

Biblical Images of Salvation

- Definition of redemption
- Old Testament images
- Synoptic Gospels
- Gospel of John
- Paul
- Hebrews
- Three tenses of salvation

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Definition of Redemption

- Redemption –
 - “Whenever [people] by their own fault or through some superior power have come under the control of someone else, and have lost their freedom to implement their will and decisions, and when their own resources are inadequate to deal with that other power, they can regain their freedom only by the intervention of a third party.”
 - New International Dictionary of NT Theology

2

OT Images

- Hebrew: *yasha* = to be roomy, broad.
 - From enemies, danger, illness, injustice, death.
 - Overlaps with *shalom* (peace, well-being).
- Judges, heroes, kings are deliverers or saviors of the people.
- Since God raised them up, he is THE savior of his people.
- God reveals himself as savior through his mighty acts on behalf of his people.

3

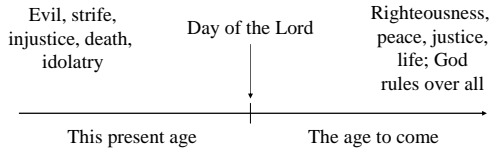
OT Images

- God is associated with the *go'el* (kinsman-redeemer).
- People must trust in God alone to obtain salvation.
- Deliverance from sin is *not* the main focus.
- Salvation is also depicted as healing.
- Salvation is in the context of a covenant relationship between God and his people.

4

OT Images

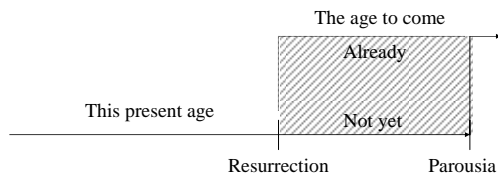
- Salvation is eschatological.
- Deliverance in the Day of the Lord.
- Eschatological dualism of two ages.



5

Synoptic Gospels

- NT framework is also eschatological.
 - Centers on Kingdom of God.
 - “Already” and “not yet.”



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Synoptic Gospels

- New emphasis: personal.
- Of the four evangelists, Luke uses salvation language the most.
- Illustrations from the Gospel of Mark...
 - The good news of the Kingdom's arrival.
 - Entering into the life of the age to come.
 - Discipleship: response to Jesus.
 - Paradox: losing your life to save it.

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Gospel of John

- Doesn't use salvation/redemption language.
- Emphasizes eternal life.
- This life is found in Christ.
- To receive this life, one must be "born again" or "born of the Spirit" or "born from above."

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Paul

- Frequent use of salvation language.
- Greek *sozo* (to save), *soteria* (salvation).
- Opposite of *apollumi* (perish) or *apoleia* (destruction).
- Familiar images: justification, righteousness, reconciliation, peace, adoption, freedom, election, predestination, being "in Christ."

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Hebrews

- Salvation again is eschatological.
- Salvation has three tenses.
- Picks up and reinterprets OT images.
- Appropriated by repentance and faith (faithfulness).
- Salvation means approaching God.
- It means being sanctified and perfected.

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Three Tenses of Salvation

- NT uses salvation language in three tenses.
 - Past: Titus 3:5
 - Present: 1 Cor. 1:18
 - Future: Rom. 5:9
- Read Titus 2:11-14; Rom. 5:1-11; 8:15-25.
 - What is past? Present? Future?
 - What are we saved *from*?
 - What are we saved *for*?
- See handout on three tenses of salvation.

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