Hearts of Love

70m & Debbie 7illman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

May God richly bless you!

Tom & Debbie

How is anyone Saved?

well known Mega-Church pastor has said that Christians should 'unhitch' their faith from the Old Testament, implying that the Old Testament is not Scripture which we should necessarily give attention to today. Other teachers tell us that our faith has Hebrew roots and we are still bound by the laws and statutes of the Old Testament. If we listen to the first pastor, we might think that 'real' salvation didn't begin until the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ while those hearing the second teacher might think that we are saved by obeying the law and that Jews were saved in the Old Testament by the sacrifices and blood of animals.

How were they saved in the Old Testament? Was it different from how we're saved now? The writer of the Book of Hebrews begins his book... 'God, who at various times and in various ways, spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds...'

He says, 'God spoke.' God chose to reveal Himself. From the very beginning, from Adam onward, mankind has only known anything of God because God chose to reveal Himself to us. He revealed Himself gradually and progressively but He never fully revealed Himself until He did so in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, when He finally and fully revealed Himself to Man. Jesus said, 'If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.' When the writer used the phrase, 'in these last days,' his readers, Hebrews, would have immediately been reminded of the Messiah,





He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.
Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:19,20

the One God had promised to send as Savior and Redeemer. The Messiah was promised to come in the last days to fulfill all God's promises to Israel.

To Zechariah He said, 'Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' Zech. 9:9

To Jeremiah He said, 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of Righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely and this *is the name* by which (it) will be called: *THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS*.' Jer. 33:14

How was an Old Testament believer saved?' The answer is, *Just like us*!' Faith in God, the Son... by believing in these and other promises from God's prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah who was promised to come in the last days...

Today, in the *time of the Church*, we are saved because we believe what God's Word says about the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, and also what it says about us. We then, by faith, put our trust in what the Word of God says He did for us... Right?

The Bible says that we are all sinners and deserve to die and go to Hell. It also says that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He lived a perfect and sinless life and was willing to die on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sin... and if we will believe on Him and put our faith and trust in Him... God will forgive us and make us righteous in His sight.

That is the Gospel... right?

None of that is new to the New Testament... all of it is the same Gospel that was told... little by little to the Old Testament Saints from the very beginning... from Adam and Eve onward. God began to teach His Gospel, the good news of the coming of His

Son, even before Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden.

After they sinned, God pronounced a curse on mankind, on creation and on Satan as the Serpent. He said to the Serpent, 'Because you have done this... I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; *He shall bruise your head,* and you shall bruise His heel." Gen. 3

Right there, God was promising the coming of the Messiah and that He would eventually destroy Satan and his works. When God instructed Abel to sacrifice a lamb, He was pointing to the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

When God established the Levitical Sacrificial system, with the sacrificing of lambs, He was pointing to the coming Lamb of God.

'How was an Old Testament believer saved?' The answer is, Just like us!' Faith in God, the Son... by believing in these and other promises from God regarding the coming Messiah. The fact of the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ being imputed to us was not new with Paul's teaching... the complete forgiveness of our sins through the crucifixion and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God and then risen as King of Kings... these 'doctrines' are not new to the New Testament. Here in Jeremiah, God is saying, 'Your righteousness will come from the Messiah.' (The Lord our

Righteousness) Through Isaiah He said that the Messiah would be crucified for 'our' transgressions, and that He would be like a lamb... He would be the One to Whom the entire Old Testament Sacrificial System had pointed. Every drop of sacrificial lamb's blood shed on every altar from Abel down through the Mosaic Law was looking forward to

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the shed blood of the perfect, sinless Lamb of God, whose blood was shed for the true forgiveness of sin on the altar of the Cross.

Remember, the name and title, the Lord Jesus Christ, is simply the Greek form of the Hebrew name and title of the promised Messiah... Adonai-Jeshua-Messiah... Sovereign Lord-God is Salvation-Anointed One. All the Old Testament points to this same person... Isaiah wrote: Surely *He* has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our Peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. Isa. 53:4 These are only a few of the many, many Old Testament passages concerning the promised Messiah. Today, we are saved by believing in faith what God's Word tells us

regarding what His Son accomplished for us in the past. Old Testament believers were saved by believing in faith what God's Word told them that His Son, the promised Messiah would accomplish for them in the future. We recently presented the Gospel to a young couple who then said they would like to pray with us and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. We explained that no one would be saved by saying a prayer or by going to Church or by being good enough. They would only have eternal life by trusting on Jesus Christ's finished work on the Cross, in what He had done for them. The same was true for Old Testament believers. They weren't saved by going to Temple or by sacrifices and offerings or by being good enough. They were only saved by believing what God's Word said regarding what the coming Messiah would do for them... that He would be wounded for our transgressions, that He would die for our sin, that God would 'lay on Him the iniquity of us all;' only by trusting in Him would any of them ever see God. The whole Gospel was presented in the Old Testament... just not as clearly as in the New Testament.

They were saved like we are saved... only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hong Kong, China Delay

We've had to postpone our next trip to Hong Kong, for carrying Bibles to the persecuted Church in China, which we had planned for this Fall. Our arrangements had been 'up in the air' for a few months because of our uncertainty surrounding Tom's elevated prostate numbers. Then, when we finally received the good news of completely negative biopsy results, we found we had insurmountable scheduling conflicts between the Ministry we work with in Hong Kong and necessary care for Tom's mom during the two or three weeks we would be away. Our intention now is to plan our next trip for this coming Spring. Thank you for praying for us, for Tom and for the persecuted Christians in China who so desperately need the precious Word of God. We just received our new passports so we're ready and raring to go. Keep us in prayer... Thank you.

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