



# The Big Questions

Summer sermon series



# Today's Question

How are people in the Old Testament saved?

## Romans 3:20 (NIV)

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

# **John 1:12 (NIV)**

**But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God. Heaven is full of God's children.**

# How were people saved in the Old Testament?

Faith in God

# **Psalm 2:12b (NIV)**

**Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

# Romans 4:3 (NIV)

What does Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.'

# Hebrews 11:14-16 (NIV)

Abel: by his offering to God

Enoch: Pleased God. Impossible to do this without faith

Hebrews 11: 6b, Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Noah: obeyed God, Built the Ark. Can't obey without faith

Abraham: obedience through faith

Sarah: Her faith was rewarded with a child. Where a whole nation came from this child.



## **Hebrews 11:13 (NIV)**

All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it.

# God's Progressive Revelation / Salvation Plan



Faith looked forward

Faith looks backward

Death of Christ

Direct knowledge of Christ not required  
(Hope for Christ)

Direct knowledge of Christ required  
(Know of Christ)



# **Content of Faith Has Changed**

“The people of the Old Testament era did not know that Jesus was the Messiah, that Jesus would die, and that His death would be the basis of salvation.”

John Feinberg

The basis of salvation in every age is the death of Christ; the requirement for salvation in every age is faith; the object of faith in every age is God; the content of faith changes in the various ages.”

Charles Ryrie

# The Old Testament Salvation Requirements

- Faith in God
- Acknowledgement of Sinfulness
- Acceptance of God's Grace
- Maybe understanding there will be a coming messiah (possibly)

## Luke 18:10-14 (NIV)

“Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! 12 I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ 13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, **O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.**’ 14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home **justified** before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

# **‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner’**

- He expresses faith in God
- Acknowledges Sin
- Acceptance of Grace/Mercy



## Romans 5:1 (NIV)

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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# Key Revelations or Dispensations

- Genesis 3:1–15 (God promised to send the world Jesus/*protoevangelium*)

## Revelation 2:1-2 (NIV)

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

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- Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:11–13; Psalm 89:1–4)



## 2nd Samuel 7:11-13 (NIV)

2nd Samuel 7:11-13, 11 and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. “The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: 12 When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever

## **Psalm 89:3-4 (NIV)**

Psalm 89:3-4, You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, 4 ‘I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.’”

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- New Covenant (Jer. 31:33-34)

## **Jeremiah 31:33-34 (NIV)**

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

# Details of New Covenant

- God will put His law in their minds and write it on their hearts (Jeremiah 31:33, Hebrews 10:15-16)
- God's spirit will be in them to help them follow their decrees and to keep His laws (Ezekiel 36:26-28, Acts 2:4)
- God will forgive their iniquity and their sin He will remember no more (Jeremiah 31:34, Hebrews 10:17)
- Sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary (Hebrews 10:1-10)
- The New Covenant is established through Jesus
- Jesus teaches us what God is like, and how to know Him
- Promises that all will know Him, everyone, from the least to the greatest
- He will forgive our sins, and remember them no more, and this is done through the sacrifice of Christ blood on the cross and is available for all who believe

# Faith in God Expressed

- **Admit** that we have sinned against God
- **Believe** that Christ paid the price for our sins
- **Choose** to follow Jesus



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