

Doctrine of Salvation in the Old Testament

1. The way of salvation was the same in the Old Testament era as it is in the New Testament era, and that is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Without faith it is impossible to please God.
 - *Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*
3. Faith needs an object, for it is the object of faith that receives the merit. God is most pleased when people have faith in Him and in His Son, the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
 - *Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*
 - *John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.*
 - *Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*
 - *Galatians 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*
 - *Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*
4. The New Testament way of salvation for the Old Testament saints is commented upon in Paul's epistle to the Romans.
 - *Romans 4:1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? 2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. 4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. 6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.*
 - *Romans 9:30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. 31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; 33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

5. The gospel was known by the Old Testament saints, according to the Scriptures, for they prophesied Messiah's death, burial, resurrection, ascension and session.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
6. The Old Testament saints look forward to the Lamb of God which would take away the sin of the world in the Person of the Messiah. The New Testament saints look back to the Lamb of God at Calvary making redemption for those who are to be the heirs of salvation. What was presented in shadow form became a living reality.
 - *Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.*
 - *Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*
7. What is certain is that no one was ever saved by keeping the Law.
 - *Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*