

The Seed Promise

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 3:15 “AND I WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN THEE AND THE WOMAN, AND BETWEEN THY SEED AND HER SEED; IT SHALL BRUISE THY HEAD, AND THOU SHALT BRUISE HIS HEEL.”

When God finished his creation he looked upon the universe and all things that are in it and “BEHOLD, *it was* VERY GOOD” (**Genesis 1:31**). There was no sickness, no sorrow, no pollution, none of the ravages of mankind, and most important of all there was no sin. But it didn't take man long to fix that. One way that we sin is to transgress or break God's law (**I John 3:4**). God gave Adam and Eve but one law that he revealed to us.

Genesis 3:3 “BUT OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREE WHICH *is* IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN, GOD HATH SAID, YE SHALL NOT EAT OF IT, NEITHER SHALL YE TOUCH IT, LEST YE DIE.”

That one tree, that one tree of all of the trees in the garden, you don't eat the fruit of it, you don't even touch it. But old Satan, the devil, always, even unto this day roaming the world looking for souls to steal (**I Peter 5:8**) found Mother Eve. Satan tells Eve you won't surely die (**Genesis 3:4**), “YOUR EYES SHALL BE OPENED” (v.5) it was “DESIRED TO MAKE *one* WISE” (v.6). So she took it and ate it and gave it to her husband that that fool ate it too, knowing that he was breaking God's law (**I Timothy 2:14**). Oh, they became wiser, where before they knew only good; now they knew and understood what evil was, they knew that they had done wrong.

God cannot stand sin. When man sins he separates himself from God and gives himself to the devil. The prophet Isaiah warns the Jews of his day:

Isaiah 59:1-2 “BEHOLD, THE **LORD'S** HAND IS NOT SHORTENED, THAT IT CANNOT SAVE; NEITHER HIS EAR HEAVY, THAT IT CANNOT HEAR: BUT YOUR INIQUITIES HAVE SEPARATED BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR GOD, AND YOUR SINS HAVE HID HIS FACE FROM YOU, THAT HE WILL NOT HEAR.”

God was in no way unable to solve Judah's problems. God is not hampered in any form when it comes to the power to overcome sin. But if there is sin in your life you are separated from God and he will have nothing to do with you. And here we have Adam and Eve. God's crowning creation. The only beings made in His image now have become something that He cannot stand. So God plans to provide a remedy and he makes the devil this promise:

Genesis 3:15 “AND I WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN THEE AND THE WOMAN, AND BETWEEN THY SEED AND HER SEED; IT SHALL BRUISE THY HEAD, AND THOU SHALT BRUISE HIS HEEL.”

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The enmity between the seed of woman and the seed of Satan will cause the seed of woman to “BRUISE HIS HEAD”. Well, what does that mean? It means that the day would come when the authority of Satan, the power of Satan in this world would be overcome. Satan brought spiritual death, the separation of man from God, into the world. He brought physical death into the world because as part of their punishment, Adam and Eve would now die a physical death and the house of clay in which their spirits lived would return to that from which it came. He brought spiritual death because from that day forward God drove them out of that beautiful garden called Eden and separated himself from them. So Satan now had the power, the authority to entice man, to control mankind through his own lusts and sin. But, God has a plan, a plan that would bring the day when that power, that control, that authority by Satan would be taken away. God promised to do that through the seed of woman.

The Patriarchs

Time passes. It didn't take long. Once man learned evil in about one thousand years God looked upon mankind and what did he see?

Genesis 6:5 “AND GOD SAW THAT THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN *was* GREAT IN THE EARTH, AND *that* EVERY IMAGINATION OF THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART *was* ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY.”

All mankind had so corrupted themselves with evil so that God couldn't stand them any more. God said that he was sorry, “IT GRIEVED HIM” that he had ever made man in the first place. But God had made a promise. He had made a promise to take away Satan's power, to relieve man from the power of evil over him. So he looked and there was one man who was worth saving, Noah. So Noah was instructed to build an ark, gather the faithful, and that was just his own family, and God's creatures into that ark. God wanted to protect them while he cleansed the earth of the evil that was in it. And he did, He preserved the source of the seed that would take away Satan's power over man.

More time passes. God needed someone to carry on His promise. So God chose Abram who later was called Abraham:

Genesis 12:1 “NOW THE LORD HAD SAID UNTO ABRAM, GET THEE OUT OF THY COUNTRY, AND FROM THY KINDRED, AND FROM THY FATHER'S HOUSE, UNTO A LAND THAT I WILL SHEW THEE:” **v.3** “AND I WILL BLESS THEM THAT BLESS THEE, AND CURSE HIM THAT CURSETH THEE: AND IN THEE SHALL ALL FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED.”

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God repeats that promise in **Genesis 22:17**, makes the same promise to Isaac, Abraham's son, in **Genesis 26:4**, then that promise was passed on to Jacob **Genesis 28:13-14**. (IN THEE AND IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED.)”

Jacob, now known as Israel, came to the end of his life and called his sons to his side for their blessing. God's promise was carried on. When he gave his blessing to his son Judah, Israel said this and the Holy Spirit caused it to be recorded:

Genesis 50:10 “THE SCEPTRE SHALL NOT DEPART FROM JUDAH, NOR A LAWGIVER FROM BETWEEN HIS FEET, UNTIL SHILOH COME; AND UNTO HIM *shall* THE GATHERING (*OBEDIENCE*) OF THE PEOPLE BE.”

A lawgiver would come from between the feet of Judah, from the loins of Judah, one that Israel here calls Shiloh. This Shiloh is the one who would fulfill the seed promise, the one who would remove the power of Satan and evil from the control of mankind.

Before long the children of Israel are in slavery. They have gone to Egypt because of famine in the land of Canaan and now find themselves in oppression. God leaves them there for 400 years but he doesn't forget them or his promise to their forefathers; the promise that through their seed to destroy the power of Satan.

God prepares a great lawgiver, a leader, a righteous man of great faith who will lead his people out of their bondage. He will not only lead them out of slavery but he will give them law to govern themselves, to worship and honor God. His name is Moses. So God visits him through a bush that burns but is not consumed by the fire and gives him this commandment:

Exodus 3:10 “COME NOW THEREFORE, AND I WILL SEND THEE UNTO PHARAOH, THAT THOU MAYEST BRING FORTH MY PEOPLE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL OUT OF EGYPT.”

It is through these people, the Israelite nation that God will keep his Seed Promise. It is through them that the one will come who will overcome the power of Satan. It is through the children of Israel that the one who will overcome sin. It is through the children of Israel that the one who will come in the last days who will overcome spiritual death.

Moses was a great prophet and man of God. It was through him that the law came to the Israelite nation that would protect them, that would help them to survive until God determined that the time was right for Him to keep that wonderful promise.

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Moses, himself, at his parting with Israel, just before his death prophesied about the coming of a Great Prophet who would be greater than he.

Deuteronomy 18:15 “THE LORD THY GOD WILL RAISE UP UNTO THEE A PROPHET FROM THE MIDST OF THEE, OF THY BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO ME; UNTO HIM YE SHALL HEARKEN;” **v.18** ” I WILL RAISE THEM UP A PROPHET FROM AMONG THEIR BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO THEE, AND WILL PUT MY WORDS IN HIS MOUTH; AND HE SHALL SPEAK UNTO THEM ALL THAT I SHALL COMMAND HIM.”

So God raised up and preserved the Israelite nation to be his chosen people. His chosen people through whom he would bring that one into the world who would be greater than Moses. That prophet who would be the one who would overcome the power of Satan and the grip of death, the one who would redeem the souls of faithful men and women from the power of the devil.

The Prophets

Directed by the Holy Spirit, given the words of Jehovah God the creator of the Universe, the prophets spoke many things about the coming savior; the one who would break the bonds of Satan and save mankind from their sins. Over 300 times in the Old Testament prophets we find the Word of God telling us about the one who would answer the promise that God had made. The promise that through “THE SEED OF WOMAN” that the authority of the archenemy of mankind would be destroyed. They were writing about the coming of the only “BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD”, they were writing about the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord. They were writing about the one who would be high priest for his people, king over his kingdom, prophet and teacher who would bring us into all truth (John 16:13). Who would bring us all truth through His words (**John 17:17**); through the comforter that he would send. He is the one who be our savior, giving his own life that he might save mine and yours.

David, the great king of Israel who was a prophet as well writes concerning the coming the Savior that He would dwell among men and bring salvation.

Psalms 68:18-19 “THOU HAST ASCENDED ON HIGH, THOU HAST LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE; THOU HAST RECEIVED GIFTS FOR MEN; YEA, FOR THE REBELLIOUS ALSO, THAT THE LORD GOD MIGHT DWELL AMONG THEM. BLESSED BE THE LORD, WHO DAILY LOADETH US WITH BENEFITS, EVEN THE GOD OF OUR SALVATION. SELAH.”

David also writes that He would be his Lord, would come out of the Mount of Zion; that is found in the city called Jerusalem and be a priest after the order of Melchizedek:

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Psalm 110:1-2 "THE LORD SAID UNTO MY LORD, SIT THOU AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES THY FOOTSTOOL. THE LORD SHALL SEND THE ROD OF THY STRENGTH OUT OF ZION: RULE THOU IN THE MIDST OF THINE ENEMIES." **v.4** "THE LORD HATH SWORN, AND WILL NOT REPENT, THOU ART A PRIEST FOR EVER AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

This prophecy was fulfilled and that was confirmed by Hebrew writer:

Hebrews 6:17-20 "WHEREIN GOD, WILLING MORE ABUNDANTLY TO SHEW UNTO THE HEIRS OF PROMISE THE IMMUTABILITY OF HIS COUNSEL, CONFIRMED *it* BY AN OATH: THAT BY TWO IMMUTABLE THINGS, IN WHICH *it was* IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE, WE MIGHT HAVE A STRONG CONSOLATION, WHO HAVE FLED FOR REFUGE TO LAY HOLD UPON THE HOPE SET BEFORE US: WHICH *hope* WE HAVE AS AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL, BOTH SURE AND STEDFAST, AND WHICH ENTERETH INTO THAT WITHIN THE VEIL; WHITHER THE FORERUNNER IS FOR US ENTERED, *even* JESUS, MADE AN HIGH PRIEST FOR EVER AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHISEDEC."

Other psalmists wrote of the coming Jesus Christ as well. **Psalm 118**, a psalm of thanksgiving for the Lord's Salvation tells us that as the cornerstone of the building of the kingdom of God that Christ would be rejected by men but accepted by God"

Psalm 118:22-23 "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REFUSED IS BECOME THE HEAD STONE OF THE CORNER. THIS IS THE LORD'S DOING; IT IS MARVELLOUS IN OUR EYES."

The Apostle Peter, standing before the Sanhedrin Council in the city of Jerusalem, arrested for preaching the gospel of Christ confirms what the psalmist wrote:

Act 4:10-12 "BE IT KNOWN UNTO YOU ALL, AND TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, THAT BY THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH, WHOM YE CRUCIFIED, WHOM GOD RAISED FROM THE DEAD, EVEN BY HIM DOTH THIS MAN STAND HERE BEFORE YOU WHOLE. THIS IS THE STONE WHICH WAS SET AT NOUGHT OF YOU BUILDERS, WHICH IS BECOME THE HEAD OF THE CORNER. NEITHER IS THERE SALVATION IN ANY OTHER: FOR THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN, WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED."

Thus we see the seed promise prophesied by David and confirmed by Peter. Let us now move on to the words of Isaiah. The word of God, the seed of the kingdom, brought into the world by the seed of woman would go forth from Jerusalem:

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Isaiah 2:2-3 “AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, *that* THE MOUNTAIN OF THE **LORD'S** HOUSE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAINS, AND SHALL BE EXALTED ABOVE THE HILLS; AND ALL NATIONS SHALL FLOW UNTO IT. AND MANY PEOPLE SHALL GO AND SAY, COME YE, AND LET US GO UP TO THE MOUNTAIN OF THE **LORD**, TO THE HOUSE OF THE GOD OF JACOB; AND HE WILL TEACH US OF HIS WAYS, AND WE WILL WALK IN HIS PATHS: FOR OUT OF ZION SHALL GO FORTH THE LAW, AND THE WORD OF THE **LORD** FROM JERUSALEM.”

And the words of Jesus Christ himself testifies that this prophecy was fulfilled. Speaking to his disciples just before he ascended back to sit on the right hand of God:

Luke 24:46-48 “AND SAID UNTO THEM, THUS IT IS WRITTEN, AND THUS IT BEHOVED CHRIST TO SUFFER, AND TO RISE FROM THE DEAD THE THIRD DAY: AND THAT REPENTANCE AND REMISSION OF SINS SHOULD BE PREACHED IN HIS NAME AMONG ALL NATIONS, BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM. AND YE ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS.”

The power of Satan over the souls of men is the sin that he and his angels, his messengers, his servants tempt us to commit. In order to break his authority, his power over man there had to be one come who could take away sin from our souls. When the one who would destroy the power of Satan over mankind would come God would provide undeniable proof of who he was. In **Genesis 3:15**, way back at the time of the original promise made by God word of God tells us that it would be through the seed of woman that the power and authority of Satan would be broken. Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah speaking of the coming of the Messiah, the savior of our souls:

Isaiah 7:14 “THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL GIVE YOU A SIGN; BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE, AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL.”

But skeptics say; well now we've heard it all, that just isn't possible. With God it is. It would be a sign, a miracle, a confirmation of the fact that this child born to that virgin mother was indeed the Son of God. “A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE”, a miracle, “AND BEAR A SON” and he truly would be of the seed of woman because there was no man involved. And how did this come about? The word of God makes it plain:

Matthew 1:18 “NOW THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST WAS ON THIS WISE: WHEN AS HIS MOTHER MARY WAS ESPOUSED TO JOSEPH, BEFORE THEY CAME TOGETHER, SHE WAS FOUND WITH CHILD OF THE HOLY GHOST.”

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And Joseph, we're told, being a just man didn't want to make a spectacle out of her, didn't want her to bear the shame of a child out of wedlock. So he planned to put her away privately.

Luke 1:20-21 "BUT WHILE HE THOUGHT ON THESE THINGS, BEHOLD, THE ANGEL OF THE **LORD** APPEARED UNTO HIM IN A DREAM, SAYING, JOSEPH, THOU SON OF DAVID, FEAR NOT TO TAKE UNTO THEE MARY THY WIFE: FOR THAT WHICH IS CONCEIVED IN HER IS OF THE HOLY GHOST. AND SHE SHALL BRING FORTH A SON, AND THOU SHALT CALL HIS NAME JESUS: FOR HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS."

Jesus the Christ, born in a manger, an animal feed trough, raised by a simple carpenter; Jesus would be the one who would break the power and authority of Satan has over mankind. He would be the one who would fulfill the seed promise that God made some 4,000 years beforehand.

We already know from Genesis chapter 50 that Jesus Christ, the one promised by the seed of woman would be of the tribe of Judah. Now we will see that he would be of the family of David and his father Jesse. But that is not all that the prophet tells us.

Isaiah 11:10 "AND IN THAT DAY THERE SHALL BE A ROOT OF JESSE, WHICH SHALL STAND FOR AN ENSIGN OF THE PEOPLE; TO IT SHALL THE GENTILES SEEK: AND HIS REST SHALL BE GLORIOUS."

Yes, he would spring from the root of Jesse, the family of Jesse and David the son of Jesse and King of Israel. This fact is readily apparent in the genealogies given by the inspiration of God in **Matthew 1** and **Luke 3**. He shall stand as an ensign, a banner, a standard for of the people. And to that standard the Gentiles shall seek.

The Mosaic Covenant was given to the chosen people of Israel, the people that God led out of Egyptian bondage and to Israel only **Exodus 19:5-6**. The Old Testament Law; the Covenant made through Moses with Israel was never given to any one else except those who were circumcised and became as Jews. But the promise that God made in **Genesis 3:15** was never restricted to any certain people of group of people. It was made for the benefit of all mankind regardless of whether they be Jew or Gentile, bond servant or free man, black, white, brown, red or yellow. The Apostle Paul recording the inspired word of God confirms that fact:

Romans 15:11-12 "AND AGAIN, PRAISE THE LORD, ALL YE GENTILES; AND LAUD HIM, ALL YE PEOPLE. AND AGAIN, ESAIAS SAITH, THERE SHALL BE A ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE THAT SHALL RISE TO REIGN OVER THE GENTILES; IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES TRUST."

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So the benefits of the seed promise made by God in **Genesis 3:15** was not just to the patriarchs, it was not just to the Israelites, but it was to the benefit of all mankind everywhere. It was for the benefit of you and I. There is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun and we can remove from our souls the stains of sin. We can remove from our souls the corruption that that will damn our souls to a devils hell. We can do that because God has given His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for our sins and to destroy the power and authority of Satan over our souls.

We could go on with prophecy after prophecy for there are over 300 that pertain to the coming of Jesus Christ, our Lord in the sacred scripture. One more reference and then we will move on to the New Testament for the balance of our lesson.

God in giving his Son through the seed promise established a kingdom, the kingdom of God, a kingdom whose ruler is Jesus Christ. Observe with the prophecies that were given. First of all Isaiah:

Isaiah 9:6-7 “FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN: AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER: AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE. OF THE INCREASE OF *his* GOVERNMENT AND PEACE THERE **shall be no end**, UPON THE THRONE OF DAVID, AND UPON HIS KINGDOM, TO ORDER IT, AND TO ESTABLISH IT WITH JUDGMENT AND WITH JUSTICE FROM HENCEFORTH EVEN FOR EVER. THE ZEAL OF THE **LORD** OF HOSTS WILL PERFORM THIS.”

The prophet Isaiah, recording the words of God, tells that God will establish a government, a government that will rest upon the shoulders of the Son of God. He tells us that the increase of his government shall have no end. He tells us that this government will be a kingdom that will be established with judgment and with justice and that He will order and rule it forever.

We already know that the kingdom of God will be established on Mount Zion in the City of Jerusalem and the prophet Daniel tells us when this will happen. In Daniel 2 we find Daniel describing and interpreting a dream of King Nebuchadnezzar. In doing so he describes four great empires that will rule the world. The first is that of Babylon under which Daniel is living at the time of his prophecy, the second will be that of the Medes and Persians who will conquer Babylon, the third that of Alexander the Great of Greece and the fourth will be the Roman Empire ruled by the Caesar's.

“AND IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS (*THE CAESAR'S OF ROME*) SHALL THE GOD OF HEAVEN SET UP A KINGDOM, WHICH SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED: AND THE KINGDOM SHALL NOT BE LEFT TO OTHER PEOPLE, **but** IT SHALL BREAK IN PIECES AND CONSUME ALL THESE KINGDOMS, AND IT SHALL STAND FOR EVER.” **Daniel 2:44**

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Jesus said to his disciples concerning the coming of His kingdom:

Matthew 16:28 “VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, THERE BE SOME STANDING HERE, WHICH SHALL NOT TASTE OF DEATH, TILL THEY SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING IN HIS KINGDOM.”

What is his Kingdom? We only need to back up a few verses and Jesus answers that question for us.

Matthew 16:18-19 “AND I SAY ALSO UNTO THEE, THAT THOU ART PETER, AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT. AND I WILL GIVE UNTO THEE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: AND WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT BIND ON EARTH SHALL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN: AND WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT LOOSE ON EARTH SHALL BE LOOSED IN HEAVEN.”

Jesus Christ said that he “WILL BUILD MY CHURCH” and that he would give the Apostle Peter “THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN”. The church and the kingdom are one and the same thing in the words of Jesus Christ himself. That church is the kingdom of God, the kingdom of God is the church of the living God you can't get around it, over it or under it. The Apostle Paul calls it the house of God and the church of the Living God:

I Timothy 3:15 “BUT IF I TARRY LONG, THAT THOU MAYEST KNOW HOW THOU OUGHTEST TO BEHAVE THYSELF IN THE HOUSE OF GOD, WHICH IS THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH.”

Closing

Satan tempted Eve in the garden of Eden causing her to sin again God; to break his commandment and to lead her husband to do likewise. Consequently both were no longer fit for the presence of God. They were separated from God because of their sin, they died spiritually. Satan now owned their souls because there was no remedy for sin, there was no means of cleansing their souls, to restore them to favor with their Creator.

So God made a promise, God planned a way to redeem mankind from the control of the devil. We saw how that down through time, through the history of man that God carried that promise forward by saving Noah and his family when he destroyed the rest of the world because of their sinfulness. We saw how that God raised up righteous men, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who became Israel and how that the seed promise was carried forward through their seed.

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We saw how that God through the preservation of Israel His chosen people carried forward the seed promise and brought into the world a Savior. How that in spite of man's wickedness, in spite of man's rebellion against him, in spite of man's obstinate, stiff necked rejection of the Word of God, we see that God still:

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE." **John 3:16**

God so loved you and I, even in our sin; that the Apostle Paul could write:

"FOR SCARCELY FOR A RIGHTEOUS MAN WILL ONE DIE: YET PERADVENTURE FOR A GOOD MAN SOME WOULD EVEN DARE TO DIE. BUT GOD COMMENDETH HIS LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US. MUCH MORE THEN, BEING NOW JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, WE SHALL BE SAVED FROM WRATH THROUGH HIM." **Romans 5:7-9**

God through the sacrifice of His only Begotten Son broke the power and authority of Satan over the souls of mankind. We can be redeemed, God will buy us back from Satan who owns us in our sin with the blood of the Lamb of God. How do we know? Because the Word of God tells us:

"BUT CHRIST BEING COME AN HIGH PRIEST OF GOOD THINGS TO COME, BY A GREATER AND MORE PERFECT TABERNACLE, NOT MADE WITH HANDS, THAT IS TO SAY, NOT OF THIS BUILDING; NEITHER BY THE BLOOD OF GOATS AND CALVES, BUT BY HIS OWN BLOOD HE ENTERED IN ONCE INTO THE HOLY PLACE, HAVING OBTAINED ETERNAL REDEMPTION FOR US." **Hebrews 9:11-12**

Ephesians 1:7 "IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE;"

So now we can be justified by His blood and saved from the wrath of God through Him. We can be redeemed for a devil's hell. But how do we do that? How do we contact the blood of Christ that our souls might be washed clean of the stain of sin? When the man Saul met Jesus Christ on that Damascus road he was told to go into the city and there it would be told him what he must do. So he went and he fasted and he prayed and he waited. He believed. Did he receive redemption from sin because he believed? NO! He prayed, did he pray himself into redemption for his sin? NO! Because he wasn't washed, he wasn't clean yet. The preacher Ananias, sent by God told Saul what he needed to do.

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“AND NOW WHY TARRIEST THOU? ARISE, AND BE BAPTIZED, AND WASH AWAY THY SINS, CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD.” **Acts 22:16**

The preacher said what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash away your sins. He had to be washed! We have to be washed! Our sins can't be removed, our souls cannot be cleansed until we are washed!

We can't be redeemed from the clutches of Satan without being washed in baptism. Just as the Apostle Peter told the people on the day of Pentecost when he preached the first gospel sermon:

“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 2:38**

But wait. First we have to be prepared to be baptized, otherwise we just get wet. We have to meet the conditions God requires in order to be washed clean of sin. Jesus said that we have to believe:

Mark 16:16 “HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED; BUT HE THAT BELIEVETH NOT SHALL BE DAMNED.”

And we have to confess that belief. Observe:

Romans 10:10 “FOR WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVETH UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND WITH THE MOUTH CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION.”

How do we do that? When the Ethiopian Treasurer asked Philip the evangelist what does hinder me from being baptized what did Philip say?

Acts 8:37 “AND PHILIP SAID, IF THOU BELIEVEST WITH ALL THINE HEART, THOU MAYEST. AND HE (*the Ethiopian*) ANSWERED AND SAID, I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD.”

And here we have a great example of exactly what God demands, that we confess before men that we do indeed believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. But that's not all. When we obey the commandments of God and have all of our sins washed away in baptism it doesn't do us one bit of good if we go right back to sinning again. If we do then we are just like the sow that Peter describes being washed and then going back to wallow in the mire. We have to repent of our past sins:

Luke 13:3 “I TELL YOU, NAY: BUT, EXCEPT YE REPENT, YE SHALL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH.”

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We have to turn away from our past sins and quit doing them. If we drink we have to stop, if we lie we have to quit, if we're living with someone in the throes of fornication we have to quit that sin. We have to quit sinning and sin no more willingly. Will we ever weaken and stumble and sin on occasion? Yes we will but when we do we must repent again and pray God forgiveness just like the Apostle Peter told Simon in:

Acts 8:22 "REPENT THEREFORE OF THIS THY WICKEDNESS, AND PRAY GOD, IF PERHAPS THE THOUGHT OF THINE HEART MAY BE FORGIVEN THEE."