

In What Ways Does God Save?

The *International Sunday School Lesson* for Sunday, December 26, 2010
Isaiah 43:1-7, 11-12

“I, even I, am the LORD, And there is no savior besides Me” (Isaiah 43:11—NASB-U).

“I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior” (Isaiah 43:11—NRSV).

“I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour” (Isaiah 43:11—KJV).

When the floodwaters rose, who saved the human race and the animal kingdom from extinction? God, who warned Noah to build a boat. When Jacob and his family ran out of food, who saved them from starvation? God, who sent Joseph ahead of them to rule in Egypt. When the Hebrews suffered under Pharaoh’s oppression, who saved them from slavery? God, who sent Moses to lead them to the Promised Land. When Nineveh deserved God’s punishment, who led them to repent of their sins? God, who sent the Hebrew prophet, Jonah, to that great city to preach and save it from destruction. Who saved Daniel’s three friends from death in the fiery furnace? God, who sent His angel to walk in the flames with them. Throughout history, we know of no greater savior than God, who saves people directly and often through His servants.

However, can anyone save us from eternal death, the punishment that is the consequence of sin and rebellion against God? Only God can save us. For this reason, God the Father sent Jesus, His only begotten Son, “not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:17). In spite of our sins, rebellion, and the death we deserve, God loved the world so much “that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Could anything be better than living forever? Yes, salvation from sin! Only freedom from sin will make eternal life worth living. Therefore, when His Son was born, the Father wanted Him named “Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). — Copyright 2010 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Questions for Further Thought

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1. Why did God want Isaiah to assure His people that they should not fear the suffering that they were undergoing or about to undergo as punishment for their sins? How might we be encouraged by Isaiah 43:1? How might we use that verse to encourage other believers?
2. In these verses, in what ways does God tell the Jews that He is their savior? What are some of the ways God has been the savior of His people?
3. In what ways can believers be assured that they are precious to God and honored and loved by God? In what ways does God honor His people?
4. What does God say He will do so believers do not need to be afraid?
5. In Isaiah 43:12, God said through Isaiah, “I declared and saved and proclaimed.” Why are all three of these actions of God important? As God’s witnesses, what should we do?