

# *MORE SEED & BREAD, ISSUE NO. 304*

## **SALVATION REALITY**

By Robert Juneau

**Romans 13:11: And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed (all verses NKJV).**

When Paul wrote these words to the believers in Rome, he was admonishing them to make sure their lives were lined up with the Kingdom of God as it was about to advance into its next stage. The Acts Period is the record of the Kingdom of God in its blade stage as set forth in the parable of growing grain in Mark 4:26-29. The book of Romans is the last epistle written during the Acts Period and the blade stage had run its course; the head stage and the full grain in the head stage were right around the corner. These more advanced stages of the Kingdom would have most certainly been ushered in very soon, but instead, God chose to suspend the Kingdom economy before this advancement could occur, bringing in the Dispensation of Grace.

We place our hope in the fact that when God chooses to end this Dispensation of Grace, the Kingdom of God will pick up right where it left off. This means that believers today can expect the advanced stages of the Kingdom to be the next event in God's plans for mankind and this Earth. Our situation is similar to that of the Roman believers in that the manifest Kingdom of God could burst (*epiphaneia*) on the scene at any moment. Nothing happens before God makes His move.

When this glorious day arrives it will have profound ramifications concerning our state. We will see our salvation (*soterion*) become a reality. Paul tells the Roman believers that their salvation was nearer than when they first believed. This might sound confusing because we think of salvation as something we have the moment we become believers; we use the term "saved" to describe ourselves. The truth is, the actuality of our salvation, the

manifestation of all we have as our possession concerning our salvation, will not become a reality until that day in which God again picks up His previous work, the Kingdom of God on Earth

Today children go hungry and homeless; spouses abuse each other and their children; we have corrupt governments; murder, war, pestilence, natural disasters kill millions; swindlers cheat widows of their mite; drugs, drunkenness, and pornography are everyday staples; sickness and death are all around us. Immorality and the effects of the fall of man abound on every corner. Even among believers, sin remains in us. Even if our deeds might look more respectable, if we are honest with ourselves, our thoughts, our judgments, and our attitudes are still tainted and corrupt because of the sin nature that is in all of us.

Every believer who has ever lived has died; the same fate awaits us who live today unless God intervenes (Romans 6:23). We still sin, we still get sick, and we still die. We have a much more wonderful life when we have God's Word and the Holy Spirit to help direct our paths but it is also true that we need to be changed. This world (Gk.-*kosmos*) needs to be changed. **Mortality must put on immortality, corruption must put on incorruption; death must be swallowed up in victory** (1 Corinthians 15:51-58). Christ has paved the way for this restoration of mankind to become a reality, but today, sin and death still run rampant. In the truest sense, we do not yet enjoy the reality of our salvation.

The eonion (English transliteration of *aionios*) life that God has promised us is the reality of our salvation. Because of all that Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross on our behalf, we have been promised another life to replace this broken one. New Testament translators usually chose to translate the Greek word *aionios* "eternal," "forever," or "everlasting." While this promise of eonion life will most certainly be forever, the meaning of the adjective *aionios* is much more illuminating when it is understood to be related to the "flow" of God.

In **Seed & Bread** No. 128, Otis Q. Sellers explains this word as being connected to *aemi*, to breathe, that which denotes life. He goes on to explain that the original spelling of *aion* was *ainon*, the older spelling still seen in John 3:23: **And John was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there.** All lexicons agree that the original spelling of *ainon* means a spring, a free-flowing fountain of water. Mr. Sellers has brought much light to the

meaning of this word by relating the noun *aion* to the manifest Kingdom of God and portraying it as the flow of God.

That will be the day when we find ourselves instead of being caught up in this present evil flow (*aion*), as in Galatians 1:4, we will be caught up and deeply immersed in the flow (*aion*) of God and His government. Today we are living in the flow of God's grace, which results in man having his way; the world is running just as man would have it run; it is the day of man. The flow of God that is to come will bring all of the attributes that are synonymous with our salvation such as life, health, wellness, and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). Whether we're changed while still living, or whether we're changed through resurrection, this will be the day when the world runs just as God would have it run; it will be the Day of Christ (Philippians 1:10, 2:16).

Acknowledging that *soterion* (salvation) is an adjective, we must follow the rule of grammar that adjectives cannot stand alone because they always modify a noun. When adjectives seem to stand alone, the noun they modify must be found in the context. Mr. Sellers has taught us that in the five times *soterion* appears in our New Testament, it has been substantivized; that is, it is used as if it were a noun. If we treat *soterion* like the adjective it is, this word means "salvation-bringing," but then we then have to ask, "Salvation-bringing what?"

There is an interesting use of the word *soterion* in Luke 3:6; it is a quote from Isaiah 40:5. When we compare the two passages we will see that the Holy Spirit has inspired Luke to use the Greek word *soterion* (salvation) to quote Isaiah's Hebrew word *kabod* (glory). In **Seed & Bread** No. 8, Mr. Sellers has made the connection for us that "the salvation-bringing what?" in Luke 3 is the glory of the Lord as clearly seen from the Old Testament verse it quotes. Isaiah 40:5: ***The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.*** Luke 3:6: ***And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*** All four gospels confirm that John the Baptist is the one to whom Isaiah had prophesied would cry in the wilderness and would prepare the way of the Lord and they all quote from Isaiah 40 to do so. Israel was being prepared for the Kingdom of God. Matthew 3:1-3: **Repent for the kingdom of God (or heaven) is at hand.** To "repent" (Gk.-*metanoeo*) meant to "submit" (ahead of time) to the soon

coming Kingdom of God. John's baptism was for the purpose of identifying (merging) Israel with the soon coming Kingdom of God.

The verses leading up to Isaiah 40:5, quoted in Luke, tell us what the glory of the Lord is. Isaiah 40:1-5: **"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" says your God. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."**

When an Old Testament prophet spoke words of comfort to Israel, he was revealing something about Israel's promise of the Kingdom of God. This passage in Isaiah is no exception. Comfort will come to Israel and to Jerusalem, it will be shouted forth that her wars have ceased and her iniquity is forgiven, she has received from the Lord everything needed for all her sins, a clear path is made for the Lord, every government needing lifting up will be lifted up, every government needing to be put in its place will be humbled, every wrong thing will be made right, difficult things will be made easy. The Lord will speak from heaven and all flesh shall see that the Kingdom of God has become a reality on earth.

When we read Isaiah 40 and Luke 3 as a whole, it becomes clear that what Luke calls the *soterion* of God is the Kingdom of God; the salvation bringing glory of God that all flesh will see together. This is one of the main purposes of the Kingdom of God, for the glory of God to shine forth on earth and in the heart of man. Colossians 3:4: When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in Glory. The Greek word *phaneroo* appears twice in this verse and is translated "appear(s)." *Phaneroo* means to "bring to light," make manifest. This is the day when our salvation will become a reality.

The things we have in Christ today are internal and secret, not open and manifest. Colossians 3:3: **For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ, in God.** We are promised many things that while we may be technically in possession of them today, we have yet to realize them. Like a child who has received an inheritance of ten million dollars but cannot take control of it until he grows to adulthood, we too have the promise of an inheritance but must wait to take

possession of it. Technically, the child is a millionaire even though he cannot take physical possession of the money until a future day. Technically, we are "kingdomaires"; we just cannot take physical possession of it until a future day. This wonderful inheritance of ours can be discovered in the first three chapters of Ephesians and throughout Scripture in all of the great promises that describe the Kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to admonish the believers in Rome to wake up out of their sleep and realize that their salvation was nearer than when they first believed. Luke 3:6 and Romans 13:11 both tell us that the Kingdom of God is our "salvation." We also should know the time; now it is high time that we also should wake up from our sleep, for how much nearer too is our salvation today than when we first believed?

<p>The SEED &amp; BREAD Bible-study leaflets are published as often as time and means permit and are sent free to all names on THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY mailing list. Send us your name. There will be no obligation, solicitation or visitation. Additional copies of any issue available on request.</p>
--

MORE SEED & BREAD, ISSUE NO. 304, Published July 2015