

# INVESTIGATION

A man in a dark blue suit, white shirt, and brown 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?

(6 -The Focus of The Gospels)

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# REVISION

Salvation in the OT was about being saved from danger, from attacks by an enemy.

**What do the Gospels say  
about salvation?**



Could it be that John “the Baptizer” and Jesus were an ‘Ezekiel’ and a ‘Jeremiah’ warning the Jews of their apostasy and the consequent penalty?

Could their salvation message really have been about safety from Roman destruction?

Here's an example



Who warned you to flee  
from the wrath to come?

Matthew 3:7

What “wrath to come” was John referring to?



# **The destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD and the end of Judaism**

Here's the context which  
Jesus picks up

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! ... you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, →

→ from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon **this generation.**

Matthew 23:35-36 (NKJV)

NOTE this

But “Wait”, you say.

“That’s referring to Hell, so it  
must be about eternal  
salvation?”

Actually, **NO!**

Look at that verse in a literal translation of the NT Greek to see what it was saying to the Jews of Jesus' day...

“Snakes, brood of vipers, how may you escape from the condemnation of **Gehenna**?”

NOTE this



Matthew 23:33 (DLNT)



“You serpents, you viper’s brood, how do you think you are going to avoid being condemned to the **rubbish-heap?**”



NOTE this

Matthew 23:33 (PHILLIPS)

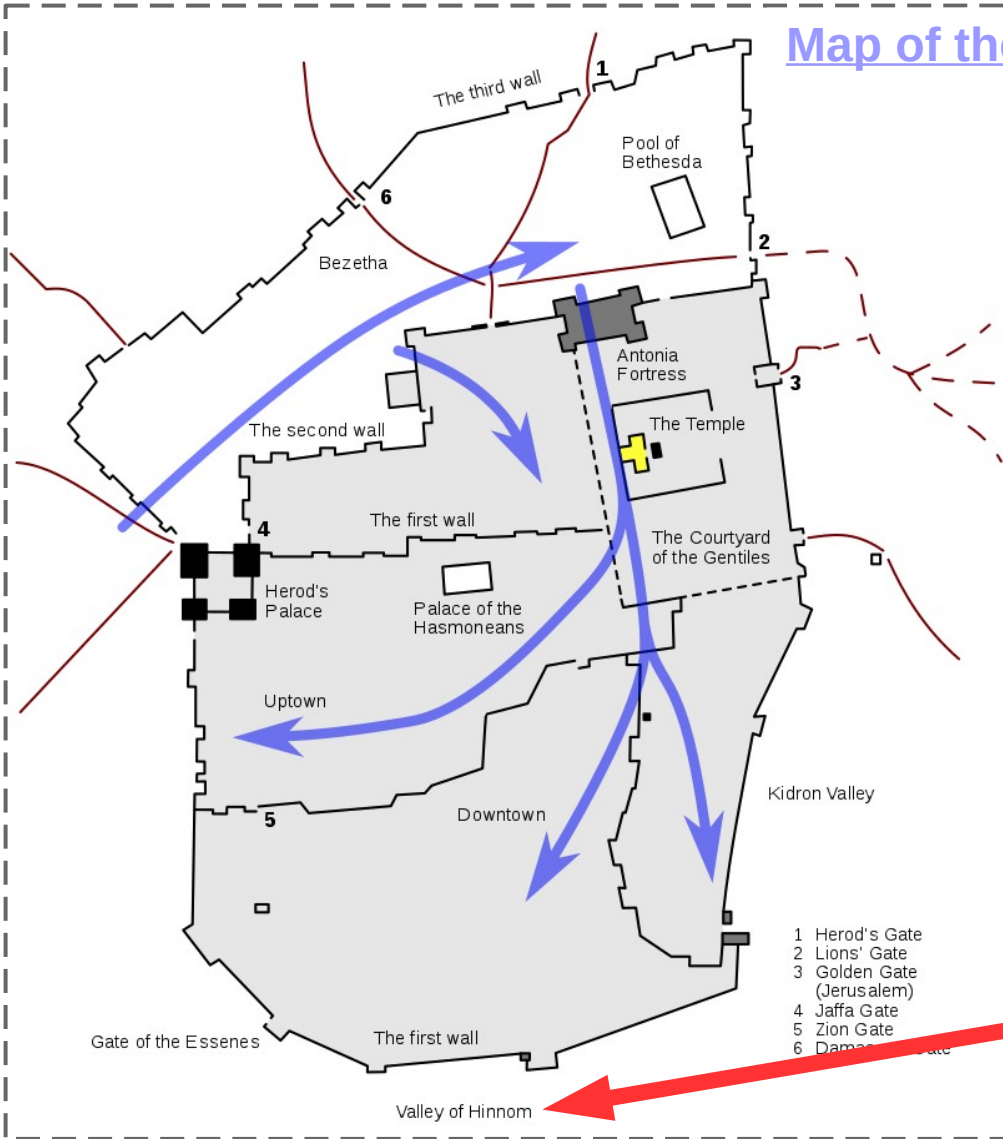




Gehenna or Gehinnom ("Valley of Hinnom") was a literal place. Initially, it was the valley outside of Jerusalem where some of the kings of Judah sacrificed their children by fire. In Jesus' day it was a rubbish dump that was constantly on fire to destroy the trash.

## Map of the Siege of Jerusalem

## **Investigation**



During the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD it is said that the bodies of the millions killed were taken outside the city and thrown into Gehenna

We know from our investigation ('Is there a Hell'), that Gehenna, Hades, Sheol, 'wailing & gnashing of teeth' and 'outer darkness' meant something important to the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews.

They have nothing to do with the Christian concept of Hell.

So, what could Jesus have meant by what he said?

Was he telling the Jewish leaders this:

- “As the ascended Lord Jesus I will come back in judgement of pagan Israel and use Rome to destroy you and the temple.”

Remember this?

Luke 13:23 (NIV) – Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

What was Jesus'  
answer?



“There is a great cost for anyone to enter through the narrow doorway to God’s kingdom realm. I tell you, there will be many who will want to enter but won’t be able to. For once the head of the house has shut and locked the door, it will be too late. Even if you stand outside knocking, begging to enter, and saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us,’ he will say to you, ‘I don’t know who you are. →

→ You are not a part of my family.’ “Then you will reply, ‘But Lord, we dined with you and walked with you as you taught us.’ And he will reply, ‘Don’t you understand? I don’t know who you are, for you are not a part of my family. You cannot enter in. Now, go away from me! For you are all **disloyal to me and do evil.**’ “You will experience great weeping and great anguish →

→ when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, along with all the prophets of Israel, enjoying God's kingdom realm while you yourselves are barred from entering. And you will see people streaming from the four corners of the earth, accepting the invitation to feast in God's kingdom, while you are kept outside looking in."

New Covenant



Luke 13:26-28 (TPT)

If you put aside your Christian salvation mindset, **can you see** that this is about the end of the Old Covenant of Jewish pre-eminence and the introduction of the New Covenant which everyone around the world would have access to?

Jesus was telling them that:

By their very attitude towards the Living God, plus their ambivalence of him and his Kingdom message, they had put themselves outside of the New Covenant.

Jesus also told them that:

They are unable to come in, despite Jesus working in their community, because they'll need a family relationship with him, not a birthright.

Let's look at another  
statement of Jesus

But he who endures to the end shall be **saved**. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:13-14 (NKJV)



We already know that this is part of the Olivet Discourse. It's about the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.

It's also about the end of the OC and the diaspora – the expulsion of the Jews from Jerusalem and the land of Israel.

Here's another set of  
statements

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another... →

→ Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers? They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? →

→ Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And **whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.**” Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that **He was speaking of them.**

Matthew 21:43-45 (NKJV)

What about this one?

Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But **he who endures to the end will be saved**. When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Definitely 1<sup>st</sup> century

Matthew 10:21-23 (NKJV)

Again, this salvation is referring to the time of the destruction of Jerusalem when King Jesus ('the Son of Man') comes to judge the nation and pass sentence.



Others refer to  
never-ending life

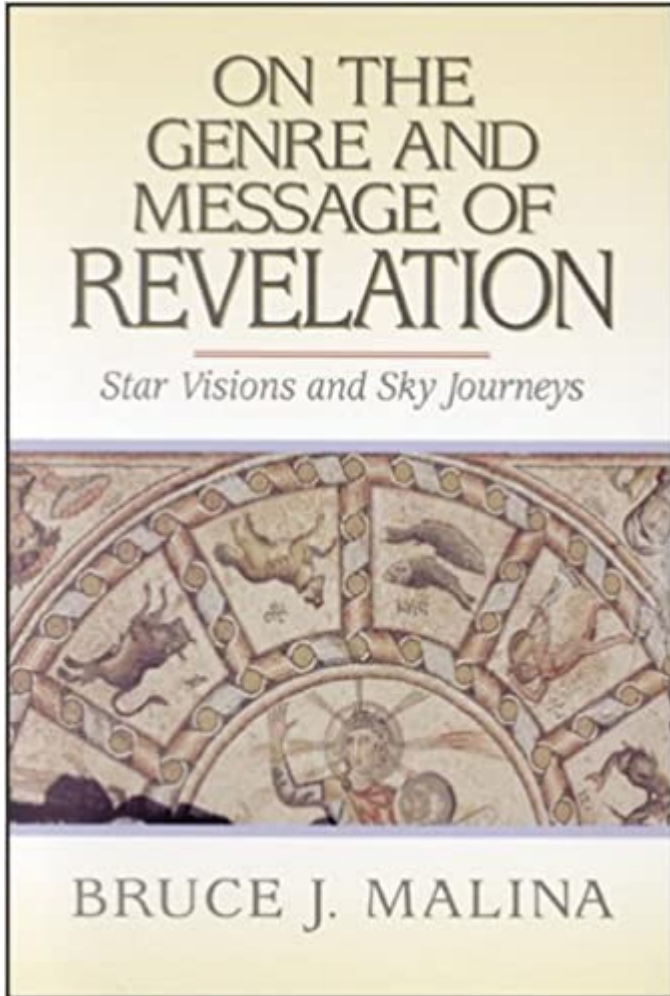
“Sir, unto whom shall we go? thou hast sayings of life age-during;”

John 6:68 (Young's Literal Translation)

‘age enduring’

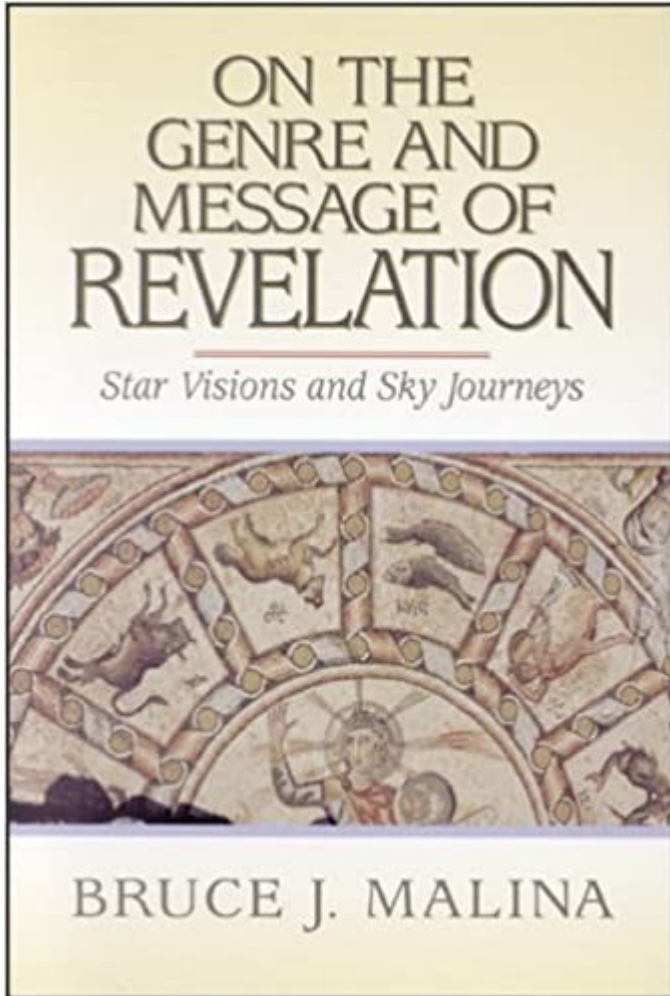


Never-ending life is the  
topic for next month



A full coverage of  
interpreting Revelation  
from an ancient  
cosmological perspective

**Only available in hardcover for \$135**



**Read page  
253-254**

**WARNING**



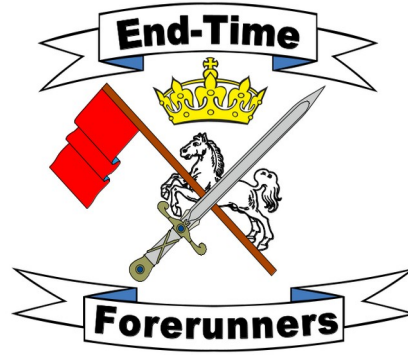
Therefore, we need  
to be **very careful**  
what we quote from  
Jesus about  
salvation as it may  
be totally irrelevant

What have you  
discovered about  
salvation in the Bible?

ASK HIM! HE KNOWS

The answers are here →





**L.D. Smart**

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