

Salvation of Israel

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Salvation comes to both the nation of Israel and Gentiles in the same way — by faith in the Saviour and Deliverer, Jesus Christ (or “Yeshua Hamaschiach” in Hebrew).
2. For the Jewish people, salvation is by grace by faith in the Messiah Yeshua. Salvation is through the confessing and believing of Jesus as Lord and Saviour (Rom. 10:9).
3. They have to be convicted of their need for a Saviour, so that they will call on the name of Yeshua and be saved (Rom. 10:1 – 11:21)
4. Even though the Jewish people had rejected Jesus at His first coming, resulting in God’s rejection of them, Paul tells us that God’s rejection of Israel is neither total nor final. Blindness of Israel is only for a season until the fullness of the Gentiles come in.
5. When the Gospel has reached the ends of the earth, and when the fullness of the Gentiles has come, all of Israel will be saved (Rom. 11:25–26).

B. STAGES OF SALVATION FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE

There are different stages of salvation that the Jewish people as a nation will go through.

1. Some are saved — This has always been the case throughout the centuries and is the case now. There has always been a remnant (a small number) of Jewish people who call on Yeshua’s Name. In 2012 there were reportedly 145,000 to 250,000 Messianic Jews in the USA, and an estimated 350,000 worldwide¹.
2. Many will be saved — There will be a great harvest of Jewish people before Jesus returns. This will happen at an accelerating rate as the Gospel is being preached to all nations, when the outpouring of the Spirit is on all flesh, and when God sends revival to the nation of Israel.
3. All of Israel will be saved (Rom. 11:26) — This will happen at the End of the Age after two-thirds of the Jewish people have been killed (Zech. 13:8–9). At that time, those who remain will see their Deliverer and their King Yeshua fighting for them. Three things will happen then:

¹ *Moment Magazine – The Next 5,000 Years of Conversation Begin Here*, July 2, 2013.
<https://www.momentmag.com/sarah-posner-israels-best-friends-or-jews-mortal-enemies/>.

- a. Fullness of salvation (Zech. 13:8);
- b. Fullness of deliverance from enemies (Isa. 26);
- c. Fullness of cleansing and removal of sin (Isa. 27; 59; Zech. 13:1–6).

C. WRONG BELIEFS AND TEACHINGS

There are many obstacles that stand in the way of Israel's salvation. One of the main obstacles are wrong beliefs and teachings.

1. Jewish people believe that Jesus cannot be the Messiah, because their great rabbis and wise men have taught them so, and they hold the teachings of their leaders and rabbis in high regard.
 - a. Ironically, the Torah and the prophets talk about the Messiah being the one that the builders' reject. The fact that He was rejected rather confirms that He is their Messiah.
 - b. In Luke 20:17, Jesus quoted Psalm 118:22, "*the stone which the builders rejected will be the chief cornerstone.*" When the religious leaders heard this, they knew He was talking about them.
2. The Jewish people interpret some Messianic texts as referring to Israel instead of to the promised Messiah.
 - a. They believe that the suffering servant in Isaiah 53 refers to the nation of Israel and not the Messiah as they believe that their Messiah will not suffer, cannot be pierced or go to the cross.
 - b. In Daniel 7:18, where Daniel saw a vision of a man approaching God on His throne, they interpret the man to be a representation of Israel as a people and not their Messiah.
3. They believe that they have salvation because they are the descendants of Abraham.
 - a. However, salvation, even for them, is not by physical descent but only by calling on the name of Yeshua.
 - b. He alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can go to the Father except through Yeshua (Jn. 14:6).
4. They believe they can earn their salvation by their own righteousness (Rom. 10:3). This is not true as salvation is by grace by faith in Yeshua alone.

D. OTHER BARRIERS

1. Throughout history, different groups of Christians have been known to persecute and kill the Jewish people – the Crusades, Spanish inquisition, Nazi Germany, etc.
 - a. As a result, there is hatred and resentment against Christians.
 - i. Even those who have no hatred against Christians face a conflict within themselves when considering accepting Yeshua as Lord.
 - ii. To accept the beliefs of Christians would seem unfilial as this would mean having the faith of the same people who had killed their ancestors. This is a difficult barrier to overcome both emotionally and mentally.
 - b. There is a need for repentance on the part of Christians for what they have done to the Jewish people in the past, and a need to release forgiveness on the part of the Jewish people. God has to bring healing to this relationship.
2. Another barrier to their salvation is the fear of persecution or of being ostracised by their family and friends.
 - a. The orthodox Jewish people are very vocal and demonstrative of their hatred against Messianic Jewish believers.
 - b. They equate becoming a believer of Yeshua as an act of renouncing Judaism and their Jewish heritage.
3. However, the truth is that the Messiah is talked about in the Torah and that faith in Yeshua should be a natural step for them. The god of this age has blinded the eyes of many, including the eyes of the Jewish people (2 Cor. 4:4). We have to pray that God will remove the veil that covers their eyes.

E. PRAYER POINTERS**General Prayers for the Salvation of Israel:**

1. Pray for the salvation of the Jewish people (Rom. 10:1).
2. Pray for God to pour out the spirit of grace and supplication (Zech. 12:10) on the unbelieving Jewish people, so that they can see the One they pierced, and mourn, as their eyes are opened to see that He is their Messiah (Rom. 10:1; Eph. 1:17–19).
3. Pray for the light of God's truth to pierce the hearts of the Jewish people (2 Cor. 4:6) with the revelation that God's only Son chose to become man, to redeem mankind of our sins, through His sacrifice on the cross (Eph. 1:17–18).

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4. Pray for the Jewish people to be convicted of their need for Yeshua as Saviour, that it is only by grace by faith in Him that we are saved (Eph. 1:17-18).
 5. Pray for conviction and for faith to believe that Yeshua is King of the Jews and the nations and that He will come again to rule and reign from Jerusalem (Col. 1:9–10).
 6. Pray for the Jewish people to know and encounter the zeal and love of God for them that He sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for their sins unto a response of turning to Him and calling upon His name for salvation (Eph. 3:16–19).
 7. Pray for the revelation of Yeshua who has always been in their midst and leading them, even as the Angel of the Lord and the pillar of cloud and fire during the time of Exodus, that they will have confidence in His leadership to give Him the lordship of their own lives (Eph. 1:17–18).

Prayers for salvation for those who believe and embrace Judaism:

They are spiritually blinded (Rom. 11:8) and have a religious spirit — believing that righteousness is through works and not faith (Rom. 10:2–3)

1. Pray for God to remove the veil of deception, and for the truth from the living Word in the Torah to break wrong mindsets, that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus (Phil. 1:9–11).
2. Pray for encounters like Saul had on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1–19), turning many from being zealous without knowledge to having zeal with faith in a Person (Isa. 63:15).
3. Pray for wrong teachings and wrong paradigms to be exposed (Col. 1:9–11).
 - a. For the revelation that Jesus is the suffering servant and that He paid the atoning sacrifice for them (Eph. 1:17).
 - b. For Jesus Himself to encounter and teach them as He taught the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24: 1-27), revealing the truth of who He is (Eph. 1:17-18).

Prayers for salvation for those caught in humanism and secularism:

This group is caught up with “self”, humanism. or the world and are not interested in God.

1. Pray for God to allow shakings to remove all false props/pillars, such that their hearts and confidence will be directed to the Desire of All Nations (Eph. 1:17–18).

Prayers for salvation for those who have yet to know God:

1. Pray for the awakening of many, through personal encounters and miracles, that will point them back to the God of Israel (Joel 2:28–32; Eph. 1:17–18).
2. Pray for many to be provoked to jealousy (Rom. 11:11–14) by Gentile believers unto them returning to Yahweh and Yeshua as Saviour (Jn. 17:21–23).
 - a. Through vessels of mercy (Isa. 19).
 - b. Through the greater love expressed by Gentile believers (Jn 15:12–13).

Prayers for those who want to accept Yeshua but are fearful of opposition

1. For divine courage, boldness, strength, and peace in the face of opposition (Col. 1:11).
2. For God's grace to come against obstacles that stand in the way of them accepting and taking a personal stand that Yeshua is Messiah (Zech. 4:7).