

Four Great Salvation Questions

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. 1Peter 1:6-12

1. This salvation was something so monumental that the prophets of old desired to know all that was possible to be known about it.
2. We should express our appreciation daily for salvation that is now possible. We should be grateful for God's plan and all who worked to bring it about.
3. We will do that by examining four examples of persons who sought and received salvation gratefully.

I. "MEN AND BRETHREN, WHAT SHALL WE DO?"

A. On Pentecost, Peter and the eleven preached the gospel to all present.

1. Heed my words - Acts 2:14
2. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved - Acts 2:21
3. Jesus was raised up - Acts 2:31-33
4. Jesus was made both Lord and Christ - Acts 2:36

B. Those who heard were cut to the heart - Acts 2:37; Heb. 4:12

C. This led to their earnest inquiry - Acts 2:37

1. Why did they ask?

2. Consider their situation: God's people had been waiting since the beginning for the one who would deal a death blow to the serpent. They waited since the promise to Abraham for the one who would bless all nations. They waited since the wilderness wanderings and the law that looked forward to forgiveness. They waited since the captivity, the return to ashes and rubble, the humiliation of multiple oppressions between the testaments, and the sorrow of Roman occupation. And they just learned that they had killed the sinless, promised Deliverer they had been waiting for since the beginning.

D. Peter told them what God wanted them to do - Acts 2:38-40

II. "LORD, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?"

A. Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor - Acts 9:4

B. The resurrected Lord appeared to him - Acts 9:5

1. Saul's trembling question - Acts 9:6 - Why did he ask?
2. He learned that his entire life had been misdirected; he was zealously going the wrong way. Overwhelming despair of the knowledge that all he thought, said, and did was in vain. Where does he go from there?

C. In response to his question - Acts 9:6

1. Ananias came and told Saul what to do - Acts 22:16
2. Saul did as he was told - Acts 9:18

III. "WHAT IS IT, LORD?"

A. Cornelius was seeking the way of God - Acts 10:1-3

1. His concerned question - Acts 10:4 - "What is it, lord?"

1. He was a man without hope. He was not a Jew, and therefore unable to enjoy the benefits of being a child of God under the law of Moses. As a Gentile, he was not yet able to be saved under the law of Christ.
2. Eph. 2:11-12
- B. An angel told Cornelius that Peter would tell him what to do - Acts 10:4-6
- C. When Peter arrived, he explained the Gospel to Cornelius and all gathered.
 1. All can receive the Gospel - Acts 10:35
 2. Gospel facts about Jesus - Acts 10:37-41
 3. Through His name, Gentiles can have the remission of sins - Acts 10:43
- D. Peter commanded them to be baptized - Acts 10:48

IV. "SIRS, WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"

- A. The Philippian jailer asked this question - Acts 16:29-30
 1. What did he see? - Acts 16:25-28
 2. He had so much to lose: honor, family, life. He felt great despair that everything was now gone and he had nothing left.
 3. And then he saw something that was completely outside of the experience of any jailor. He knew there was power here greater than that of the Roman Empire, power to restore everything and more.
- B. Paul and Silas explained the Gospel to him and his household - Acts 16:31-32
- C. After hearing the Gospel, the jailer and household were baptized - Acts 16:33

Conclusion:

- A. Regarding those who asked a great salvation question:
 1. All were moved by an intense, soul-rending need to be saved.
 2. Until we get to the same place, we will not be saved.
 3. On Judgment Day, billions will feel that great sorrow, longing, and despair for eternity, because it will be too late to obey the gospel.
 4. We only have the present time to feel the need and ask the question.
- B. Those who sincerely asked the question:
 1. The Pentecost questioners obtained the remission of sins.
 2. Saul had his sins washed away.
 3. Cornelius obtained the remission of sins.
 4. The jailer was saved when baptized.
- C. Did you notice that each of them asked about salvation? Do not assume that someone will ask you; ask for yourself.
 1. Did you notice that neither Jesus nor the angels told the questioners what they needed to do to be saved? Sharing the good news of salvation is our responsibility, not theirs.
- D. What must you do to be saved?
 1. First, YOU have to ask the question.