

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Salvation of the Lord

(Jerry Fite)

With the massive body of water before them, and the approaching army of Egypt behind them, the fatalistic and fearful people of God heard these words: *“Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of Jehovah” (Exodus 14:13)*. God was about *“to work”* for them this day and *“fight”* for them. Consequently, the frightful sight of Pharaoh’s army would vanish. The Israelites would *“see them again no more” (Exodus 14:14)*.

God sent a strong wind that miraculously parted the waters to the north and south. The river bed miraculously became “dry ground” overnight. This was the Lord’s salvation. Jehovah’s work transcended the natural order of things. A strong east wind would have moved a body of water inland toward the west, like we see in surges from hurricanes. No flooding is mentioned hampering entering the sea from the west. This strong east wind cut a path through the Red Sea as a dragline heaping up water to the left and right. A saturated sea bed does not become dry land overnight. God’s work transcended natural laws. The salvation of the Lord truly had miraculous elements connected with it.

But God’s salvation also had another element to it. Moses was commanded to lift up his rod and stretch it over the sea and divide it. Lifting and stretching did not divide the sea; God’s miraculous power did this. But such power was not administered until Moses met the Lord’s conditions.

Salvation is of the Lord, but before the people were actually saved, they had to walk through the path provided by Jehovah. *“And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand and on their left” (Exodus 14:22)*. They did so by faith, trusting in the Lord and His miraculous provisions. Jehovah completed His salvation promise by suddenly crashing the walls of water upon an immobilized Egyptian army (*cf. Hebrews 11:29*).

Many saying, “Salvation is of the Lord” think salvation is totally a miraculous work of the Lord. It certainly has nothing to do with being baptized, and if you believe in Christ, it is a miraculous gift of God.

Salvation from sin is of the Lord. Jesus taking on flesh and blood occurred through the virgin birth.

Jesus’ resurrection was likewise a miracle. The Holy Spirit revealing the Gospel message by guiding men to infallibly speak and write is indeed the miraculous work of God. But like Moses raising and stretching forth the rod to connect with the miraculous work of God, the gospel message was to be taken to man by man in the form of preaching (*Acts 26:16*). Faith would not miraculously appear in the mind, but *“faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17)*. The non-miraculous work of hearing the preached word is connected with God’s message miraculously revealed through inspiration.

Do you think the Israelites walking through the Red Sea to their safety meant salvation was not of Jehovah? Likewise men should not reason that believing the Gospel, confessing Jesus as the Son of God, repenting of sins, and being baptized for the remission of our sins diminishes from the fact that salvation from sin is of the Lord. Our non-miraculous response connects us with the Lord’s miraculous work. Submitting to the Lord’s prescribed conditions, we see the salvation of the Lord. Saved, we rejoice in the salvation provided by the Lord.