

SHAPED2LIVE

"The Eternal Durability Behind Our Salvation"

"The Gift and The Covenant in Salvation"

Class Purpose:

My overall goal in this brief study is not to discuss all the nuances of salvation itself. My goal is more so directed towards looking at why we can have confidence in it at all. In other words, we will briefly look at why we can place our faith and trust in Yehovah's gift of salvation through Yeshua the Christ.

To give you a hint— It is because it is directly tied to WHO is the author and keeper of the covenant of our redemption through salvation.

Let's begin:

As Christians, the only reason that we have any confidence in salvation and what it has promised us is because of our belief and trust in the One that has provided it for us, Jesus the Christ.

Question:

Why do we stand on this foundation so firmly? Do we truly know and understand it or the purpose and the Person that offers it?

Without this knowledge, everything else that we want to believe about God, the Bible and what it says and even what it says about us places us on a very shaky foundation that threatens to crumble under our feet, leaving us full of questions and doubts—

Let's start by defining "salvation."

1. The act of saving; preservation from destruction, danger, or great calamity.
2. Appropriately in theology, the redemption of man from the bondage of sin and liability to eternal death, and the conferring on him everlasting happiness. This is the great *salvation*

(Webster's 1828 Dictionary)

So, what was the "destruction, danger or calamity" that we are saved from?

ANSWER: The fallen nature in every living, breathing person on this planet and the resulting judgment.

SHAPED2LIVE

How did we get into this state of being?

ANSWER: Romans 5:12

"as sin came into the world through one man, and death as the result of sin, so death spread to all men, [*no one being able to stop it or to escape its power*] because all men sinned."

Why did it "spread to all men"?

ANSWER: Genesis 2:7; 21-23

"Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath or spirit of life, and man became a living being." (v.7)

"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam; and while he slept, He took one of his ribs or a part of his side and closed up the [*place with*] flesh.

And the rib or part of his side which the Lord God had taken from the man He built up and made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

Then Adam said, This [*creature*] is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of a man." (v.21-23)

Did anything stand out for you? One He (God) breathed into, and the other He did not— Adam was the "prototype" for humanity—

And just to clarify the disobedience that was committed that led to man's fallen condition through Adam, let's look at Genesis 2:16,17; 3:6,7,9-11

This leads us into the covenant aspect of salvation. The covenant of "redemption..."

Let's look at the definition of redeem and covenant.

REDEEM: *1. To purchase back; to ransom; to liberate or rescue from captivity or bondage, or from any obligation or liability to suffer or to be forfeited, by paying an equivalent; as, to redeem prisoners or captured goods; to redeem a pledge. (Webster's 1828 Dictionary)*

COVENANT: *"The covenant of redemption is the mutual agreement between the Father and Son, respecting the redemption of sinners by Christ." (Webster's 1828 Dictionary)*

Did you notice in Webster's definition of the covenant that we were not included in the "mutual agreement"?

SHAPED2LIVE

A QUOTE:

"This objectification of the divine activity of love is brought out most strongly when it is credited with eternal durability. Man cannot annul the covenant; if he breaks it, this only means that he is violating its conditions. The majesty of divine love shows itself in this, that God alone has the power to dissolve the relationship, yet never makes use of it. Hence Yahweh's glorious Name now becomes *somer habb rit w'hahesed* = '*He which keepeth covenant and mercy*'" (Theology of The Old Testament Volume One by Walther Eichrodt)

Now that we know the "why." Let's look more closely into the WHO...

We can all agree that salvation and all that comes with it is a gift from God, and there is nothing that we can do to earn the privilege of being given such a gift, according to Ephesians 2:8-9.

For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God;

Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.]

So, what makes this gift so binding and powerful that it can transcend all time of past, present, and future?

IT IS ALL TIDE IN THE "WHOM"...

As I pointed out in Webster's definition, the agreement is between Father and Son. But it goes even greater and higher than that—

QUESTION:

Why do you think that I said that "it goes even greater and higher than that"?

Firstly, it is essential to note that when we think about Jesus. We have to think **IS** and never **WAS**... This will become clearer as we continue looking more in-depth into scripture.

For salvation to be completely binding; and transcend the past, present, and future. It has to be eternally binding by one that is also eternal and, therefore, does not change. There is no other way— So, when we look at and think about God who has revealed and continues to reveal that He is eternal, which means that he has no beginning or end. He just IS!

SHAPED2LIVE

Let's look at a few scriptures:

Exodus 3:13,14

"And Moses said to God, Behold, when I come to the Israelites and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they say to me, What is His name? What shall I say to them?

And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM and WHAT I AM, and I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE; and He said, you shall say this to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you!"

Isaiah 45:5a

"I am the Lord, and there is no one else; there is no God besides Me."

Isaiah 43:11

"I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me, there is no Savior."

Psalms 23:1-3

"A Psalm of David. THE LORD is my Shepherd [*to feed, guide, and shield me*], I shall not lack.

He makes me lie down in [*fresh, tender*] green pastures; He leads me beside the still and restful waters. [*Rev. 7:17.*]

He refreshes and restores my life (my self); He leads me in the paths of righteousness [*uprightness and right standing with Him--not for my earning it, but*] for His name's sake."

Ezekiel 34:11,12

"For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I Myself, will search for My sheep and will seek them out.

As a shepherd seeks out his sheep in the day that he is among his flock that are scattered, so will I seek out My sheep; and I will rescue them out of all places where they have been scattered in the day of clouds and thick darkness."

Deuteronomy 7:9

"Know, recognize, and understand therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, Who keeps covenant and steadfast love and mercy with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations,"

If the promise of salvation stopped with what we have established here, we could be fine, but it does not. Remember, the salvation that we have is based on the sacrifice that Jesus made in the shedding of his blood and laying down of his very life. And we in the church say that what makes this so significant is that not only was he the son of God but that he IS God!

Here is the challenge that is often given by those who do not believe and has been made by those that say they are Christians.

Copyright © 2019 Patrick Grayson-Denmark. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.
www.shaped2live.com

SHAPED2LIVE

"Jesus never said that he is God."

QUESTION:

Is this an accurate statement?

ANSWER:

IT IS NOT!!!

I selected specific scriptures that show Jesus speaking himself and not what someone else is saying about him to prove my point.

John 8:56-58

"Your forefather Abraham was extremely happy at the hope and prospect of seeing My day (My incarnation), and he did see it and was delighted. [*Heb. 11:13.*]

Then the Jews said to Him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?

Jesus replied, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, before Abraham was born, I AM. [*Exod. 3:14.*]"

Yeshua making this statement was a direct reference to Exodus 3:14 when Yehova was talking to Moses.

"And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM and WHAT I AM, and I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE; and He said, you shall say this to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you!"

Here is Yeshua making a direct statement as to who He is. To show that they understood what He was saying, in verse 59, it says, "they took up stones to throw at Him." This is because of the claim that He was making.

John 14:15

"If you [*really*] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands."

Notice that Yeshua did not say keep the Father's commands or keep Yehovah's commands. He said, "My commands." To show why this would be problematic if He is claiming to be someone that He is not, read Deuteronomy 7:9, which says,

"Know, recognize, and understand therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, Who keeps covenant and steadfast love and mercy with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations,"

Here is the LITV (Literal Translation of the Holy Bible) of the same verse.

"Because of this, know that Jehovah your God, He is God, the faithful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to those who love Him, and to those who keep His commands, to a thousand generations;"

Notice to whom it is referring? "Jehovah, your God."

SHAPED2LIVE

John 10:11,14,18

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [*own*] life for the sheep. [*Ps. 23.*]

I am the Good Shepherd; and I know and recognize My own, and My own know and recognize Me—

No one takes it away from Me. On the contrary, I lay it down voluntarily. [*I put it from Myself.*] I am authorized and have power to lay it down (to resign it) and I am authorized and have power to take it back again. These are the instructions (orders) which I have received [*as My charge*] from My Father."

When Yeshua is speaking here, He is directly referencing Psalm 23:1-3 and Ezekiel 34:11,12. Look at how Psalm 23:13 reads from the LITV.

A Psalm of David. "Jehovah is my shepherd; I shall not lack. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me to waters of rest; He restores my soul; He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

Who does David say is his shepherd?

Ezekiel further seals the deal on this—

"For so says the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks his flock in the day that he is among his scattered sheep, so I will seek out My sheep and will deliver them from all the places where they were scattered in a day of cloud, and thick cloud." (LITV)

This final scripture is the one that first sealed it for me!

John 2:18-21

"Then the Jews retorted, What sign can You show us, seeing You do these things? [*What sign, miracle, token, indication can You give us as evidence that You have authority and are commissioned to act in this way?*]

Jesus answered them, Destroy (undo) this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again. Then the Jews replied, It took forty-six years to build this temple (sanctuary), and will You raise it up in three days?

But He had spoken of the temple which was His body."

Here again, Yeshua does not say that the Father, or Yehova, "will raise it up again." He says, "**I will** raise it up again."

Forgive me for stating what may be apparent. Even though we have seen in other scriptures of people being raised from the dead by someone else. We have not read that I mere man, nor a dead man can raise himself from the dead—

SHAPED2LIVE

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT:

- 1) How does this knowledge help you and your trust in God?
- 2) Do you now look at Jesus any differently than you did before?
- 3) What will you do the next time someone says to you, "Jesus never said that he is God"?