

Q&A WRITE-UP

May 4, 2011

QUESTION: How did believers and followers of the Bible that lived before Jesus' coming enter into the Kingdom of Heaven?

ANSWER: Every believer is saved by God by His grace alone through faith in God's promised salvation, which is Jesus Christ crucified. In short, all people are saved by the gospel.

GOD PROMISED THE GOSPEL FROM THE START OF SIN

Genesis 3:15: And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. (Same promise enacted again in Genesis 12; 15; 17)

The entire Old Testament tacks this Promised Seed from Adam, to Seth, to Noah, to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, to Judah, to David...so on and so forth until Jesus comes on the scene to accomplish salvation for all of God's people.

ALL PEOPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WERE SAVED BY THE GOSPEL THROUGH FAITH

Galatians 3:6-9: Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."⁷ Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham.⁸ The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and **announced the gospel in advance to Abraham:** "All nations will be blessed through you."⁹ So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Hebrews 11:13: All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; **they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance**, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

The thing about the OT believers is that they didn't know Jesus was His name. They didn't know incarnation was the method. They didn't know a cross was His mission. They didn't know the detailed outworking of the gospel, but they knew God promised them salvation as a gift and that was the gospel they trusted because He was the God they trusted. They trusted God's promise of salvation and looked forward to its fulfillment.

JESUS' DEATH ACHIEVES SALVATION FOR ALL THOSE BEFORE AND AFTER HIS CRUCIFIXION.

Hebrews 10:10: And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (time).

ALL PEOPLE, EVERYWHERE, AT ANY TIME, CAN ONLY BE SAVED BY THE GOSPEL.

Acts 4:12: Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

John 3:36: Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES OF THE LAW?

1) THE LAW WAS MEANT TO MAKE US AWARE OF OUR GREAT SIN

Through the law we become conscious of sin. **Romans 3:20**

2) THE LAW WAS GIVEN TO LEAD US TO OUR GREAT SAVIOR

Galatians 3:19: What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions *until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.*

Galatians 3:24-25: *So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.* ²⁵ Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

3) THE LAW WASN'T INTENDED TO, NOR COULD, SAVE PEOPLE

Hebrews 10:1-3: The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, ⁴ because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.