

Names of God from the Bible

27 – Saviour

We saw that God is Holy, Holy, Holy, and that specifically meant that He is unique and separate from all others. Here we recognise that God is the Only Saviour.

Reading: Isaiah 43:1-13

Initially, and for most of the Old Testament, this name refers to God being the Saviour of my current situations. He is the immediate Saviour from the enemy, from any distress, disease, fear and death.

The Psalmist and others recognise that, as God Himself declares, there is no other Saviour. There is no-one else to turn to. There is no-one else who can answer their desperate cries for help. When Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to prove whether their god was authentic and powerful, the result was a resounding declaration of Baal's incompetence. Baal was unable to save his prophets, either by fire for the sacrifice or from their ensuing death.

In a world or society that ignores or mocks God, we need to remember that there is no other Saviour. We may be challenged by climate change and pollution, and whilst we can reduce unnecessary excesses, we are not the world's saviour. There is only One Saviour, and He is the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe – God.

I remember well, from my childhood schooldays, how scientists warned us that the earth could not produce enough food for two billion people, and that the population of the world was rapidly increasing towards that figure. The 'rulers of this world' introduced us abortion and contraception, as a solution to the problem.

However, God our Saviour revealed that He is able to sustain far more people on this planet than we could ever imagine.

God actually expects us to turn to Him as our Saviour. No, not as the 'genie of the lamp' or some other benign figure, like Father Christmas, who will grant us our every selfish wish or egotistical dream, but the One who loves us and wants what is best for us, and is able to deliver us from evil.

I suggest God would be much happier answering the prayers of people, such as Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego), who were prepared to be burned to death rather than bow in worship to the image of the king, than my trivial requests for a car parking space. God protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace; He saved them from death and set them free.

The former is concerned with faith in life-threatening situations, the latter relates merely to my selfish convenience. Both are temporary situations, but are of significantly different importance. I'm always amazed at God's graciousness to me when He nevertheless provides the car parking spaces for us.

When we read the New Testament, we find the references to the Saviour that suggest an even deeper significance. Yes, God is still the Saviour for the immediate; however, He is also revealed as the Eternal Saviour. I can be saved from, not only the temporary and immediate necessities of life, but also for my eternal destiny.

Names of God from the Bible

The Bible teaches us that we all 'suffer' from a sin problem. We are born with a selfish and rebellious nature that opposes God. The penalty and sentence due is death, not just physical death but separation from God – eternal spiritual death.

There is only One Saviour from that sentence, and that is God. He is our only Saviour. God came to earth in human form as Jesus Christ, and died to pay the penalty of our sin and rebellion, to become our Saviour. Yes, Jesus is our only Saviour. As Paul wrote, *"There is one mediator between God and man, the Man, Christ Jesus."*

Salvation is not up to us. We will never be good enough. The spotless Lamb of God is our only Saviour. And He is available to all. It only needs us to ask Him.

Just as every name of God is an eternal Name, so God is our eternal Saviour.

What does that name mean for us today

We do not need to fear the present or the future because Christ has died to be our Saviour. He rose from the dead and lives forever. He is with us every second of the day, by His Spirit, guaranteeing that He will take us to our eternal destiny in Heaven.

Prayer

Father, thank You for being my Saviour. I acknowledge that there is no other Saviour. You have saved me from Your Wrath and Hell, and You are the Only Saviour of this world and creation. Thank You that Jesus paid the price for me, for the whole world. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Psalm 88
- Hosea 13:1-6
- Luke 2:8-20

Questions

1. What are we saved from?
2. Have you asked Jesus Christ to be your Saviour? How and when?
3. What difference has it made to your life?