The Big Picture Of Salvation

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday October 4th, 2020

Text: John 1:29; Hebrews 10:10-14

### Intro

1. Some question, “Why did Christ ***need*** to die on the cross?”
   1. There were those then who rejected Him and lived as if they didn’t need Him.
   2. There are those today who by word and deed live as if they don’t need Him.
   3. Yet, God said He was needed and sent Him to save those who obeyed Him! (John 1:29; Hebrews 5:9)
2. *Acts 7:1-53:* Man’s need for Christ is seen throughout history in man’s failure to do what is right!
   1. God’s people, the Jews, had His laws and special covenant and failed in obeying Him *(Acts 7:2-50: Stephen recounted their history and failings).*
   2. Sin was rampant; and the blood of an animal could not cure it (Heb. 10:4).
   3. The Jews’ failings summed up in stating that though they had God’s divine law they did not recognize the “Big Picture of Salvation” and murdered the Christ!
   4. Living up to the accusation and comparison to their forefathers, they murdered him too.
   5. When studying the Bible, we must be aware of the “Big Picture of Salvation” or we can end up like the Pharisees and take God’s blessings for granted!
3. John 1:29; Heb. 10:10-14: Jesus is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,” and was the necessary “sacrifice for sins for all time!”
4. History in a nutshell, or a “big picture,” will show man’s need for salvation in Christ!

#### Adam & Eve

* 1. Blessings:
     1. Were first created beings.
     2. Were given the right to name all the animals *(Gen. 2:19-20).*
     3. In a place to suit all their needs.
     4. Given two rules:
        1. To “cultivate it and keep it” *(Gen. 2:15).*
        2. Not to eat “from the tree of the knowledge of good & evil” *(Gen. 2:16-17).*
     5. You would think they had it made!
  2. Actions:
     1. Gen. 3:1-6: They ***both*** ate of the “forbidden fruit” (3:6).
     2. Gen. 3:16-19, 24: God gave to woman pain in childbirth; man was forced to work to eat, and God drove them out of the garden.
  3. The first human beings failed God’s commands and fell from His grace: The Lamb of sacrifice was needed!

#### Noah and Mankind After the Flood

* 1. Blessings:
     1. Despite the wickedness in the world (Gen. 6:5-7), Noah found grace (favor) in the eyes of the Lord – Gen. 6:8
     2. *Gen. 6:13-21:* God gave Noah the means of salvation, to build a boat, and made a promise to deliver him and his family.
     3. *Gen. 6:22:* Noah did all that was commanded him.
     4. *Gen. 9:11-16:* God made a covenant (promise) to Noah and to all the earth to never again destroy it with a flood, and sealed it with His “bow” in the clouds.
     5. You would think they had it made! (Similar to Adam & Eve – Fresh start)
  2. Actions:
     1. Gen. 9:1: God commanded them to fill the earth.
     2. *Gen. 11:1-9:* The people all stayed together in one place, and had decided to build a tower into heaven!
     3. God forced them to disperse and “confused” their languages.
  3. Man (with a fresh start) still didn’t attain God’s righteousness, but failed His commands: The Lamb of sacrifice was needed!

#### Israel

* 1. Blessings:
     1. *Gen. 12:2-3; 15:13-14:* God made a promise with Abraham, to make a nation from his descendants.
     2. *Ex. 3:7-10:* God told Moses the time for deliverance of Israel was at hand.
     3. Given the statutes and laws of God to know how to please Him!
        1. *Deut. 26:16-17:* They accepted them and made a covenant with God to keep them!
     4. Taken from slavery and made a great nation!
        1. *Deut. 26:18-19:* Made special above all other nations of the earth!
     5. They were given privileges and blessings beyond any other nation!
  2. Actions:
     1. II Chr. 36:15-16: They rejected God till “there was no remedy.”
     2. Neh. 9:13-17: Nehemiah summed up their attitudes toward God…
        1. “But they and our fathers acted proudly, hardened their necks, and did not heed Your commandments” *(Neh. 9:16)*.
     3. Mt. 23:29-32, 37: Jesus said of Israel: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!”
  3. Having the Law of God, Israel as a nation failed to keep her covenant with God: The Lamb of sacrifice was needed!

#### Israel in Jesus’ Day

* 1. Blessings:
     1. Saw the coming of the Messiah (Christ), the fulfillment of the promise of God to bless all nations *(Gen. 12:3).*
     2. Non-Jews saw it and rejoiced! *(Mt. 2:1-2: Magi from the east)*
     3. They saw Scripture fulfilled in their hearing (Lk. 4:21).
     4. They met and reasoned with the Son of God in the flesh!
     5. Surely, they would have taken the chance to do it right!
  2. Actions:
     1. Mt. 16:1; 22:15: They tested Christ, trying to trap Him in His words.
     2. *Mt. 23:* They were called hypocrites and the sons of their forefathers! *(Jn. 8:44: Sons of the devil!)*
     3. Mt. 21:43: Jesus said the kingdom was removed from them!
     4. *Mt. 26-27:* They conspired, broke their own laws, falsely accused Jesus (breaking the Laws of God), and delivered Him to the Romans to be crucified.
     5. Acts 7:51-53: The Jews’ failings summed up in stating that though they had God’s divine law they did not recognize the “Big Picture of Salvation” and murdered the Christ!
     6. People physically able to see and touch the Lord, who saw His miracles (Jn. 12:9-11), put to death the Son of God! (Acts 2:23, 36)
  3. Having Christ in their midst, the Jews chose their traditions over God’s laws and did not obey the Son of God: The Lamb of sacrifice was needed!

#### Mankind Today

* 1. Blessings:
     1. Made Free from sin in Christ – Jn. 8:36; Gal. 5:1
     2. Able to be adopted into God’s family, made fellow heirs with Christ – *Rom. 8*
     3. The completed Scriptures – Jude 3 (History since creation in hindsight (20/20))
     4. With the completed word of God, you would think we had it made!
  2. Actions:

1. Rom. 2:16; 14:12: We will give account for our deeds (II Cor. 5:10).
2. We will not be able to “ride the faith” of another.
   * + 1. Jews wanted to claim righteousness on basis of Abraham *(Jn. 8:33, 39)*
       2. It did not matter how righteous Noah, Abraham, or Moses were, it was up to the people to behave accordingly.
3. We will be held accountable for how we respond to God’s Son.
4. Man seeks to remove God from education; and teaches evolution.
5. Societies the world over teach the world will flood *(Global Warming* or *Climate Change)* despite the covenant God made with man and all living creatures to never again flood the earth *(Gen.9:11-16).*
6. People claim to be religious and pervert the word of God to their own ends.
7. Immorality of every kind is not only advertised but also celebrated!
   1. Man today is making the same mistakes as Israel did; rejecting God and His commandments: The Lamb of sacrifice is needed!

## Conclusion

1. God provided the Lamb of Ultimate Sacrifice *(“for sins for all time” – Heb. 10:12)* and His blood washes sin away! *(Acts 22:16; Eph. 1:7; NKJ: Rev. 1:5)*
   1. Let us NOT take that sacrifice for granted but rejoice and be happy for the salvation found in Jesus Christ! *(Acts 4:10-12)*
2. Man has failed in keeping the commands of God throughout time! (Rom. 3:23)
   1. The Jews failed to see the “Big Picture of Salvation” and continued to sin.
   2. People today fail to see the “Big Picture of Salvation” and continue to sin.
3. “Why did Christ ***need*** to die on the cross?”
   1. Because of the sin of man, the world needed a Savior!
   2. Because He loved us, Christ paid the price – Romans 5:8; John 15:13
4. ***What will be your part?***
   1. Will you stand out like Noah? Like Abraham? Like Moses? Like David? Like the apostles?
   2. Will you be counted among the wicked on whom will fall God’s wrath? *(Eph. 5:6)*
   3. Will you see your need for Christ and obey Him to the “salvation of your souls?” *(I Pet. 1:9; Heb. 5:8-9)*
5. God has provided the Lamb of sacrifice, let us obey Him, having our sins washed away, and live with Him forever!
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized (washed in the blood)!
7. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!