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**“Come, Let Us Reason Together” About the Bible**  
**What Is Salvation?**  
**Bible Study Series**

*“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)*

**LESSON EIGHT Is Salvation By or Through Jesus?**

*Estimated Reading Time: 7 - 9 minutes*

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Take a moment to reflect on what you've learned so far in your study on salvation. Salvation has been explained as a means for deliverance. Precisely, it is the deliverance that comes from sin and its eternal consequences. Paul put it plainly in Romans 6:23, saying, **“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** That contrast between death and life points us directly to Jesus. It's not just a matter of being saved. It's about being saved *in Christ*.

Sin is universal. No one escapes its stain. Romans 3:23 tells us, **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** That means all of mankind need salvation. Without God's mercy and grace, there is no hope for salvation. Remember Titus 3:5? **“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us...”** It's not about earning our salvation; it's about accepting God's gift and responding the way He requires.

Even though salvation is a gift, it isn't automatic. It requires a living, obedient faith. James made that clear in James 2:17: **“Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”** So, while you don't earn salvation by works, you also don't receive it without obedience. Faith must move us to action. Obedience is not optional. It's essential! Hebrews 5:9 drives the point home: **“He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”**

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**Where does Jesus fit into all of this?**

To answer that question, you first need to understand what it means to say that Jesus is the *Messiah*. The word **“Messiah”** comes from a Hebrew term meaning **“Anointed One.”** In Greek, that word is **“Christ.”** The Messiah was God's promised Deliverer and not a political revolutionary or a military hero. He is the **only** one who would/could rescue people from sin.

The Old Testament is filled with prophecies about this coming Savior. Isaiah prophesied that He would be born of a virgin: **“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel”** (Isaiah 7:14). Micah foretold the very place of His birth: Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). The prophets also revealed that He would come from the family of David (Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5-6). Perhaps most moving of all are the prophecies about His suffering—Isaiah 53 paints the picture: **“He was wounded for our transgressions... by His stripes we are healed.”**

All of this, and more, was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

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But here's the twist: when Jesus came, many didn't recognize Him as the promised messiah.. The Jews were expecting a king to overthrow Rome, not a humble teacher who preached about repentance and forgiveness. In John 6:15, you see the people trying to force Jesus into being a political king, but He withdrew. Later, even His own disciples were still confused, asking in Acts 1:6, **"Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"**

Jesus explained it clearly: **"My kingdom is not of this world"** (John 18:36). His mission was spiritual, not political. But because He didn't meet their expectations, the Jewish leaders rejected Him. John 1:11 tells us, **"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him."** In a heartbreaking moment, the crowd cried out, **"Let Him be crucified!"** (Matthew 27:22-23). Yet, even this tragic rejection was part of God's eternal plan. Acts 2:23 says Jesus was **"delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God."**

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### **The story doesn't end at the cross.**

Jesus didn't stay in the grave. He arose, just as He promised. The angel said in Matthew 28:6, **"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said."** His resurrection wasn't just a miracle, it was proof that He is the Son of God (Romans 1:4). He appeared to many and then ascended into heaven. In Acts 1:9-11, you can read how He was taken up into a cloud, and now reigns at the right hand of God. Peter preached boldly in Acts 2:36: **"God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."**

That passage should bring you to the heart of the matter: **Salvation is through Jesus Christ and no one else.** Acts 4:12 is clear: **"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."** And in John 14:6, Jesus said it plainly: **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."**

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### **When did this salvation through Jesus begin?**

It began at the cross. As Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, He said in Matthew 26:28, **"This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."** Hebrews 10:10 adds, **"We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."**

After Jesus ascended, His gospel, the good news of salvation, was first preached in its fullness on the Day of Pentecost. Peter told the people plainly in Acts 2:38, **"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."** That was the beginning of the church, the spiritual kingdom Jesus came to establish.

### **Why is salvation by or through Jesus?**

Because He's the only one who *can* save us. He was the perfect sacrifice. Hebrews 9:26 says, **"He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."** He's the only mediator between us and

God. (1 Timothy 2:5) He fulfilled the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 5:17). There is no other way to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

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### **But when does salvation become real in your life?**

It isn't just about knowing that Jesus saves, it's about responding to that truth in faith and obedience. The Bible outlines the path clearly:

1. **Hear the Word** – *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Romans 10:17).
  2. **Believe in Jesus** – *“If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins”* (John 8:24).
  3. **Repent of sin** – *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized...”* (Acts 2:38).
  4. **Confess Christ** – *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus... you will be saved”* (Romans 10:9-10).
  5. **Be baptized for the remission of sins** – *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved”* (Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16).
  6. **Live faithfully** – *“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life”* (Revelation 2:10).
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### **In conclusion...**

Salvation is by Jesus, the One who fulfilled prophecy, died for your sins, arose from the dead, and now reigns in heaven seated on the right hand of God. He is the *only* way to eternal life. As Hebrews 5:9 reminds a reader: ***“Having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”***

So, the question isn't *Is salvation by Jesus?* The answer is yes.

The real question is, **have you obeyed Him?**

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### **Questions to Confirm Understanding**

*Estimated time to answer the questions: 4 –5 minutes. With scripture lookup: 30 minutes.*

Read and answer the following set of questions about this lesson, and circle your answer: “True | False” or “Yes | No.” Look up the scriptures provided to confirm your answers. Then compare your answers with the Answer Key provided after these questions.

1. **True | False** Salvation is described as deliverance from sin and eternal separation from God. (Romans 6:23)
  2. **True | False** All people are born righteous and do not need salvation. (Romans 3:23)
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3. **True | False** Salvation is based on God’s mercy and not earned by you own righteousness. (Titus 3:5)
4. **True | False** Grace plays no role in you salvation according to the Bible. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
5. **Yes | No** Can faith alone, without obedience, save a person? (James 2:17)
6. Is obedience a necessary part of receiving salvation? (Hebrews 5:9)
7. **True | False** The title “Messiah” means “Anointed One” and refers to Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 7:14)
8. **Yes | No** Was the Messiah prophesied to be born in Bethlehem? (Micah 5:2)
9. **True | False** Jesus came from the lineage of David. (Isaiah 11:1)
10. **Yes | No** Did the Old Testament predict that the Messiah would suffer and die for sins? (Isaiah 53:5)
11. **True | False** Many Jews in Jesus’ time were expecting a political Messiah. (John 6:15)
12. **True | False** Jesus taught that His kingdom was not of this world. (John 18:36)
13. **Yes | No** Was Jesus rejected by His own people? (John 1:11)
14. **Yes | No** Did the Jewish leaders’ rejection of Jesus fulfill God’s plan? (Acts 2:23)
15. **True | False** Jesus rose from the dead just as He said He would. (Matthew 28:6)
16. **True | False** Jesus is declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection. (Romans 1:4)
17. **Yes | No** Is salvation available through any name other than Jesus? (Acts 4:12)
18. **Yes | No** Did Jesus say He is the only way to the Father? (John 14:6)
19. **Yes | No** (Matthew 26:28)
20. **Yes | No** Can someone be saved without obeying the gospel plan (hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, being baptized, and living faithfully)? (Revelation 2:10; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10; Mark 16:16)

### Answer Key

*Estimated time to read the answers: 15 - 20 minutes. With reflection and contemplation: 40 minutes.*

1. Salvation is described as deliverance from sin and eternal separation from God. *Romans 6:23* **True**  
*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*  
 Salvation offers eternal life, delivering mankind from the penalty of sin—spiritual death.
2. All people are born righteous and do not need salvation. *Romans 3:23* **False**  
*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*  
 Everyone has sinned, meaning no one is righteous without God’s forgiveness.

3. Salvation is based on God's mercy and not earned by you own righteousness. *Titus 3:5* **True**  
*"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us..."*  
 Works alone cannot earn salvation. It is granted through God's mercy.
4. Grace plays no role in you salvation according to the Bible. *Ephesians 2:8-9* **False**  
*"For by grace you have been saved through faith... it is the gift of God, not of works..."*  
 Grace is central to salvation. It is the undeserved favor that brings one to God.
5. Can faith alone, without obedience, save a person? *James 2:17* **No**  
*"Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."*  
 Faith must be active and obedient to be living and effective in salvation.
6. Is obedience a necessary part of receiving salvation? *Hebrews 5:9* **Yes**  
*"And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."*  
 Jesus grants salvation to those who obey Him, not merely those who believe.
7. The title "Messiah" means "Anointed One" and refers to Jesus Christ. *Isaiah 7:14* **True**  
*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."*  
 The term "Messiah" signifies the fulfillment in the one chosen and anointed by God to deliver obedient people from damnation,.
8. Was the Messiah prophesied to be born in Bethlehem? *Micah 5:2* **Yes**  
*"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah... out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel..."*  
 The prophecy fulfilled clearly points to Bethlehem as the birthplace of the Messiah.
9. Jesus came from the lineage of David. *Isaiah 11:1* **True**  
*"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots."*  
 Jesse was David's father; the prophecy indicates the Messiah would be David's descendant.
10. Did the Old Testament predict that the Messiah would suffer and die for sins? *Isaiah 53:5* **Yes**  
*"But He was wounded for our transgressions... by His stripes we are healed."*  
 Isaiah foretold the suffering of the Messiah as a substitution for human sin and the fulfillment in Christ's death.
11. Many Jews in Jesus' time were expecting a political Messiah. *John 6:15* **True**  
*"They were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king..."*  
 The people sought a political liberator, not understanding the spiritual nature of Jesus' mission.
12. Jesus taught that His kingdom was not of this world. *John 18:36* **True**  
*"My kingdom is not of this world..."*  
 Jesus clarified that His reign is spiritual. It was not to be earthly or political.
13. Was Jesus rejected by His own people? *John 1:11* **Yes**  
*"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him."*  
 Despite being the long-awaited Messiah, many of Jesus' own people refused to accept Him.
14. Did the Jewish leaders' rejection of Jesus fulfill God's plan? *Acts 2:23* **Yes**  
*"Him... you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death."*  
 Their rejection, though sinful, was foreknown and used by God to fulfill His redemptive plan.
15. Jesus rose from the dead just as He said He would. *Matthew 28:6* **True**  
*"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said."*  
 Jesus' resurrection fulfilled His own prophecy and validated His divine authority.

16. Jesus is declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection. *Romans 1:4* **True**  
“Declared to be the Son of God with power... by the resurrection from the dead.”  
The resurrection is the ultimate proof of Jesus’ identity as the Son of God.
17. Is salvation available through any name other than Jesus? *Acts 4:12* **No**  
“Nor is there salvation in any other... by which we must be saved.”  
Only Jesus has the divine authority to save. Through Him alone is access to salvation.
18. Did Jesus say He is the only way to the Father? *John 14:6* **Yes**  
“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”  
Jesus explicitly declared Himself the only path to a relationship with God.
19. Was Jesus’ blood shed for the remission of sins under the new covenant? *Matthew 26:28* **Yes**  
“This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”  
His sacrificial death inaugurated the new covenant and made forgiveness possible.
20. Can someone be saved without obeying the gospel plan (hearing, believing, repenting, confessing, being baptized, and living faithfully)? *Revelation 2:10; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10; Mark 16:16* **No**  
“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”  
“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized...”  
“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus... you will be saved.”  
“He who believes and is baptized will be saved...”  
Salvation is received by obeying the full gospel message, not by partial belief or action alone.
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