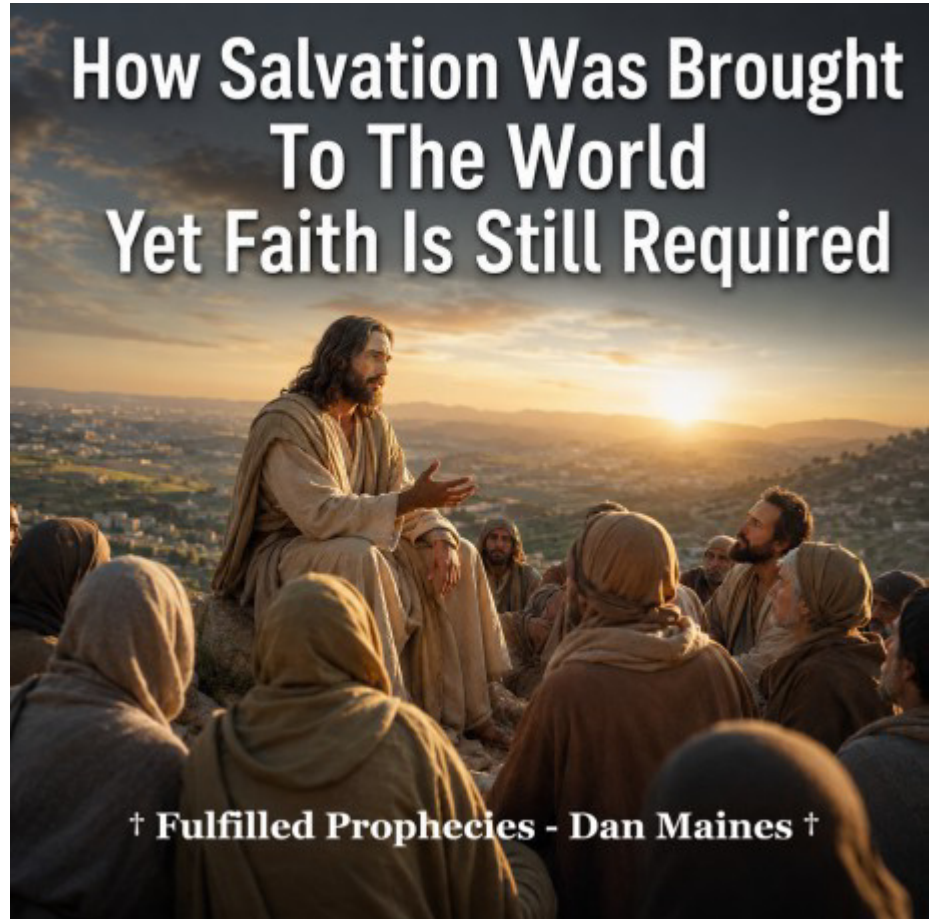


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**Salvation - How
Salvation Was
Brought To The
World Yet Faith Is
Still Required**



By Dan Maines

How Salvation Was Brought To The World Yet Faith Is Still Required

Introduction

† One of the biggest questions people ask is this, if Jesus brought salvation to the world, why does the Bible still say people must believe? Some think those ideas contradict each other, but they don't. The fulfilled perspective shows they work together perfectly.

† Christ accomplished salvation objectively through His death, resurrection, and kingdom coming. Yet individuals still enter into the blessings of that salvation through faith. The cross opened the door to the nations, but faith is how people walk through that door. (Romans 3:21-26; Galatians 3:22)

† Before Christ, the nations were alienated from the covenant world of Israel. Through Jesus, salvation was extended beyond Israel into all nations exactly as the prophets promised. But scripture never teaches automatic salvation without faith. (Isaiah 49:6; Ephesians 2:11-19)

† The fulfilled perspective is not universalism. Christ fulfilled redemption and opened salvation to the world, but individuals must still believe the gospel to enter into that salvation. (John 3:16-18; Romans 10:9-13)

John 3:16-18

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

† Jesus plainly said the world was the object of God's saving plan, not just Israel. The gospel was expanding outward to all nations. (John 12:32; Isaiah 42:6)

† Yet in the very same passage Jesus said belief was still required. Salvation was made available to the world, but individuals still had to trust in Him. (Romans 10:9-13)

† The fulfilled perspective doesn't deny faith, it places faith inside the completed work of Christ. Jesus fulfilled redemption history, and now people enter that fulfilled kingdom by faith. (Hebrews 9:26; Galatians 3:26)

1 John 2:2

and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

† John was showing that Christ's sacrifice was not limited to the Jewish covenant people only. The whole world now had access through Christ. (Acts 10:34-35)

† This verse does not say every person is automatically saved regardless of faith. It says Christ is the sufficient atonement for the world. (1 Timothy 4:10)

† Scripture consistently joins together universal availability with personal faith. The invitation is worldwide, but belief is still necessary. (Mark 16:15-16)

Romans 3:22-26

but it is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in God's merciful restraint He let the sins previously committed go unpunished; for the demonstration, that is, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

† Paul explained that salvation had now gone beyond Jewish distinction. There was no longer Jew versus Gentile in covenant standing. (Galatians 3:28)

† But Paul repeatedly tied justification to faith. Christ accomplished redemption once for all, but those blessings are received through believing. (Romans 5:1)

† The fulfilled perspective teaches that the old covenant age ended and the new covenant kingdom arrived fully, but entrance into that kingdom is still through faith in Christ. (Hebrews 8:13; Luke 16:16)

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their wrongdoings against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

† Paul said God was reconciling the world to Himself through Christ. The work of reconciliation was accomplished through the cross. (Colossians 1:20)

† Yet immediately afterward Paul still pleaded with people to be reconciled to God, proving reconciliation was accomplished covenantally through Christ while individuals still had to respond in faith. (Acts 20:21)

† This destroys the false idea that fulfilled redemption means automatic salvation for every person regardless of belief. (Romans 5:10-11)

Titus 2:11

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people,

† The grace of God appeared bringing salvation to all men, meaning salvation was revealed openly to the nations through Christ. (Luke 2:30-32)

† Yet the same letter repeatedly calls for faith, obedience, and sound belief, showing the offer was universal but participation was conditional. (Titus 1:16; Titus 3:8)

† Christ fulfilled the promises to bless all nations through Abraham's seed, but those blessings are entered through faith in Him. (Galatians 3:8-9)

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

† Jesus did not present Himself as one possible way among many. He declared Himself to be the only way to the Father. (Acts 4:12)

† Salvation being brought to the world does not mean all religions lead to God. Christ alone is the way of salvation. (1

Timothy 2:5)

† The fulfilled perspective fully upholds the exclusivity of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (John 10:9)

Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved."

† Peter declared plainly that salvation is found in no one else except Jesus Christ. (John 14:6)

† This destroys the idea that people can be saved apart from faith in Christ. Scripture gives only one name by which we must be saved. (Romans 10:13)

† The gospel was opened to all nations, but salvation still comes exclusively through Jesus alone. (Matthew 28:19-20)

John 10:9

I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

† Jesus called Himself the door because entrance into salvation and covenant life comes only through Him. (Ephesians 2:18)

† There is no covenant access apart from Christ. He alone is the entrance into life and fellowship with God. (Hebrews 10:19-20)

† The nations were invited into the kingdom, but they entered through Christ alone. (Isaiah 49:6)

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies,

† Jesus connected life directly to belief in Him. Eternal life is not found outside of Christ. (1 John 5:11-12)

† The fulfilled perspective teaches that Christ fulfilled the resurrection promises, yet people still receive that life through faith in Him. (John 5:24)

† Salvation is not merely about covenant transition, it is about union with the living Christ. (Galatians 2:20)

1 John 2:23

Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

† John made it clear that nobody can claim fellowship with the Father while rejecting the Son. (John 14:6)

† This passage destroys the idea that sincere belief apart from Christ is enough for salvation. (Acts 4:12)

† Confessing Christ remains central to salvation because He alone fulfilled redemption. (Romans 10:9)

John 20:30-31

So then, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you may have life in His name.

† John explained the entire purpose of his Gospel, that people would believe Jesus is the Christ and receive life through Him. (John 3:16)

† Life is found in His name, not merely in being alive during the new covenant age. (Acts 4:12)

† The fulfilled kingdom does not remove the necessity of believing in Christ, it confirms Him as the source of eternal life. (1 John 5:20)

Ephesians 2:11-19

Therefore remember that previously you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision" which is performed in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the people of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who previously were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the hostility, which is the Law composed of commandments expressed in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two one new person, in this way establishing peace; and that He might reconcile them both in one body to God through the

cross, by it having put to death the hostility. And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

† This is one of the clearest passages showing what salvation being brought to the world actually means. Gentiles were once outside the covenant world, but Christ brought them near. (Isaiah 57:19)

† Jesus fulfilled the promises to unite Jew and Gentile into one new covenant people. The barrier of the old covenant system was removed. (Colossians 2:14)

† Yet people still entered this reconciled body through faith. The covenant was opened universally, but participation remained conditional upon belief. (Acts 16:30-31)

Romans 10:9-13

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

† Paul again connected salvation to both Jew and Greek alike. The world was now invited equally into covenant life. (Joel 2:32)

† But salvation was not described as automatic. Calling upon the Lord and believing were still required responses. (Acts 2:21; John 8:24)

† The fulfilled perspective fully upholds faith. What changed was not the necessity of belief, but the completion of redemption and the opening of the kingdom to all nations. (Matthew 24:14; Revelation 11:15)

Historical References

† Irenaeus wrote that Christ came to save all who believe in Him from every nation and people.

† Justin Martyr taught that Gentiles were brought near to God through Christ and entered through faith.

† Eusebius connected the fall of Jerusalem with the completion of the old covenant age and the worldwide expansion of Christ's kingdom.

† Clement of Alexandria taught that the gospel was proclaimed universally through Christ while calling men everywhere to faith and repentance.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We can rejoice that salvation is no longer confined to one covenant nation, because Christ opened the kingdom to the world.

† We should never preach universalism that removes faith, because scripture continually calls people to believe.

† We don't live waiting for salvation history to be completed, because Christ already fulfilled redemption and established His kingdom.

† We now live in the reality of the fulfilled new covenant age, calling people everywhere to trust in the risen Christ.

† We should boldly preach both sides of the biblical truth, Christ fully accomplished redemption, and people must still believe to enter into its blessings.

Q & A Appendix

Q: If Jesus brought salvation to the world, does that mean everyone is automatically saved?

A: No. Scripture teaches that Christ opened salvation to the world and fulfilled redemption, but individuals still receive salvation through faith. (John 3:16-18; Romans 10:9-13)

Q: What does world mean in passages like John 3:16?

A: It means salvation was no longer limited to Israel alone. God extended salvation outward to all nations and peoples through Christ. (Isaiah 49:6; Ephesians 2:11-19)

Q: Does the fulfilled perspective deny the need for faith?

A: No. The fulfilled perspective teaches that Christ completed the work of redemption and established the kingdom, but people still enter that kingdom through faith in Him. (Romans 5:1; Galatians 3:26)

Q: What changed after Christ fulfilled all things?

A: The old covenant system ended, the kingdom was fully established, and access to God was opened to all nations. But

belief in Christ remains essential. (Hebrews 8:13; Revelation 11:15)

Q: If Christ reconciled the world, why are unbelievers still condemned?

A: Because Christ opened reconciliation covenantally to the world, but individuals still must believe the gospel to enter into that reconciled relationship. (John 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Q: What exactly does one need to do for salvation?

A: Salvation is through Jesus Christ alone. A person must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, confess Him as Lord, and trust in His death and resurrection. There is no other way to the Father and no other name by which we are saved. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9; John 20:30-31)

Q: Can someone be saved apart from Jesus?

A: No. Jesus said He is the door, the way, the truth, and the life. Scripture is clear that salvation is found in Christ alone. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. (John 10:9; John 14:6; 1 John 2:23)

Q: What does it mean to believe in Jesus?

A: Biblical belief is not merely acknowledging that Jesus existed. It means trusting in Him as the risen Son of God and relying upon Him alone for salvation and life. (John 11:25; John 20:30-31)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† John 3:16-18; 1 John 2:2; Romans 3:22-26; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Titus 2:11; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 10:9; John 11:25; 1 John 2:23; John 20:30-31; Ephesians 2:11-19; Romans 10:9-13

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.17; Justin Martyr, First Apology 39; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Clement of Alexandria, Exhortation to the Greeks 11

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