1) Jesus the Anointed One is our Savior.

Over and over again in the pages of the New Testament, Jesus the Anointed One is referred to as our Lord and Savior.

2) God Our Father is our Savior.

Over and over again in the pages of the Old Testament and New Testament, God Our Father, being Yehovah and the God, is referred to as our Savior.

3) The plan of salvation requires two Saviors.

Again, there is no other way to spiritual salvation and to eternal life in our Heavenly Father's Kingdom except through Jesus the Anointed One by His shed blood and His selfless sacrifice for us in our stead. In that way, Jesus the Anointed One is our Savior. Without Him and His shed blood and His death, we have no salvation. We have no hope of salvation.

But brethren, again, without the resurrection of Jesus from the dead by our Heavenly Father, there is no salvation. Consequently, God Our Father is our Savior, because without His resurrection of Jesus from the dead, we have no spiritual salvation.

Who is Our Savior? Page 13 of 14

Because God Our Father loved humanity so much, He and His Son put forth a plan of salvation which offers eternal life with Them forever and ever. This plan took both of Them to implement.

We all, as called-out ones of our Heavenly Father, have the opportunity to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our God Our Father and His Son, to overcome our sins with the power of the Holy Spirit, and to enter our Heavenly Father's Kingdom at the resurrection of the Firstfruits.

The great majority of our members are getting very advanced in age. So many of us have health problems and age-related illnesses and debilitations. Many of us suffer in constant pain and deep discomfort. Our Heavenly Father has shown us the wonderful indescribable future in His Kingdom that He holds out for us. In His Kingdom, we will never be sick; instead, we will be vibrant and healthy. We will never be tired; instead, we will possess endless energy. In Revelation 21, we read about our future and the future of all humanity who will turn their hearts to our Heavenly Father and obey Him.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

- 4) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.
- 5) And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.
- 6) And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.
- 7) He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. (KJV)

Our future is to inherit all things from our Heavenly Father, the physical universe and the spiritual universe, living an eternity with our Heavenly Father and with Jesus. Just imagine living forever in the presence of our Heavenly Father, living forever with boundless energy and endless happiness and joy. We will never grow old. We will never feel decrepit and fatigued. This future vibrant life awaits us because our Heavenly Father and Jesus first loved us and continue to love us so dearly. Part of this immense love is shown in Their plan of salvation and that plan of salvation requires that we have two Saviors.

So, brethren, who is our Savior? As we have explored in this sermon, our Savior is Jesus the Anointed One, and our Savior is God Our Father.

What a wonderful story of love, of sharing, of sacrifice, and of ultimate joy in our Heavenly Father's Kingdom.

Let's always praise our Heavenly Father and rejoice in our incredible eternal future!

Who is Our Savior? Page 14 of 14