

God's Future Salvation

God's salvation is all wrapped up in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ: "Simeon ... took ... Him [the babe] up in his arms and said ... Mine eyes have seen Thy salvation" (Luke 2:25-30). It is also eternal, for Christ "became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him" by trusting Him as their Saviour (Hebrews 5:9; Romans 16:25,26).

God's salvation has three aspects: the **Past**, **Present**, and **Future**. The past is to have "*peace with God*" from the **penalty** of sin, which is true of each person from the moment he trusts Christ as his/her personal Saviour. The present salvation is the experience of having "*the peace of God*" by trusting Him to overcome the **power** of sin in his/her life. And the future aspect of salvation is for (or in view of) the experience of having "*the God of peace...with you*" (Romans 15:33; 16:20) from the very **presence** of sin.

God's Future Salvation is FROM:

Sins: "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation ... Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more" (Hebrews 9:28; 10:17).

Hunger and Thirst: The rich man "cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame" (Luke 16:24). – Contrast: "Jesus said unto them, I am the Bread of Life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

Torment: The rich man in hell was told: "Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented" (Luke 16:25). "The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10).

The Judgment of God: "As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). – Contrast: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, that he that hears My word, and believes Him that has sent Me, has life eternal, and does not come into judgment, but is passed out of death into life" (John 5:24, JND translation).

The Wrath of God: "Jesus...delivered us from the wrath to come" (1 Thessalonians 1:10). "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

The Lake of Fire: "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15). – Contrast: "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's Future Salvation is FOR:

Heaven, which conveys the thought of "above." — "Saith the LORD.... As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8,9).

Where Christ is: After His death and resurrection He ascended "through the heavens" (Hebrews 4:14), through the atmospheric and starry heavens to "the third heaven" (2 Corinthians 12:2).

The Presence of God: "Christ is ... entered ... into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" (Hebrews 9:24). Christ had every right to enter heaven for He is God and never sinned, but to appear there "for us" He had to "put away sin" and "bear the sins of many" (Hebrews 9:26,28). "The Forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus" (Hebrews 6:20).

The Father's House, which conveys the thought of:

Home: "Present [at home] with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). "Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end" (John 13:1).

Permanence: "In My Father's house are many mansions [abiding places]: if it were not so, I would have told you.

Prepared: "I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again" (John 14:2,3). "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit" (1 Corinthians 2:9,10).

With Christ: "And receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2,3). "With Christ; which is far better" (Philippians 1:23).

Entrance only by Christ: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" (John 14:6).

The Heavenly City, which presents the majesty of heaven:

Built and Made by God: Abraham "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God ... They desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:16).

Fellowship with His people: "He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God" (Revelation 21:3).

Inheritance for His people: "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death ... sorrow... crying ... pain ... shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son" (Revelation 21:4,7).

Great: "That great city....lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal" (Revelation 21:10,16).

Holy: "That great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God.... And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:10,27).

Most Precious: "And her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal....The city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Revelation 21:11,23).

Foundations and Street: "The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles garnished with all manner of precious stones.... And the street of the city was pure gold" (Revelation 21:14,19,21).

Paradise, which presents the pleasures of heaven: "In Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalms 16:11).

With Christ: Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise." Why? He confessed his sin, and trusted Christ, saying to Him, "Lord remember Me" (Luke 23:41-43).

Beyond Words: "Caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable [inexpressible] words" (2 Corinthians 12:4).

Provision: "Will ... eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God ... which bare twelve manner of fruits ... leaves ... for ... healing" (Revelation 2:7; 22:2). Adam was forbidden to eat of the tree of life after he sinned (Genesis 3:24), but the believer's life depends on Christ so will feed on Him throughout eternity (Revelation 22:14,19).

Service in the intimacy and enjoyment of His presence: "The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him" (Revelation 22:3). - And "He shall...serve them" (Luke 12:37) "for ever" (Exodus 21:6).

See Him, His possession, and be Like Him: "They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads" (Revelation 22:4). We shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2).

Satisfied: "I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness" (Psalm 17:15).

"**Our salvation** ... is at hand" (Romans 13:11,12; Philippians 4:5; 1 Peter 4:7). "**I come quickly**" (Revelation 22:20).