



Reading Our Bible Together in 2019

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Point 3: God's Plan for Your Salvation is Broader than You Think.

3c: God Wants You to Have Eternal Life.

“Resurrection” and “eternal life” are not interchangeable concepts, although I think we have a tendency to believe that they are. Most active Christians live in the expectation of resurrection into eternal life. (Oddly enough, even some active Christians do not accept this idea.) In the first century, the Pharisees certainly believed in resurrection and some sort of life after death, and the Sadducees did not; this seems to reflect the range of belief in modern Judaism as well. This portion of our study of salvation examines the scriptural basis for the idea that God wants you to have eternal life.

We'll look at *resurrection* first, because it seems logical to me that if you die and then aren't resurrected, you aren't going to live eternally. (Not everyone agrees with that logic.)

Jan. 25	Mark 12:18-27; Deut. 5:25-26; Exodus 3:4-6	See also Matthew 22:23-33 and Luke 20:27-39.
Jan. 26	Acts 23:1-10	
Jan. 27	Acts 24:1-21	
Jan. 28	Luke 14:1-14; John 5:25-29	
Jan. 29	John 11:21-44	
Jan. 25	Acts 1:15-26	
Jan. 26	Romans 1:1-7, 6:1-11	
Jan. 27	Philippians 3:1-14	
Jan. 28	Hebrews 6:1-3; 1 Peter 1:17-21	
Jan. 29	1 Corinthians 15:1-21	

A handful of ambiguous Old Testament scriptures might be talking about saving your *eternal life*. Of the 205 uses of *yasha/save* in the OT, I found about half a dozen that could be talking about eternal salvation if you insist on reading them that way, but probably aren't, considering that there are about 200 clear references to saving physical life.

Feb. 1	Job 33:19-28, 19:13-29	These passages seem to me to be ambiguous at best: “Deliver him from going down into the pit ... let him return to the days of his youthful vigor.” This is ambiguous in Hebrew, Greek, and English! Vs. 19:26 is translated so many different ways that I hesitate to conclude that it's talking about either eternal life or resurrection.
Feb. 2	Psalms 30:1-12	“You brought up my life from Sheol,” but “What profit is there in my death...? Will the dust praise you?” Where is the “eternal life” in that?
Feb. 3	Isaiah 25:1-12; 35:1-10	Some translations of 25:8 have “in victory,” and some “forever.” Even translators aren't certain.
Feb. 4	Isaiah 45:1-25	“Everlasting salvation” is here, but for Israel (vss. 17, 25), not individuals.
Feb. 5	Joel 2:1-32	Vss. 2-10 seem to be talking about a plague of locusts, and vss. 18-27 about the end of a famine. This suggests that vs. 32 may be talking about being saved from death by famine.
Feb. 8	Daniel 12:1-4, Psalms 21:1-13	A few OT scriptures seem to me to be talking about eternal life. Everlasting life and everlasting contempt; “For you make him most blessed forever”
Feb. 9	Gen. 5:16-24; 14:18-20; Heb. 11:5-6, 7:1-3	I may be the only person on the planet who suspects that Enoch and Melchizedek just died; admittedly that doesn't mean they stayed dead.
Feb. 10	Genesis 2:5-7; Eccl. 12:1-7	In addition, there are scriptures that rabbinical sages have read as talking about eternal life. Here are two from the modern Aish Rabbi . https://www.simpletoremember.com/articles/a/jewish-afterlife-beliefs/
Feb. 11	Deut. 22:6-7; Num. 15:22-31	Medieval Rabbi Maimonides accepted both eternal life and punishment in Hell or perhaps total destruction. https://torah.org/learning/mlife-lor8-1a/
Feb. 12	Jeremiah 30:1-11	Rav Yitzchak said that Jacob did not die, although I might argue that the passage is directed at the nations of Israel and Judah; see vs. 1. https://www.chabad.org/therebbe/article_cdo/aid/93597/jewish/Of-Eternal-Life.htm

As we have seen in the past portions of this study, the New Testament continues the Old Testament theme of salvation as saving our physical lives and health and giving us the abundance we need to be comfortable and content. For the first time, we also see unambiguous promises of life that is “eternal” or “everlasting” (usually the same word in Greek). In the Gospels and Acts, the meaning of *sozo* ranges from *rescued* (occasionally) through *cured* (mostly?) to *saved* (spiritually). And not all translators agree on what verses should have which of the three meanings! For that reason, this portion of our study concentrates on the words *eternal* or *everlasting* in combination with *life*.

Feb. 15	Matthew 19:23-30	See also Mark 10:23-31 and Luke 18:24-30. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Or else punishment. • Or else the wrath of God.
Feb. 16	Matthew 25:31-46	
Feb. 17	John 3:1-17	
Feb. 18	John 3:18-36	
Feb. 19	John 4:13-36	
Feb. 22	John 5:19-40	
Feb. 23	John 6:24-40	
Feb. 24	John 6:41-59	
Feb. 25	John 6:60-71	

Feb. 26	John 10:24-39	
Mar. 1	John 12:20-26, 12:42-50	
Mar. 2	John 17:1-5; 1 John 1:1-4, 3:11-15	
Mar. 3	1 John 2:20-25, 5:6-21	
Mar. 4	Acts 13:42-52	
Mar. 5	Romans 2:1-12	
Mar. 8	Romans 5:6-21	
Mar. 9	Romans 6:1-23	
Mar. 10	Galatians 6:1-10	
Mar. 11	1 Timothy 1:15-17, 6:7-19	
Mar. 12	Titus 1:1-5, 3:1-8	
Mar. 15	Jude 1:19-25	
Mar. 16	Matthew 18:1-10; Mark 3:28-29	<p>Something Else Eternal/Everlasting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire; Damnation • Weight of glory; House not made with hands • Salvation; Redemption and Inheritance; joy
Mar. 17	2 Cor. 4:13 – 5:5	
Mar. 18	Hebrews 5:5-10; 9:11-15; Isa. 35:4-10, 45:17-19	
Mar. 19	Deut. 33:26-29; 1 Chr. 16:23-36	
Mar. 22	Hebrews 1:1-12; Ps. 45:6-9; 102:24-28	<p>Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen!</p>
Mar. 23	Psalms 90:1-6; 106:47-48	
Mar. 24	Romans 1:18-25	
Mar. 25	Isaiah 9:6-7; 40:27- 31, 60:16-22	
Mar. 26	Psalms 111:1-10, 117:1-2	

* Points 1 – 3b were as follows:

- 1: God wants to save everybody, both corporately and individually, and sometimes it's hard to distinguish the two.
- 2: You can reject God's plan for your salvation. This option is Not Recommended.
- 3: God's plan for your salvation is broader than you think.
 - 3a: God wants to save your physical life and health.
 - 3b: God wants to give you abundant life.

"Reading Our Bible Together" originated in 2007 at St. John's United Methodist Church in Albuquerque and is our largest continuing Bible study. A scripture passage and a brief study tip are distributed to most participants by email five days a week. The study tips are made available outside our walls through a Facebook page and an archive at www.daily-bible-study-tips.com. We each read at a time and place of our own choosing. Answers to reader questions and other supplements occasionally come out on Saturdays. To receive daily study tips by email, write or call Regina Hunter at drhunter@nmia.com or 294-2877.