

Faith in God is necessary IF we want to grasp Salvation

I am sure you too have found that strange fences are often placed around "Salvation". We are told that unless we belong to this or that church we will have no part in Salvation. Now, "salvation" means to be saved and to be saved means you are acknowledged by God Most High as a child of God.

Let's turn for clarity on this tacky issue, to Paul of Tarsus, the former Pharisee who was so taken with the Law and its works - rabbinical prescriptions finding expression to its fullest in the Babylonian Talmud and which voluminous work was completed centuries after the birth of Yeshua/Jesus - that he even persecuted the followers of Jesus. Paul was of course well-acquainted with the oral as well as the written Law and we can rest assured that what we do have available to us in the final version of this work, sometimes accepted as the "best" directive any believing Jew can go by, would on the whole have been known by Paul. Taking of course into account his knowledge of the two mainline sects in Judaism (the Sadducees and the Pharisees), however, also including the Essenes - a fanatical separatist religious group who clearly gave this precious mouthpiece of Yeshua/Jesus much grief.

That Paul was used to being named a "liar" and a "deceiver" we can clearly gather from Gal. 1.11-12 : "I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up (therefore also including himself). I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ" (from Paul's earliest letters, i.e. his Letter to the Galatians - proselyte Jews (converted Jews) on the whole and residing in Asia Minor where many Hellenistic Jews gathered especially in and around Cappadocia, i.e. in the vicinity of the Black Sea and which is something to keep in mind if you want to probe the history of the so-called Asiatic or Turkish influence on medieval Jewry).

Just as one can never deny the first diaspora (the Northern Kingdom's expulsion from their land, the so-called Assyrian scattering among the nations that must be seen in all its phases) and therefore not only the scattering since the Babylonian Captivity (586 BC) and affecting mainly the Southern Kingdom, one can never side-step the diverse Jewish settlements across the Roman Empire (CE). One source claims that there had been no less than one million Jews in Italy, that is then seemingly west of Illyricum where the Apostle Paul also brought the message (i.e. modern-day Yugoslavia).

The first apostolic mission was to and among the Jews but Paul of course received a special calling for the Gentiles, however, also and to a large extent then pertaining to the proselyte Jews as they already had the Old Testament prescriptions available to them. The proselyte Jews (their posterity) were then an admixture of Jewish/gentile bloodlines. Jesus Himself first and foremost brought the Good News to the Jewish people and the apostles therefore followed suit.

Galatia was part of Asia Minor where not only Judaism flourished, but where pagan cults, e.g. Mithraism, the Mother worship, Roman-Greek philosophies, even Orphism (snake worship), the sacrifice of children and participation in this type of sacrificial meal (Jezebel from the Book of Revelations was seemingly involved with this type of sacrifice, something which reminds us of the Baal cult in ancient Israel as well as modern-day satanism having strong resemblance with this type of sacrifice), and diverse types of Gnosticism was also well represented in Asia Minor.

This daunting scene was then facing the Apostle Paul as well as the other Jewish emissaries who were bringing the Gospel to the Gentiles. It is said that Hadrian - the Roman Emperor who was responsible for the final expulsion of the Jews from Palestine some time after the Bar Kokhba Revolt (135 AD) - was amazed, on visiting Egypt, to have found so many cults and weird practices simultaneously at work, i.e. pertaining to both the Jewish community as well as the Gentile believers in Christ. Everybody was, according to him, focused on procuring money from their type of teachings.

What we can then infer from the aforesaid is that the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as the Apostles had brought it to the world, was threatened on all sides by paganism and many, many had subsequently fallen away from the

Path of Truth and just because they did not adhere fully to the message that was brought them. Fact is Egypt and its particular mystical influence was enormous on both the Jews and the Gentiles.

It is then indeed amazing how a relatively short time-span can colour our perceptions steering us away from the original plan entrusted to us. And this is something that must have happened to the diaspora Jews also. It sometimes seems that the Talmudic influence, also reawakened by the much debated Khazarian Kingdom's conversion to Judaism the Talmud was prized by their rulers above all else - was that mystical bond that was holding the Jewish believers together but of course also influencing them against Yeshua HaMaschiach - we know that this source labels Jesus as a sorcerer, not even to mention other derogatory innuendos also applied to our Saviour giving us an idea that post-70 happenings must indeed have left its mark indelibly. But I can of course ask what I think is a fair question: "Was Jesus responsible for the first and the second diasporas (the Assyrian and the Babylonian scattering) or was God holding His people responsible for their own deeds? Fact is, just as the Christians have gone astray in diverse ways since post-apostolic times, likewise the Jews also did, i.e. after their diverse expulsions from their own land.

But there is indeed a solution and that is to return to God (=to repent) following wholeheartedly in the path that God had set before those believing in Him, never questioning His directions as we still have inscribed both in the Old and in the New Testaments. It is therefore good to consider both Testaments as the "Word of God" and especially in these times where an evil force is hard at work to overthrow the faith of many. Those who cannot see that our faith in one living Most High God revealed in and through His Son, Jesus, is at stake as never before in modern history, are advised to take note and to wake up fast.

We Christians will have to take note of what I have said about Paul of Tarsus, that apostle Jesus/Yeshua had given to us, that is to bolster our faith in one risen Saviour, Jesus/Yeshua. Fact is, Paul opened the treasures of God's scriptures to us. Just as Peter held out the keys of the Kingdom to us on Pentecost day, directing us to Jesus/Yeshua as the one and only source of life, Paul was wedged in by God Himself for this salient purpose, namely to keep the Gospel on the right track, helping us follow in the Path of the New and Better Covenant.

This New and Better Covenant was of course meant for both Jew and Gentile as, according to this apostle who received revelations from God - revelations indeed tying in with the scriptures (!) not nullifying the Old Testament and all its promises - "there is no more Jew or Greek, slave or freeman, there is neither male or female... for ye are all one IN CHRIST JESUS!" Prescriptions that were necessary to awaken man's conscious, steering him in no uncertain terms to a heavenly, divine calling and worship system, then indeed culminated into a new and better covenant, indeed sealed by the blood of God's very own Son made flesh (Isa 53; Jn1). Let's take heed of the Apostle Paul's words:

Gal. 3.26-28: "You are all sons of God (=children of God, therefore including both male and female) through faith in Christ Jesus (Jesus the Christ/Messiah) for all of you who were baptized into Christ (!) have clothed yourselves with Christ" - in and through the baptism of immersion in the Name of Jesus Christ (compare Acts 2.38; Eph. 4.5; Col. 3.17), we become children of the Most High God. Carefully note the apostle's words, "...There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Paul also states in his letters that Jesus is the seed of Abraham and we of course also the seed of Abraham but in and through Jesus/Yeshua! Believers in Jesus/Yeshua can then confidently also share in all of God's promises as Christ Jesus is our righteousness (Paul). In and through Jesus we have been reconciled unto God Most High and all the Berachot (the blessings, also the priestly blessing (Num. 6-22-27) are then also for all those believers in Jesus/Yeshua who faithfully adhere to the New Testament (new covenantal) prescriptions. No one can shut the door to His promises except God Almighty and because Jesus/Yeshua is our righteousness and because He had fully reconciled us unto God in and through His sacrificial blood (Isa 53; Isa 9.5), we indeed are heirs to God's glory in and through Jesus/Yeshua (Jn 3.16).

The Apostle Paul then confidently pointed out to those proselyte Jews the principles of the new and better covenant, also reminding them of how he, before his acceptance of Jesus as Messiah, had given them a graphic illustration of the crucified and risen Saviour - we can infer from his Letter to the Galatians that he must

at length have portrayed the crucified Jesus to them and that Paul then must then have had more than one vision of Jesus proving that He was indeed crucified and risen, however, his Damascus experience was of course outstanding. It was indeed so remarkable that all he could do was to boldly proclaim it even at his trials before Felix and Nero. He made it clear that this experience had radically changed his destiny.

This former Pharisee who had previously been so taken with one objective, namely to destroy the whole congregation of believers in Yeshua - this apostle was then no different from any of his fellow Jews claiming that this type of worship was nothing but idol worship - then became God's faithful vessel, bringing the promises of the Old Testament as having been completely fulfilled in Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMaschiach!

Gal. 5: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free (Paul clearly addressing proselyte Jews who, before their conversion to Christianity, had propagated freedom yet who were indeed not free) "Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

When we accept Jesus Christ as Messiah, we are set free, not only from sin, but also from submission to the dead works of the Law (teachings of man, i.e. adding all kinds of "extras" to the written Law - therefore enslaving us and yoking us to the bondage of fear and guilt). However, applying the precious blood of Jesus to our souls, we will experience the deep and everlasting joy of complete Salvation!

My advice, considering the times we are living in, is not to believe every wind of doctrine that comes your way (Paul), especially not accepting all kinds of stories and myths, so-called "proof of Jesus as being a fake redeemer". Satanic prophecies and revelations on Jesus are not to be trusted no matter how ancient and "authentic" they may appear to be. Leave aside pagan sources and all kinds of things affecting what we still have available to us (the Old and the New Testament as they are) whilst you carry on with God and His precious Salvation given us in and through our one and only Saviour, Jesus of Nazareth. All prophecies and revelations are not from God even though they may contain a shadow of truth. Satan easily changes himself in an angel of light (Paul)!

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April 20 2014