

INVESTIGATION

A man in a dark blue suit, white shirt, and patterned tie is holding a white rectangular sign with both hands. His index fingers are pointing towards the text on the sign. The background is plain white.

What
is
Salvation?

(1-The Old Testament)

Salvation in the OT

If we want to get this right we must start at the start – creation



Investigation

In the
primal
garden
Adam &
Ezer
were
eternal
beings
(deity)

What was the consequence of their sin?

- Physical death
&
• Curses

There was no mention of Hell, salvation or eternal life.

Only a warning of warfare between men and women, and also between Lucifer and humanity.

Genesis 3:13

What about salvation in the OT?

In ancient times everyone knew 'in their being' that Almighty God was the one to worship. They were also taught the Noahide laws to please him.

See Genesis 9

Up until the OC with Israel, ancient people were justified (made righteous) by their faith in the One True Living God

See Romans 4:9

But here's the BIG but:

Salvation in the OT is in reference to saving people or Israel from the oppression of others. e.g.

“You went forth for the salvation of Your people,
For salvation with Your Anointed. You struck the
head from the house of the wicked, By laying
bare from foundation to neck.”

Habakkuk 3:13

Sin in the OT → curses instead of blessings, not Hell.

For example:

“Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.”

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

Read the following, but not in the KJV:

- Deuteronomy 29:18-27
- Leviticus 26:3-39

Check out Deuteronomy 27 & 28



There is no direct teaching in the OT about salvation for the after-life

What about the temple sacrifices?

Temple sacrifice was for the purpose of forgiving the individual's and the nation's sins so that God's blessings could continue.

There was no reference to forgiveness to secure the after-life within the Law.

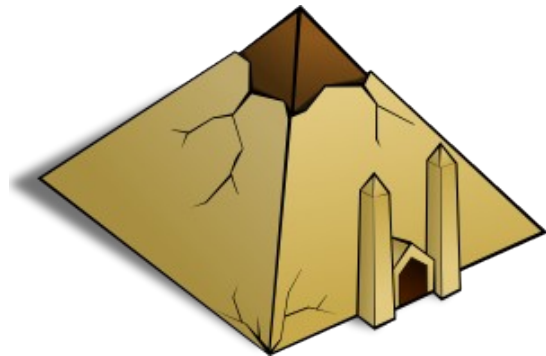
See Leviticus & Deuteronomy

“The sacrificial system in the Old Testament was a means of grace by which one who unintentionally sinned might make reparations for that sin without paying with his or her life, or with the life of his or her child. The system was an outward expression of a person or community’s inward desire to restore the broken relationships between humanity and God and humanity and the world.”

“The purpose of the Burnt Offering was for general atonement of sin and expression of devotion to God...The primary purpose of [the Sin] offering is not to atone for sins but rather to purify oneself for re-entering the presence of God.”

What about eternal life in the OT?

Many ancient civilizations contemporaneous with the OT buried royalty with objects and people to support them in the after-life



This means that there has been a concept of eternity from early times

There are a small number of verses in the OT that allude to it

For example:

“one of them can by any means redeem his brother,
nor give to God a ransom for him – for the
redemption of their souls is costly, and it shall cease
forever – that he should continue to live eternally,
and not see the Pit.”

Psalm 49:8-9 (NKJV)

But the Amplified renders this:

“For the ransom of his soul is too costly, and he should cease trying forever – so that he should live on eternally, that he should never see the pit (grave) and undergo decay.”

Psalm 49:8-9 (AMP)

This section of the psalm is about relying on
riches, not life & death

Daniel 12:2-3 expresses a belief in a resurrection. In it, those who are raised for life are associated with wisdom & righteousness.

The verses don't mention a reconnection with loved ones, a common concept today.

Research of Academics

Jewish beliefs about life after death are more ambiguous than in Christianity or Islam. That's because it's difficult to characterize Jewish views on an after-life in a general way.

“Jewish tradition strongly endorses the idea of life after death”, **but** “this belief was articulated largely in post-biblical works by the rabbis.”

Conclusions

- (1) Salvation in the OT is only about being saved from disaster and enemies
- (2) Punishment for sin was to bring God's curse
- (3) The OT has no specific teaching on eternal salvation (i.e. no instruction)
- (4) Jewish belief in eternity today is relatively modern & not given by God

Therefore it is ridiculous to sing songs about OT salvation with your heart focussed on eternal salvation

— e.g. Habakkuk 3:18

See what you can
discover about salvation
in the OT

COPYRIGHT

All quotes are copyrighted to the authors credited.

Free graphics are from www.clker.com & free photos are from commons.wikimedia.org.

This document is free to copy, republish and distribute, but only 'as is'.

All Canberra Forerunner documents are licensed under

[Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/)