
“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 ONE - What is Salvation?

Estimated Reading Time: 6 - 7 minutes

Salvation, or “being saved” is a word that appears in many settings. from everyday conversations to religious teachings. People often use it to describe being delivered from danger or hardship. But when it comes to Scripture, the term carries a much deeper and eternal meaning.

This lesson begins by exploring the concept of salvation from both a general, worldly perspective and a biblical one. Before addressing why salvation is necessary (which will be discussed in Lesson Two), it is important to first define what salvation truly is according to the Bible.

What Does the World Say “Salvation” Is?

Let’s start with the basic dictionary definition. According to *Merriam-Webster*, salvation means:

“The act of saving someone from danger or a difficult situation.” Or simply: “Something that saves.” So, in everyday language, salvation could be anything that rescues us from something bad. Think about it, people might say things like:

- “That new job was my salvation.”
- “That seatbelt saved me.”
- “That friend pulled me out of a dark place.”

It’s all about rescue. It’s being pulled out of trouble, danger, or pain. Even people who aren’t religious talk about salvation. Mahatma Gandhi once said,

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

In his eyes, salvation is about discovering purpose through helping people. Carl Jung, a famous psychologist, said:

“Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes.”

To him, salvation was about inner transformation, becoming who you’re really meant to be.

So, the world often sees salvation as self-discovery, healing, or escape from something painful. But the Bible goes deeper, much deeper.

What Does the Bible Say “Salvation” Is?

When the Bible talks about salvation, it’s not just about being rescued from trouble in this life. It’s about something eternal, being saved from **sin, spiritual death**, and **separation from God**. And just as importantly, it’s about being **brought back into a right relationship with God**.

Here are some key ideas that come up when the Bible talks about salvation:

➔ Salvation Is About Deliverance, But Not Just Physical

Below are a few examples from the Old Testament.

- When God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt, Moses said:
“Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today.” (Exodus 14:13)
Here, salvation meant physical rescue, but it pointed to something more: a God who saves His people.
- The Psalmist David wrote:
“Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people.” (Psalm 3:8)
Salvation isn’t something you create, it comes from God.
- The prophet Isaiah stated:
“Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.” (Isaiah 45:22)
God wants salvation for everyone, and He’s the only one who can offer it.

These Old Testament verses show that salvation starts with God. He rescues, He delivers, He saves.

➔ Salvation Is Fulfilled in Jesus Christ

In the New Testament, the message of salvation becomes ~~even clearer~~ more clear, it’s all centered around Jesus.

- Jesus said:
“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)
That’s His mission in one sentence. He came to find and save those who were spiritually lost.
- The Apostle Paul wrote:
“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...” (Romans 1:16)
The gospel (the good news of Jesus) is how God brings salvation to anyone who will believe.
- Paul also wrote:
“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.” (Titus 2:11)
Salvation is offered to everyone, no one is left out.

- The apostles declared:
“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)
Jesus is not just *a* way, He’s *the* way.
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What Does Salvation Involve?

If you put all these scriptures together, what picture do you get? Here’s what salvation means in the Bible:

- ➔ **Rescue** – God rescues us from sin and eternal separation from Him.
- ➔ **Restoration** – He brings us back into a relationship with Himself.
- ➔ **Transformation** – He changes us from the inside out.
- ➔ **Hope** – He gives us eternal life and a future with Him.

Salvation isn’t just about the future. It’s about right now. God saves us **today**, from sin and guilt, from aimlessness, from trying to fix everything ourselves.

Words That Help Us Understand Salvation

The Bible uses several words that help us grasp the full meaning of salvation:

- **Redeem** – God buys us back from slavery to sin.
“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...”
(Ephesians 1:7)
 - **Justify** – He declares us not guilty.
“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)
 - **Sanctify** – He sets us apart and makes us holy.
“For this is the will of God, your sanctification...” (1 Thessalonians 4:3)
 - **Glorify** – One day, He will perfect us in His presence.
“Whom He justified, these He also glorified.” (Romans 8:30)
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Wrapping It Up: What’s the Big Idea?

Salvation in the world’s eyes might mean escaping hardship or finding peace through personal growth or inner peace. But in the Bible, salvation is a much greater rescue, God saving us from the power of sin and restoring us into a loving relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. And it’s available to everyone, because

God wants to save us all

Questions to Confirm Understanding

Estimated time to answer the questions: 5 minutes. With scripture lookup: 20 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** The secular definition of salvation often focuses on personal fulfillment, emotional healing, or being rescued from difficult life situations.
2. **True | False** Mahatma Gandhi believed that salvation could be found through losing oneself in the service of others.
3. **True | False** According to Psalm 3:8, salvation comes from personal effort. (Psalm 3:8)
4. **True | False** In Exodus 14:13, Moses told the people of Israel to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. (Exodus 14:13)
5. **True | False** Isaiah 45:22 teaches that people can look to themselves for salvation because God helps those who help themselves. (Isaiah 45:22)
6. **True | False** Jesus said He came to seek and to save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10)
7. **True | False** According to Romans 1:16, the gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation only for the Jews. (Romans 1:16)
8. **Yes | No** The Bible teaches that salvation is available to all people, not just a select few. (Titus 2:11)
9. **True | False** According to Acts 4:12, salvation can be found in many different religious leaders and names. (Acts 4:12)
10. **True | False** Ephesians 1:7 says that you have redemption through Christ’s blood, which includes the forgiveness of sins. (Ephesians 1:7)

Answer Key , Lesson One: What Is Salvation?

Estimated time to read the answers: 4 minutes. With reflection and contemplation: 15 - 20 minutes.

1. The secular definition of salvation often focuses on personal fulfillment, emotional healing, or being rescued from difficult life situations. **True**
This reflects the dictionary and philosophical definitions mentioned in the lesson. Secular (worldly) thinkers like Gandhi and Jung referred to salvation in terms of self-discovery, fulfillment, or personal rescue, not spiritual deliverance from sin.

2. Mahatma Gandhi believed that salvation could be found through losing oneself in the service of others. **True**

The lesson quotes Gandhi: *“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”* His idea of salvation focused on selflessness and moral living, not divine intervention or spiritual reconciliation.

3. According to Psalm 3:8, salvation comes from personal effort. **False**

“Salvation belongs to the Lord. Your blessing is upon Your people.” (Psalm 3:8)

This verse clearly states that salvation is God’s, not something earned through human effort. It is His to give, and it is a blessing upon His people.

4. In Exodus 14:13, Moses told the people of Israel to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.

True

“And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today.’” (Exodus 14:13)

Moses was reassuring the Israelites that the Lord would rescue them from the approaching Egyptians. The verse shows God as the one who delivers His people.

5. Isaiah 45:22 teaches that people can look to themselves for salvation because God helps those who help themselves. **False**

“Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.” (Isaiah 45:22)

This verse directly contradicts the idea that salvation comes from within or from self-reliance. God alone is the source of salvation, and people are called to look to Him.

6. Jesus said He came to seek and to save that which was lost. **True**

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)

Jesus stated this clearly as His mission, to seek out and save those who are spiritually lost.

7. According to Romans 1:16, the gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation only for the Jews.

False

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

Salvation is for “everyone who believes”, not only the Jews. Paul emphasizes that the gospel is universal in reach and power.

8. The Bible teaches that salvation is available to all people, not just a select few. (Titus 2:11)

Yes

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.” (Titus 2:11)

This verse plainly states that God’s grace, which brings salvation, has appeared to “all men,” (i.e., “all mankind”), showing that salvation is universally offered.

9. According to Acts 4:12, salvation can be found in many different religious leaders and names.

False

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

Peter clearly affirms that Jesus Christ is the only name by which anyone can be saved. Salvation is exclusive to Him.

10. Ephesians 1:7 says that we have redemption through Christ's blood, which includes the forgiveness of sins. **True**

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." (Ephesians 1:7)

Paul teaches that through Christ's sacrificial death (His blood), you receive redemption and forgiveness, made possible by God's abundant grace.

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