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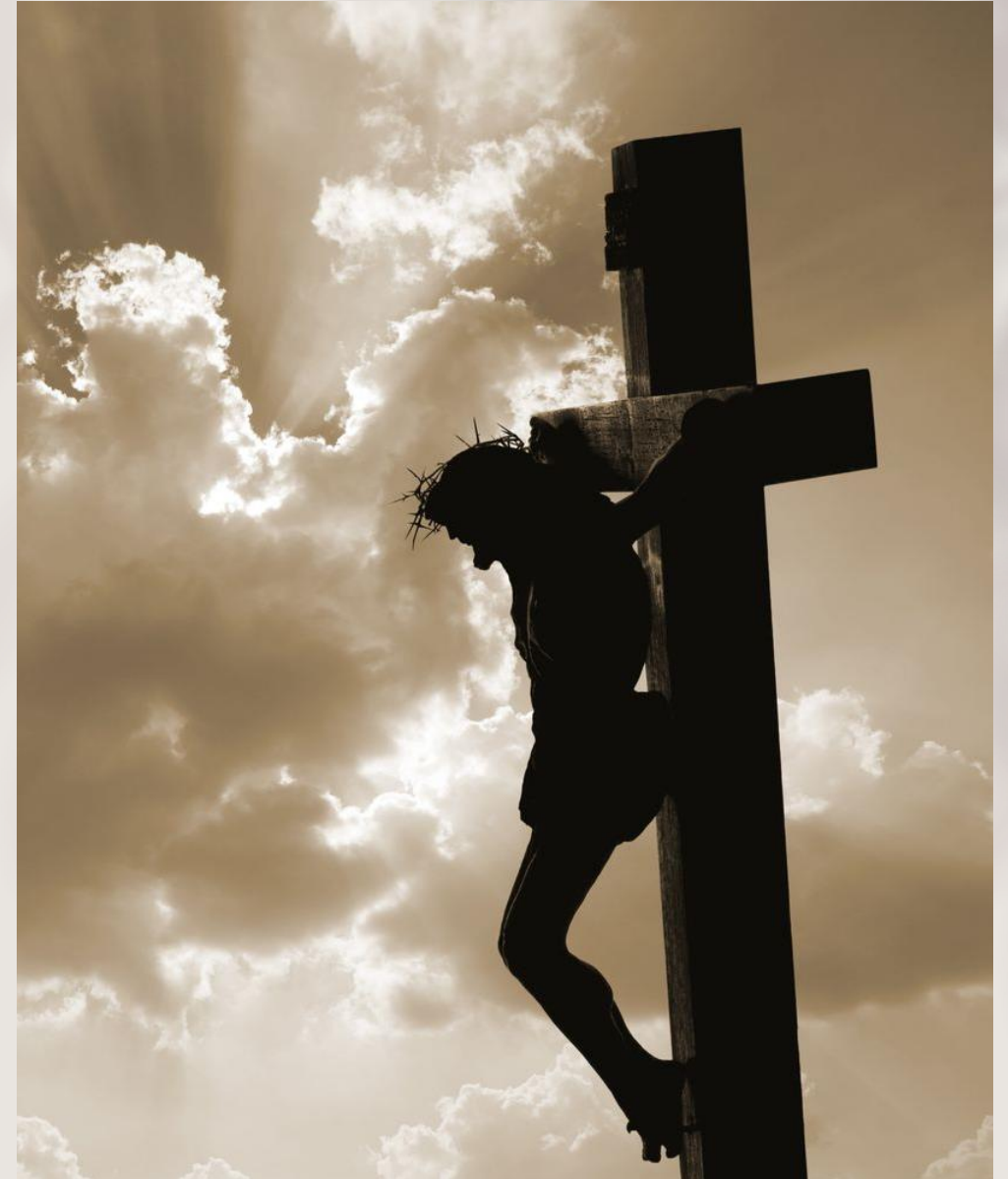


What Salvation Means for Human Beings: Metaphors of Salvation

Trevor O'Reggio

Redemption Achieved for Sinful Humanity through the Life and Death of Christ

The Bible is the story of God's response to man's plight and the good news that assures us that God cares. The Gospel is not just knowledge about the concept of salvation but the knowledge of a person and what he has done. It is the account of the intervention of the offended on behalf of the offender, the moving story of the constant quest of God for his wayward children.



How Salvation is experienced

Images of Victory

Hebrews 2:14, 18, Col. 2:15,
Rev12:11 Rom 8:37



Images of Changed Legal Status

Romans 5:8-10. Gal 2:16



Images of a changed Personal Relationship

John 1:12, 2 Corinthians 5:19,
Ephesians 2:20



How Salvation is Experienced

Images of Liberation

Romans 8:1-2, John 8:36



Images of Restoration to Wholeness

2 Corinthians 3: 17, 19, Gal 2:20



Images of Returned Authority and Dominion

John 1:12, Ephesians 2:11, Luke 10:18

There are many Metaphors the Bible use to express the Salvation Process

- Justification → from legal world
- Redemption → Slave market
- Ransom → Kidnapping
- Born Again → Physical Birth
- Grafted → Horticulture

- GRACE → Theological world
- Adoption → Family Life
- Reconciliation → Human Relationships
- Sanctification → Theological
- Atonement → Temple/Sanctuary

These metaphors have the capacity to only describe a narrow aspect of the plan of salvation. One metaphor may focus on the legal aspect or the moral aspect, or the relational. A metaphor may describe the beginning and the ending of the process, or the process itself, or the final consequences of the process.



Inadequacy of Individual Metaphors



Inadequacy of Individual Metaphors

Some metaphors focus on God's part while others stress the human response. All these metaphors are mere human attempts to describe in some finite way the immensity and grandeur of God's loving plan for the salvation of men and women.

A metaphor is a comparison between two things that are unrelated to explain or expound upon an idea.

Why are Metaphors Important?

To evangelize across cultures, races, languages, ethnicities, we must use appropriate metaphors with the various cultures so that people can better understand the fullness of the gospel

The Bible uses metaphors frequently to describe theological ideas. There are many metaphors of salvation in the Bible and I have chosen some of the main ones to explore their meaning.



Images of Victory

Heb 2:14-15, Col 2:15,
Rev 12:11, Rom 8:37

One of the pervasive metaphors of salvation in the Bible is the image of Christ's victory over the devil. Jesus took on human form and defeated the devil using Satan's most potent weapon. Just as David killed Goliath with his own sword, Jesus took Satan's weapon (death) and destroyed the devil. Jesus victory is credited to us and guaranteed our own victory over death and the devil. Luke 10:18, I see Satan fall like lightning from heaven



Images of Change Legal Status

Rom 5:8-10, 18

Gal 2:16

Sin is breaking the law of God and that puts us under the penalty of the law. Christ's obedience on the cross obtained forgiveness and pardon for sinners. We are free from the penalty of the law because of our sins. The guilty can be washed of their sins and be made clean and are thus justified, declared righteous in God's sight. They stand acquitted before God. Our legal status is now changed.



Images of Changed Personal Relationship

Sin creates alienation and estrangement from God. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself—2 Cor 5:19. “He’s making a renewed relationship between himself and humanity possible and available. Ephesians 2:4-6. Raised to sit in heavenly places



As humans we are alienated from one another but can draw together again through the process of forgiveness and reconciliation, so those who are far from God can draw close to God through the death of Christ.

Images of Liberation



Sinners are imprisoned by the oppressive forces of evil and sin. The death of Christ frees us from this prison and the fear of death (Heb. 2:14). As Christ broke free from the prison of death and the grave, he has provided the way for our liberation. By faith in him we can break free from the chains of sin and ultimately from the power of death. John 8:36, If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed. Rom 8:1, 2

Images of Restoration of Wholeness

Sin is also a sickness that affects every son and daughter of Adam (Isaiah) 1:8). It's spiritual leprosy, but through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ we can experience restoration to wholeness. By his stripes we are healed. The divine physician is able to bind up our wounds and restore us to wholeness and spiritual health. Luke 19:10, Luke 5:31, 32, Gal 2:20





Images of Returned Authority and Dominion

"To as many as believe him, to them he gave authority to become sons of God." (John 1:12) Adam lost his dominion and authority to the devil when he succumbed to his temptation. Satan became the prince of the world. Ever since the fall of man, Satan's philosophy and ideology has governed the planet. When Christ lived, died and rose triumphantly from the grave he reversed the loss suffered by Adam and began the process of restoring the authority and dominion back to the sons of Adam. Ephesians 2:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, Luke 10:18 I see Satan fall like lightning from heaven