

OLD TESTAMENT SALVATION

How were people saved in Old Testament times?

People living in the Old Testament period were saved by faith in the Lord. “And he (Abram) believed in the Lord; and he (the Lord) counted it to him (Abram) for righteousness” (Genesis 15:6).

There has been, is and will be only one way of salvation, and that is by faith. “Without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Whenever a person in the Old Testament truly put his faith in the Lord, God saved him. The Old Testament believer was saved on the basis of the work of Christ which was still future.

Even though the believer in the Old Testament might not have known about what Christ would yet accomplish at the cross of Calvary, God knew about it, and God reckoned the value of Christ’s death, burial and resurrection to all who put their trust in Him.

As Dr. Ironside used to say, “Old Testament saints were saved on credit. They looked forward to the cross of Christ, just as we look back to it. They were saved on the basis of His atoning death which was still in the future; we are saved on the basis of His death which took place 1900 years ago.”

God taught the people in the Old Testament that He could be approached only on the ground of shed blood. The sacrificial system was designed to remind them that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. The death of the sacrificial animals did not remove the sins of the people in that day, however. They merely pointed forward to the coming of the Lamb of God who would shed His precious blood so that sins might be put away.

It is important to remember that people in the Old Testament were not saved by keeping the law. Nobody can ever be saved on that basis. God saves only those ungodly sinners who come to Him in repentance and in faith.