

A Study of Sin and Redemption

- * We Christians use lots of terms to describe our life and faith!
- * Many times, we do not even know or understand why we use them!
- * Since words and terms are descriptive, it's of utmost importance to know why we say what we say!
- * This principle becomes abundantly clear when speaking of our salvation!

I. It seems the best place to begin this study of salvation, redemption and faith is in the writings of the Old Covenant of this "Great Salvation!"

A. God uses "object lessons" that the New Testament writers call "types and shadows" to explain His work among His creation!

1. In Leviticus 23 The Lord gives direction to Israel concerning "The Feasts or Festivals of The Lord!"

Leviticus 23:1-2 (NIV)

23 The Lord said to Moses, 2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.

2. You can then read a list and descriptions of Seven (7) Festivals of The Lord that every Israelite celebrated throughout every year of their lives!
3. This was God's way of teaching His creation of His provision concerning Man's need for God! (See in Leviticus 23)
 - a) Passover in verse 5
 - b) Unleavened Bread in verse 6
 - c) First Fruits in verse 10
 - d) Pentecost in verse 15
 - e) Trumpets in verse 24
 - f) Day of Atonement in verse 27
 - g) Tabernacles in verse 34
4. With close study, we can better understand the works of God!

Hebrews 10:1-2 (NIV)

1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities

themselves. For this reason, it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. 2 Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins.

- B. So, before we look at this incredible redemption or this "Great Salvation," let's look at the REASON it's necessary!
 - 1. Dr. Charles B. Williams said,
"One cannot hold a Scriptural view of God and the plan of salvation without a Scriptural view of sin. One cannot proclaim a true theory of society unless he sees the heinousness of sin and its relation to all social ills and disorder."
 - 2. It seems that we spend an enormous amount of energy developing answers and arranging approaches to societies challenges and problems!
 - 3. While those challenges and problems are complex and have no easy solutions at times, let's at least acknowledge that the ROOT of any imperfection in life is SIN!
 - 4. That statement, without a doubt, bothers some. The reason is that we simply do not have an understanding of sin!

- C. Paul uses up to 10 different words when referring to sin.
 - 1. hamartia- missing the mark
 - 2. hamarteema- sin as an act
 - 3. parabasis- transgression
 - 4. paratoma- a failing, lapsing or deviation of truth
 - 5. adikia- unrighteous
 - 6. asebeia- lack of reverence for God
 - 7. anomia- lawless
 - 8. akatharsia- lack of purity
 - 9. parakoee- disobedience
 - 10. planee- error

- D. While we could spend ample time searching scriptures to confirm Paul's words, lets simply ask the question of:

"Where did this behavior come from?"

Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17, 3:6-7 (NIV)

8 Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. 9 The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so, they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

1. So, here should be the "take away" from this story!
2. God created life and designed a plan for its success.
3. Everything needed for life, both sustenance and pleasure were provided by a loving Creator!
4. Man decided against the perfect will of God and "went out on his own to find sustenance and pleasure!
5. That really is the basic story of man and the origin of sin!

II. So, what do we make of all of these "Festivals" and what are the truths The Lord is trying to communicate?

- A. Passover was when the blood of lamb was applied to the door of each Israelites house so the "death angel would Passover" their house and not take their firstborn!

Hebrews 9:11-12 (NIV)

11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining[b] eternal redemption.

- B. Unleavened Bread was when Israel was told to not put yeast in the bread the night before The Exodus!
1. God instructed Israel to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread as a memorial to their separation from Egypt.
 2. Paul uses object lessons or as we say "types and shadows" to teach the early church of this work of redemption!

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NIV)

6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- C. Feast of First Fruits was a consecration of the entire Harvest to God! It was His! Once again Paul uses this to teach the early church that Christ is the First Fruits of the entire harvest of God!

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 (NIV)

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

- D. The Feast of Pentecost was the celebration at the completion of the wheat harvest!!
1. All of Israel would hold a "wave offering" in their hands and wave it before the Lord in thanksgiving of His faithfulness!
 2. It was seen as a sign of their complete dependence upon God for everything pertaining to life!
 3. Notice a couple of things pertaining to this celebration of the "wheat harvest!"

John 12:23-24 (NIV)

23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

4. ...and that's exactly what happened at Pentecost under the new covenant!!! A great harvest of souls!
- E. The Feast of Trumpets was celebrated to announce the arrival of the Day of Atonement which was 10 days later!
1. Israel's custom was to "blow the trumpets" on the first day of each month to announce its arrival but...
 2. On the Feast of Trumpets, it was blown longer and louder as they blew them all day!
 3. To the Hebrew the trumpet represented the voice of God.

Luke 1:68-69 (NIV)

68 "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. 69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David

- F. The Day of Atonement was a particular day of the year when the High Priest would go behind the veil, into the Holy of Holies, and sprinkle the blood of a sacrifice on the Mercy Seat to "atone for the sins of the people."
1. It was to be a day of Godly sorrow.
 2. A day of repentance and confession of sin.
 3. God is so gracious to reveal so plainly this awesome redemption through the Feasts of Israel!

Hebrews 10:19-23 (NIV)

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

4. At the very root and pinnacle of our faith look what Paul encourages believers to do!

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

* This is the Doctrine of Sin and Redemption as taught throughout the Scripture! This is our... Awesome Salvation!