

SALVATION TODAY

The word of God is built upon progressive revelation. What this means is that Abraham had no idea about the cross nor the work that the Lord Jesus Christ did on the cross. The Old Testament, [OT] has many fore shadows, and types recorded that the OT believer did not understand. We can understand these shadows and types because today we have the completed word of God. Three short examples of the types of Jesus Christ are given below:

1. Isaac was a type of Christ as he was Abraham's only son whom he loved and that God himself would supply a lamb. This passage is the first use of the word love. This love is between a father and his son. (Genesis 22:1-18)¹

2. Joseph was a type of Christ in that he was rejected by his brethren. The first time the brethren came to Egypt, Joseph was not revealed unto them but the second time they showed up in Egypt, Joseph revealed himself to them just as the second coming of Christ, Christ will reveal himself to his brethren. (Genesis 42:8 & Genesis 45:1. See John 1:11 and Zechariah 12:9 & 10.)

3. Likewise Jonah was a type of Christ. Jonah was in the belly of hell for three day and three nights. (Jonah 1:17 and 2:2) The Lord Jesus Christ said to that evil generation that there would be one sign given, the sign of Jonas the prophet. (Luke 11:29 & 30)

The OT is full of history, prophecy, some now fulfilled with others, yet to be fulfilled, and contains the Mosaic law and covenants with Israel. After about 400 years of silence from God to Israel, John the Baptist showed up as the forerunner of Jesus Christ as prophesied in Isaiah 40 and Malachi 3. In Matthew 3 John's message was "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:3) and in Mark 1:4 "John did baptize in the wilderness and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins". John's ministry was to the nation of Israel. "This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me, And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water." (John 1:30 & 31)

After John the Baptist was put in prison Jesus also began to preach and say, "Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 3:17) In Mark 1:14 and 15 we have: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, the time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

¹ All scripture is from the King James Bible (KJB) and boldface type is mine for emphasis.

In Matthew 10 Jesus called his twelve disciples and made them apostles. It should be noted that they were commanded not to go into the way of the Gentiles or into any cities of the Samaritans enter ye not but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

In Luke 18 we find this recorded:

Then he took *unto him* the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge *him*, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken. Luke 18:31-34

Still at this time in Jesus' earthly ministry, the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord is not known and is hid from the twelve apostles.

We know that there was still unbelief of the apostles after the crucifixion as we see in Mark 16:11-13 until he showed himself unto the eleven and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart because they believed not them which saw him. Mark 16:14

So, in the Acts of the Apostles chapter 1, the eleven are still concerned about the restoration of the kingdom to Israel. (Acts 1:6 as they had been preaching the gospel of the kingdom). After questioning when he would restore the kingdom to Israel, he gives the post-resurrection commission. Since they were missing one apostle in their group they had Matthias added as the new twelfth apostle so that Matthew 19:28 "And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." could be fulfilled. What they do not know at this time is that Jesus would die for their sins and the sins of the world revealed by Paul's gospel "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" I Corinthians 15:3-4

Next in Acts chapter 2 we have the events on the day of Pentecost recorded. Here as Peter preaches to the men of Judea and all that dwell in Jerusalem; ... Ye men of Israel ... that Christ was resurrected. Peter ended up saying: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ." When they heard this indictment they said "what shall we do?" Peter's answer was "Repent and be

baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38

You should recall that John the Baptist preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins (Mark 1:4) and he did not know about the work of Jesus Christ on the cross even as Peter doesn't at this time. Peter does know of the promise of the Holy Ghost (John 14:26 and Acts 1:8) and he knows Jeremiah 31:31-34 which is the promise of the new covenant with Israel. Luke 24:44-45

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

After the healing of the lame man by Peter and John in Acts 3, Peter again preaches:

And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did *it*, as *did* also your rulers. But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath

so fulfilled. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Acts 3:11-20

So, one must recognize that Israel's sins as a nation will be blotted out when the times of refreshing comes from the presence of the Lord which is the establishment of the new covenant at his second coming. The baptism of repentance for the remission of sins looks forward to a future time when the new covenant is made with the nation of Israel and is not looking back at the cross. To Peter and the other apostles, the crucifixion was a wicked deed that killed the Prince of life. But they were witnesses of the resurrected Saviour.

In Acts 7, Stephen before the high priest preached a sermon which summarizes the nation of Israel's history starting when the God of glory appeared unto Abraham and gave him the covenant of circumcision and God gave his seed through Isaac and Jacob which bare the twelve patriarchs. He preaches of Joseph, then about the 120 years of the life of Moses and the church in the wilderness including Israel's rebellion and spiritual whoredom that got them carried away unto Babylon. He preached of Jesus (Joshua) in the promise land who brought Israel into the possession of the Gentiles before the faces of Israel's fathers unto the days of David and Solomon's house he built for the God of Jacob. Stephen then quotes Isaiah 66:1 & 2 and then he declares:

Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept *it*.

Acts 7:51-53

That was too much for the crowd, so they stoned Stephen in Saul's presence.

Afterwards, Saul started making havoc of the church causing many to be scattered abroad preaching the word. As Saul was on the way to Damascus, he encountered by divine appointment the risen Saviour and was blinded. Then the Lord told Ananias the following about Saul: "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." (Acts 9:15 and 16)

After Saul met the risen Saviour on the Damascus road and subsequently spent time in Arabia with the risen Saviour, Paul records these facts in the book of Galatians.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Galatians 1:15-17

In Arabia, Saul gets **advanced revelation** from Jesus Christ about the gospel that Paul preached.

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him [this is Paul] that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we [*Paul and Barsabbas and the other brethren with him*], or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the **revelation of Jesus Christ**.

Galatians 1:6-12

You will note in verses 11 and 12 that Paul's gospel was not after man and he didn't receive it of man, nor was he taught it. Paul heard Stephen's sermon in Acts chapter 7. Aforetime, he was taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers. But he didn't know his gospel until the Lord Jesus Christ gave him the gospel of Christ. He hasn't even seen the twelve apostles at this time. After his trip into Arabia he finally meets Peter three years later as recorded in Galatians 1:18-20: "Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not."

This is advanced revelation! Peter nor anyone else for that fact knew nothing about this revelation of Paul's gospel. The church at Jerusalem doesn't get this information until Acts chapter 15 when Paul goes up to Jerusalem with Barnabas and took Titus. "And Paul went up **by revelation**, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain." Galatians 2:2 Why did he do this? The answer is simple, they did not know Paul's gospel that he preached among Gentiles.

So, in Galatians 2:7 and 8 we find that there are two different gospels.

But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the **uncircumcision** was committed unto me, as *the gospel* of the **circumcision** was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) Galatians 2:7 and 8

Let us look at how Peter preached the cross in comparison with how Paul preached the cross:

THE CROSS

Peter preached that Israel had taken by wicked hands and had slain and crucified Jesus of Nazareth: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36)

The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Acts 3:13-15

To Peter, the death the cross was a wicked event perpetrated by the nation of Israel.

As a comparison, see how Paul viewed the crucifixion of the Lord.

Paul gloried in the cross! "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Galatians 6:14) The cross was not a wicked thing to him, but it is central to the gospel of the grace of God which Paul preached.

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

I Corinthians 15:1-4

BAPTISM:

Peter's statement about water baptism.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:28)

Paul's statement about water baptism.

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." (I Corinthians 1:17 and 18)

So today, the real question one must ask is "... [W]hat must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30) not "... [W]hat shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

When we go back and look at Galatians 1:8 & 9, the scripture says that anyone that preaches another gospel to you is accursed. So those preachers that believe that Acts 2:38 is the message for today, they are failing to rightly divide the word of God (II Timothy 2:15) and do not believe that the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross was sufficient.

The answer to the question, "What must I do to be saved?" is to "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31) What did the Philippian jailor believe? He believed Paul's gospel:

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel which I preached unto you**, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **By which also ye are saved**, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

I Corinthians 15:1-4

So, there is the simplicity that is in the Lord Jesus Christ. "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." II Corinthians 11:3

Are you lost? If Paul's gospel is hid from a person, the scripture says ... it is hid to them that are lost. See the following verses:

Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. II Corinthians 4:1-4

This is Bible salvation for today. It is given by revelation from the Lord Jesus Christ to Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

Salvation today is by grace and there are no works involved.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8 and 9

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:5-7

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:8-13

I trust that the word of God will shine into your heart.

Sincerely,

Whiting S. Delk