

“SAVIOUR”

Luke 2:7-11, 21

The angel instructed Joseph to “*call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins*” (Mt. 1:21). The name “*Jesus*” means “*Saviour*.”

There is only ONE Savior who can from sin (Isa. 43:10-11). “*Jesus*” is His name (cf. Tit. 1:3-4; 2:13; 3:6; 1 Tim. 4:10).

I. The NEED of a Savior.

➡ Unless there is a need for a Savior, the name is meaningless.

A. The children of Israel NEEDED salvation from the bondage of Egypt. So God raised up Moses to save them from Egypt.

B. Likewise, all of us need a Savior (Acts 4:12).

1. We need someone to save us from the bondage of sin.

2. We need someone to save us from an eternity in hell!

3. The angels announced to the shepherds, “*Unto is born this day in the city of David A SAVIOUR, which is Christ the Lord.*”

One Christmas card contained this message: “If our greatest need was education, God would have sent us an educator... If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist... If our greatest need had been self-esteem, God would have sent us a psychologist... But since our greatest need was salvation, God sent us a Savior.”

4. Jesus came to save his people from their sins (1 Tim. 1:15).

II. The NATURE of a Savior.

➡ The nature of a Savior is to SAVE!

- Jesus does not sit idly by and watch as we are imprisoned by sin. He takes action and accomplishes what His title reveals Him to be. He is going to save His people from their sins.

A. The **meaning** of salvation—to make safe, to secure.

1. It carries the idea of deliverance... of being saved from some terrible disaster that leads to perishing.

2. Jesus came into the world on a “rescue mission.” He came to save us. Luke 19:10—*Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* 1 John 4:14—*We have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.*

- B. Jesus did not come to show us how we could save ourselves.

Some have the idea Jesus paid the down payment for our sins on the cross, but after that we must keep up all the installment payments, otherwise God will foreclose on our heavenly home. Praise God, **Jesus PAID IT ALL! “IT IS FINISHED!”**

III. The NAME of the Savior—“JESUS.”

- “Jesus” is called the “Saviour” over 25 times in the Bible.
 - Hebrew forms of the name “Saviour”— Joshua (Josh. 1:1); Jehoshua, Oshea (Num. 13:16); Hoshea (Dt. 32:44).
 - Hosea was a PROPHET (Hosea 1:1)
 - Joshua was a PRIEST (Zech. 3:1).
 - Hoshea was a KING (2 Kings 18:1-10).
 - God applied the name “Saviour” to all three offices—Prophet, Priest, and King. Jesus has all three offices.
- A. What did the **PROPHET** do? He *uncovered* the sins of the people (Isa. 58:1).
- God used the prophets to save the people from the RELAXATION of sin.
 1. Sin will lull you to asleep. Sin will rock you into indifference and carelessness.
 2. Sin is deceitful will give you a false peace and rest.
 3. God sent prophets to disturb the false sense of peace and rest (Amos 6:1).
 4. God still sends us preachers to shake us loose from the temporal pleasures of sin.

Jesus, the Prophet, disturbs us from our RELAXATION in sin. The Prophet, Jesus, warns us of the dangers of sin and we are alerted about our condition! **He diagnoses in us a fatal disease called sin.** We cannot RELAX in our sin and contemplate the words of the Lord Jesus Christ at the same time.

- B. What did the **PRIEST** do? As the **Prophet** *uncovered* the sins in the people—the **Priest** *covered* the sins of the people with the appropriate sacrifice.
- God used the priest to save the people from the RUIN of sin.
 1. The priest offered the sacrifice that would atone (cover) for the sins of the people. He became a means of saving them from the ruin of sin—Both individually and annually (on the day of atonement).
 2. The nature of sin is to destroy. It is sin that ruins and destroys marriages and individual's lives.
 3. You cannot be too hard on sin. Can a doctor be “too hard” on cancer? Can a forest ranger be “too hard” on causes of fire?

As Priest, Jesus Christ offers Himself as the sacrifice for sin on Calvary's cross. He cleanses us from the RUIN of sin.

- C. The **King** saved people from the RULE / REIGN of sin.
1. Judges 17:6—*“In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”* The result was anarchy and unrest. While sin reigns, there is no peace. David said, *“...neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin. For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me”* (Ps. 38:3-4).
 2. God raised up a King to lead the nation away from the dominion of sin and secured peace and rest. The result of David's reign as King was REST. 1 Kings 5:4—*“But now the Lord my God hath given me REST ON EVERY SIDE, so that*

there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent [occurring; happening].”

3. Likewise, King Asa lead the nation Israel into peace and rest by delivering them from the rule of sin (see 2 Chron. 14:2-6).

King Jesus, defeated the devil and sin. Jesus gives rest from the RULE of sin. Romans 6:12 says, “*SIN SHALL NOT HAVE DOMINION over you!*” Jesus did not come to smile at our sin—He came to save us from our sin!

SUMMATION: A fable told of an ancient kingdom: In ancient days the people of this kingdom found themselves living under a shadow of the heavens gradually descending upon them. Each year the sky will come down closer and closer to the ground. At first, they didn’t worry too much about it. Finally, they realized they were in great danger of being pressed down to the ground by the descending skies. Eventually the sky had come down so far they the people were forced to knell on their knees. The people began to call on the “Hercules” of their kingdom to come to their aid. The strong man said, “I need a strong stick and I will push that sky back up into the heavens.” So Hercules saved the kingdom by pushing the sky back into place with a wooden pole.

APPLICATION: The burden of sin comes down heavy upon us. At first, we are not to alarmed by it. We think we will be alright. But later, sin begins to crush us, we are aware of the danger we are in. Finally, we fall to our knees, and God sends a Savior. The “Strong Man of heaven” takes something more than a stick or pole—He uses an old rugged cross. With that cross He takes the bondage and condemnation of our sin and SAVES US FROM OUR SINS.

“Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

1. First—Recognize you need to be saved.
2. Second—You cannot save yourself.
3. Third—Jesus Christ paid the price to save you.
4. Four—Ask Him to save you and He will (Rom. 10:13)