

SALVATION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The NT did not begin until the death of Christ. The gospel time period was still under the Old Testament. The New Testament and its contents may be found in Jeremiah 31:31-34. The nature of the New Testament is completely spiritual: God would put his law in their inward parts and write it in their hearts, he would be their God and they would be his people, and that all of them would know the LORD, and that he would forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more. It is important to note that this New Covenant is made with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not with the Gentiles.

It appears that one of the mysteries that Paul writes about in his epistles deals with the fact that the Gentiles have been grafted into something and that something is debatable. In Romans 11:16-27, Paul talks about how the Gentiles are partakers with the Jews of the root and fatness of the olive tree. The root without a doubt is Jesus Christ (Revelation 22:16, Ephesians 2:11-18, Ephesians 3:6). What is this tree? Paul also says in Romans 15:27 that the Gentiles have been made partakers of the Jews spiritual things. In Ephesians 3:6, Paul writes that the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of God's promise in Christ by the gospel. We know that God has been doing something with the Gentiles for almost 2,000 years and this was a mystery and hidden in God and not revealed until the Apostle Paul. The Church is somehow tied into the NT, since we receive forgiveness of sins. Suffice it to say, the New Covenant was made specifically with Israel and Judah and that the church has been made partakers of the commonwealth of Israel by the blood of Christ. This may be referring to the kingdom of God, which was taken from the Jew, because they murdered their Lord and Christ, and was given unto the Gentiles (Matthew 21:33-44).

Salvation in Acts

The Book of Acts is a record of the Acts of the Apostles. We see a new Apostle, Paul, given a new gospel to proclaim to the Gentiles. He was the apostle to the Gentiles. To Peter was committed the gospel of circumcision and to Paul the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed (see The Different Gospels). We see in the gospels that Jesus gives power to his apostles (see Mark 16:15-20; Matthew 16:19; 18:18; John 20:22-23)

Look at the follow passages:

- Acts 2:37-42
- Acts 8:12-17
- Acts 8:30-39
- Acts 11:34-48
- Acts 13:38-39
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People received the Holy Ghost differently in the book of Acts. Remember Acts is a transitional book: from Old Testament to New Testament, from Peter to Paul, from Jew to Gentile, from the kingdom of heaven preached, to the kingdom of God preached. Laying on of hands, being baptized, and the Holy Ghost just fell upon them are a few of

the ways the Holy Ghost was given in a few chapters in Acts. As the Lord reveals more to the Apostles, especially Paul, we get a better understanding of the dispensation of the grace of God, the church age. Salvation in the book of Acts varies. Whatever the Apostles said to do, and you did that, you were saved. However by Acts 15, they all conclude that we are saved only by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dispensation of the Grace of God

Salvation during the church age is by grace through faith alone, with no works involved (Romans 3:28, Eph 2:5-9). We receive the Holy Ghost after we trust and believe the gospel (Eph 1:13). We are sealed until the day of redemption (when we get glorified sinless bodies like Christ). We should be baptized after we are saved. If anyone preaches salvation any other way than by believing Paul's gospel (1 Corinthians 15) he is accursed of God. Anyone teaching salvation today by faith and works, or by Sacraments, or by Mary, or whatever else is accursed of God (Galatians 1:6-9). Notice how all Catholics, Pentecostals, etc go to Matthew, Mark, Luke, Hebrews, James, Peter, Revelation, and the OT to "prove" salvation is by faith and works and that you can lose your salvation. They are twisting the Scriptures to their own destruction (2 Peter 3:15-16) because they are not rightly dividing the word of truth. Again, every heresy and false doctrine is a Bible truth misplaced (usually). Salvation during this dispensation is by grace through faith alone.

Tribulation Period

Salvation is now based upon faith and works. Why is it works again? Mainly because the mark of beast will be around and the Bible is clear that whosoever receives the mark of the beast will burn for eternity.

Look at I John 5:16-17

The mark of the beast (Revelation 13:16-18)

Tormented with fire and brimstone that receive the mark of the beast (Revelation 14:9-12). The unpardonable sin in the tribulation is receiving the mark of beast, or worshipping him, or his image.

It looks like eternal salvation is received by faith of Christ, obeying his commandments, and not receiving the mark of the beast. Some might argue that in order for a tribulation saint to be saved, they not only need to refuse the mark, but **MUST** obey the commandments (some suggest this is the Torah) to be saved. Just having the faith of Jesus and believing on him and refusing the mark of the beast doesn't do it, but that plus works of the law. This can be a possibility.

They refer to places in the gospels where Jesus says that whosoever endureth unto the end shall be saved (Matthew 10:22). The word "endureth" appears only 2 times in the gospels (the other in John 6:27). Another word they use is "overcometh." Look at 1 John 5:4-5. The word overcometh appears 8 times in Revelation. 7 regarding the 7 churches (Revelation 2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21) and 1 in Revelation 21:7. Look at Revelation 22:14.

We can at least say that they need to refuse the mark of the beast for sure, and that they must have the faith of Jesus. Works, meaning obeying the Law of Moses, may have to be done in order to inherit eternal life.

Millennial Reign, Dispensation of the kingdom

Since faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1), faith does not come into play for someone's salvation during Christ's reign. Mainly because Christ is there visibly, you can see him. Here Christ reigns with a rod of iron. A Third Temple will be rebuilt and sacrifices made. (Ezekiel 40-48; Zechariah 14:21). The Messiah will build the Temple and bear the glory (Zechariah 6:12-13). We know the Feast of Tabernacles will be kept every year and they, Jew and Gentile, shall worship the King, the LORD of hosts (Zechariah 14:16). This is the time of that Paul speaks of in Colossians (2:16-17). All those things mentioned in these verses are all taking place when the LORD is on the throne in Jerusalem (Ezekiel 40-48).

Eternal salvation is by works alone, by keeping his commandments (Revelation 22:14) like it was in the Garden of Eden. If they obey God, they have right to the tree of life. In the Garden of Eden eternal life was received by obeying the Lord and eating of the tree of life and not eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. During the millennial reign, eternal life is attained by keeping his commandments so you can have the right to eat fruit that will give you eternal life. Those that obey have right to the tree of life (Revelation 22:14) See also Isaiah 65-66 for more information about the millennial reign of Messiah.