

# Salvation in the Old Testament

# Which is the Most Accurate?

*Salvation by...*

OT

Works

Faith +  
Works

Faith  
Alone

Faith +  
Works

NT

Faith

Faith  
Alone

Faith  
Alone

Faith +  
Works

- *Which verses in the Bible support your answer?*

# Salvation & Sanctification

121a

**Man's Role**

**God's Response**

**Life of Faith**

**Restored Fellowship**

**OT**

Faith in God as offered Passover Lamb

Exodus

Journey to Canaan

Sacrifices (Sin, Guilt)

Type

Antitype

Type

Antitype

Type

Antitype

Type

Antitype

**NT**

Faith in Christ as Lamb of God (1 Cor. 5:7)

Salvation (1 Cor. 10:1-4)

Growth (1 Cor. 10:5)

Confession (1 John 1:9)

Positional Sanctification

Progressive Sanctification

*Salvation in All Ages:*

# The Centrality of the Cross

B.C.

Looked

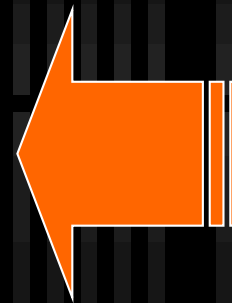
*forward* to the  
Cross of Christ



A.D.

Look

*back* at the  
Cross of Christ

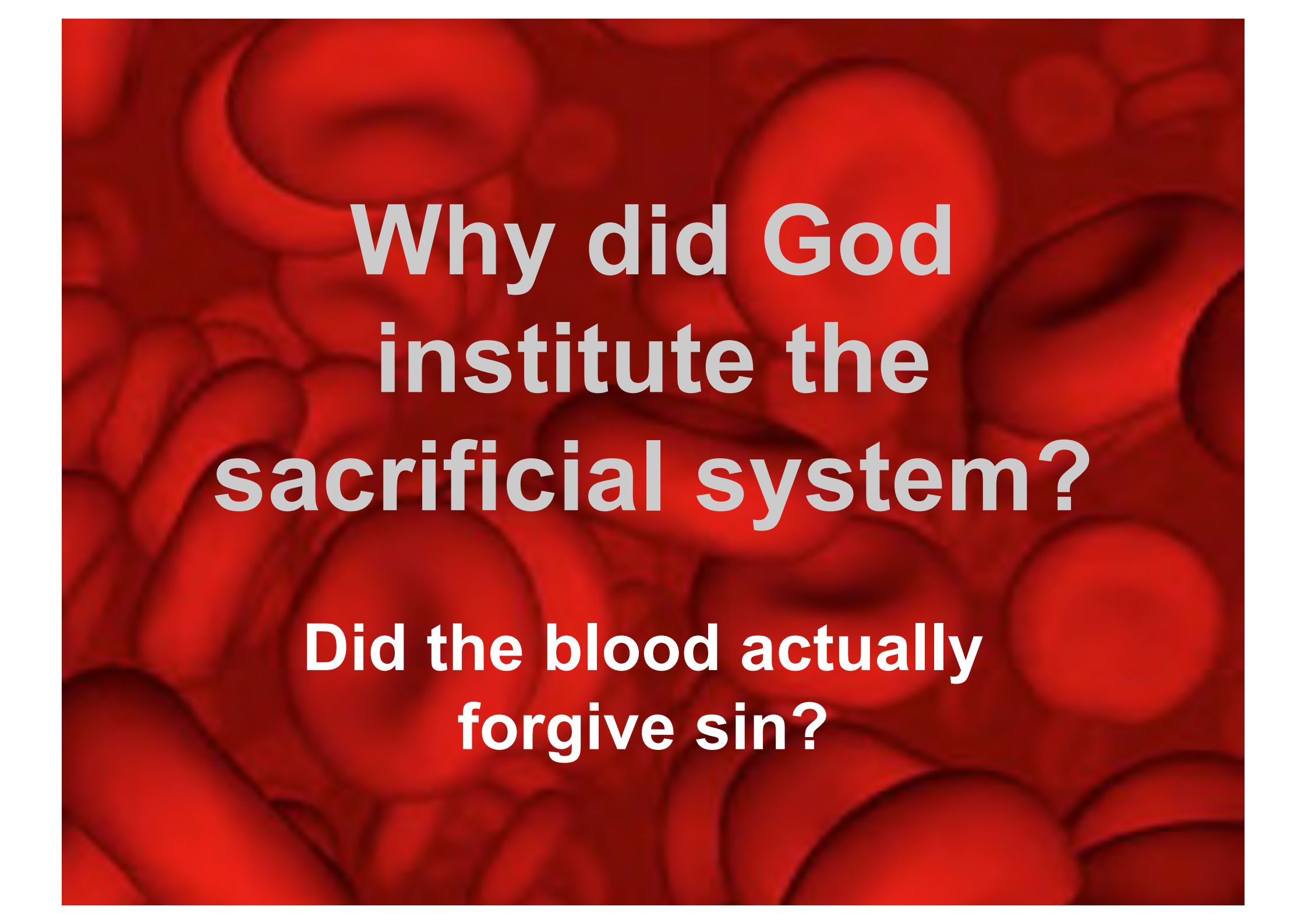


# Why did God prescribe **offerings** for Israel's weaknesses and sins?



God forgave Israelites through  
the blood of **offerings**  
(Lev 4:1–5:13; 6:24-30).





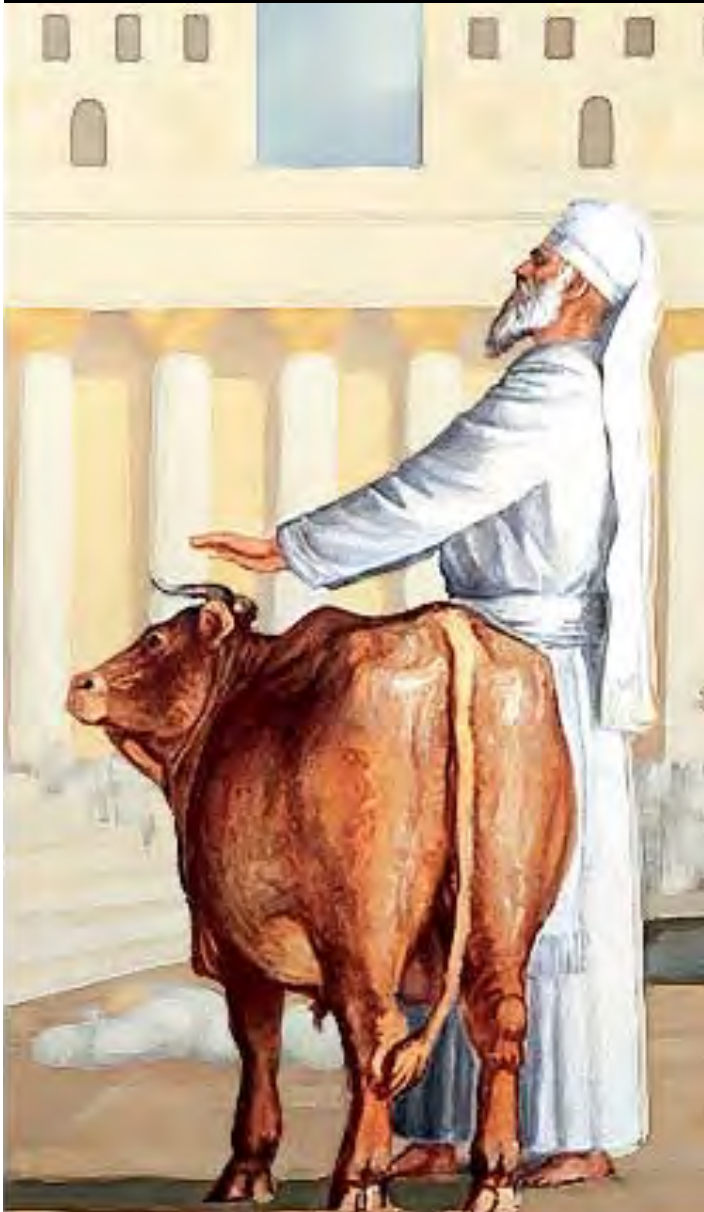
**Why did God  
institute the  
sacrificial system?**

**Did the blood actually  
forgive sin?**

**Did blood sacrifices save  
Israelites under the Law?**

**BLOOD**  
**BLOOD**

# Sacrifices forgave sin

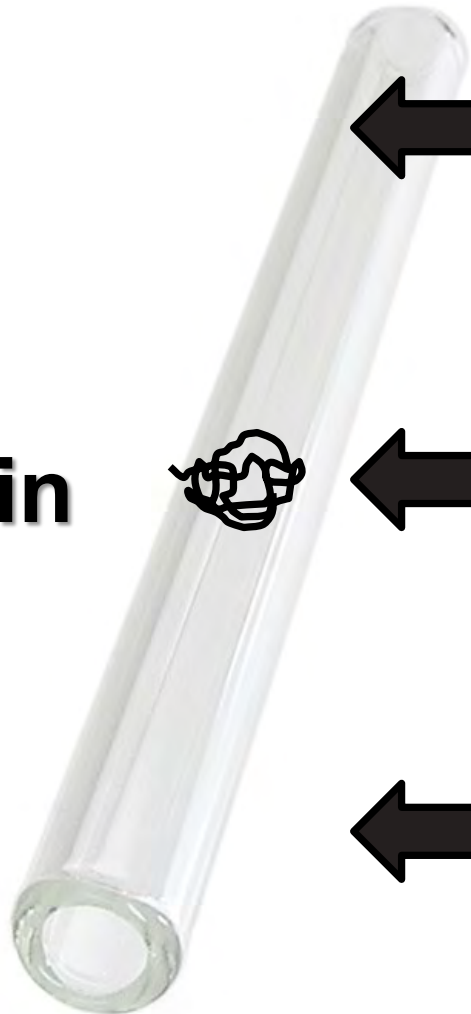


"Through this process, the priest will purify the people, making them right with the LORD, and **they will be forgiven**" (4:20 NLT; cf. 4:26, 31, 35).

# OT Forgiveness of Sin

OB 175p  
OS 121b

**Sin**



Pipe = **Relationship** with God  
(never changing)

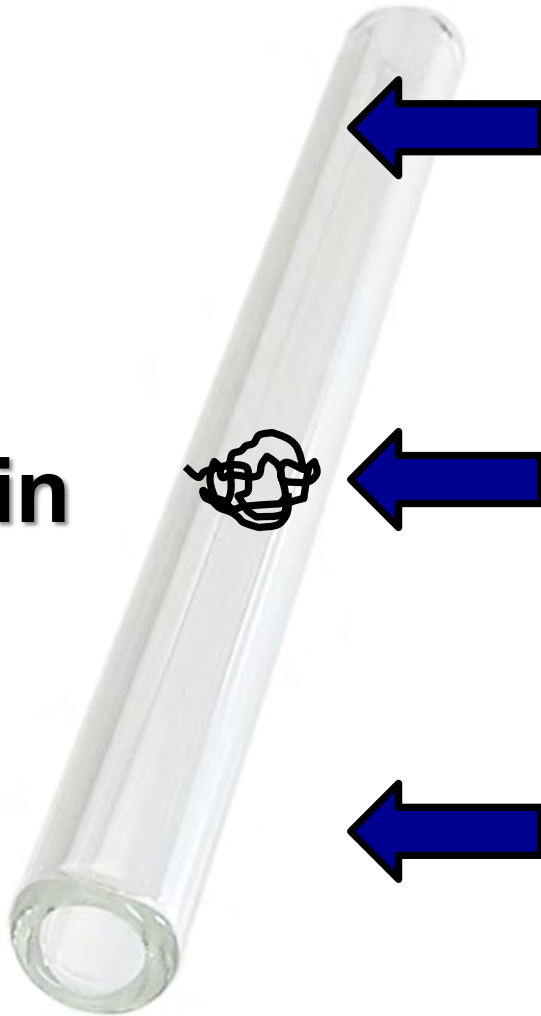
Clog = **Fellowship** with God  
(hindered by sin)

Sacrifices = **Confession** of Sin  
(sin forgiven to restore  
fellowship but relationship  
was never threatened)

# NT Forgiveness of Sin

121b

**Sin**



Pipe = **Relationship** with God  
(never changing)

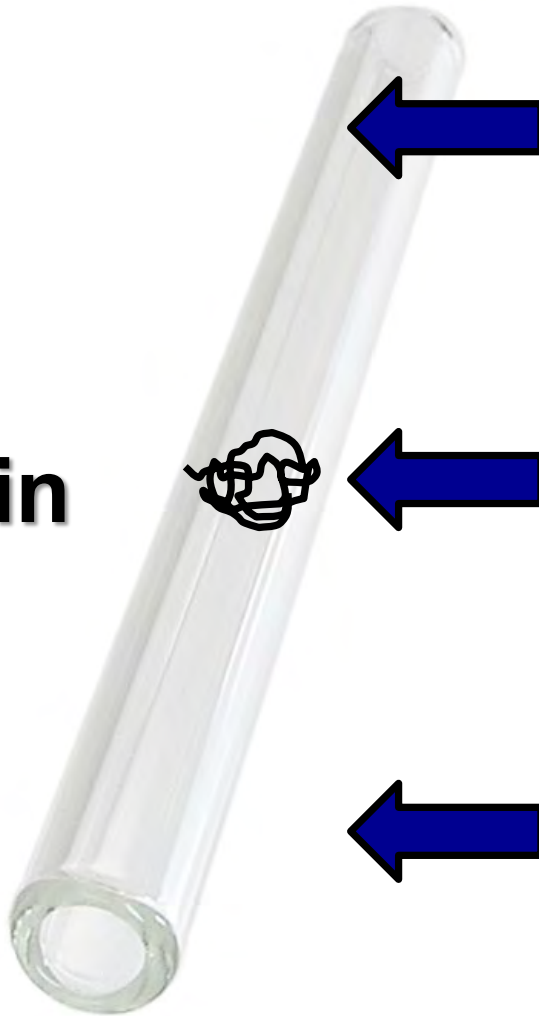
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Christ's Sacrifice = The Basis  
for **Confession** of Sin (sin is  
forgiven to restore fellowship  
but relationship has never  
been never threatened)

# NT Forgiveness of Sin

121b

Sin



Pipe  
(new)

"If we confess our sins,  
He is faithful and righteous  
to forgive us our sins and  
to cleanse us from all  
unrighteousness"

Clog  
(hindrance)

(1 John 1:9 NAU)

Christ's Sacrifice = The Basis  
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but relationship has never  
been never threatened)

# Salvation in the Old Testament

176

	<b>OT Times (Moses to Christ's Death)</b>	<b>NT Times (Christ's Death to Today)</b>
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<b><i>Believer's Expression of Salvation</i></b>	Obey moral law, offer animal sacrifices, obey Mosaic law (civil and ceremonial aspects)	Obey moral law, observe Lord's Supper and baptism, etc. through the Spirit's enabling (Rom. 8:9)

## Sanctification through sacrifice and separation



**1-10 Sacrifice  
(worshipping God)**

**11-27 Separation  
(walking with God)**

# Overview



- What did Ancient Israel believe about salvation?
- What about their neighbors?
- What do Christians believe today?

# Salvation

175e  
163a

## ○ Israelite View

- Holy God
- Sinful Man
- Need for atonement
  - To restore fellowship
  - To avoid wrath

## ○ OT View

- OT Sacrifice

## ○ Pagan View

- God-like-man
- Man Not Sinful
- Need to appease god
  - For prosperity
  - To avoid calamity

## ○ NT View

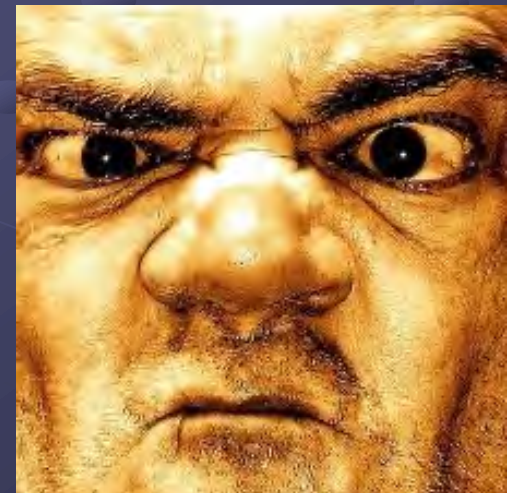
- Christ's Sacrifice

**So what do you think?**

# Religions of Ancient Near East

Sumerians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Egyptians, Canaanites, Moabites

- Was there a concept of "salvation" among the nations surrounding Israel?
- What were their worldviews and how were these shaped by their religions?
  - Their views on life and hereafter
  - The kind of gods they worshiped



# Egyptians

## Views on life and thereafter:

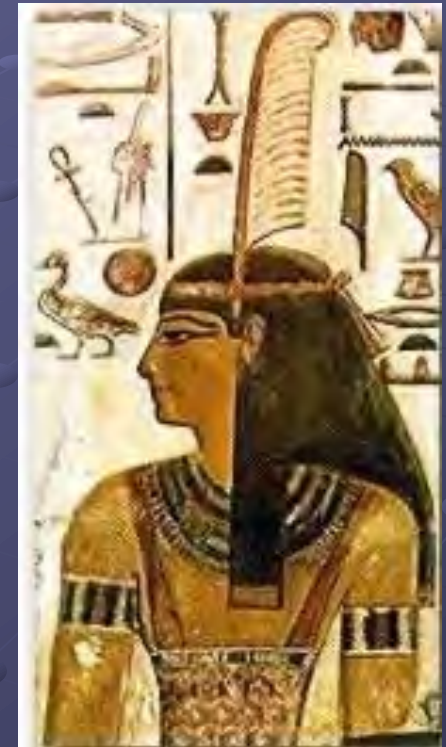
- The believed in some form of next life based on works.
- Death was simply a temporary interruption.
- Eternal life could be ensured by piety to the gods, preservation of the physical form and the provision of statuary and other funerary equipment.
- Their belief in the rebirth after death became the driving force behind their funeral practices.



# Egyptian Worldview

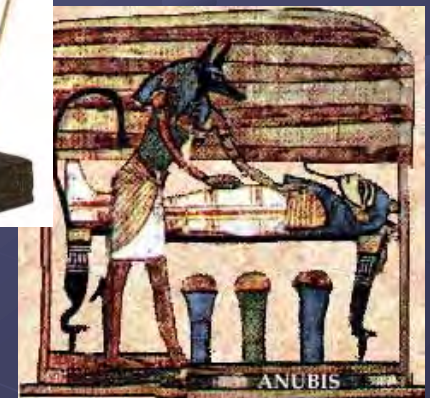
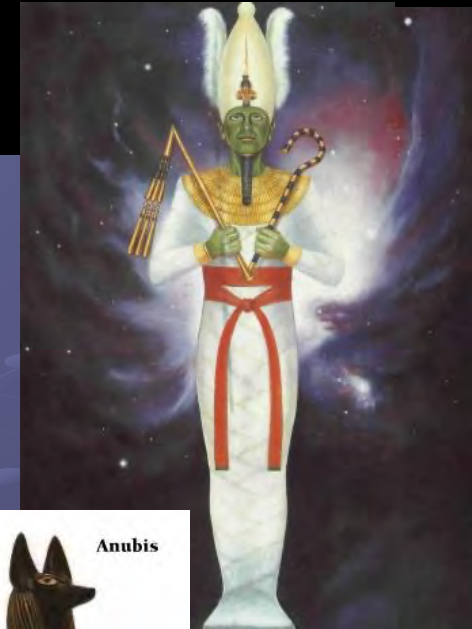
Views on life and thereafter:

- Each human consisted of the physical body, the 'ka', the 'ba', and the 'akh'.
- To enjoy the afterlife, all these elements had to be sustained and protected from harm.
- Man must live according to ma'at, the Egyptian concept of justice and righteousness.
- All of Ancient Egypt was based on religion as their beliefs were vitally important to them.



# Egyptian Gods

- Like the Sumerians, they had a pantheon of gods – Hapi, Re, Osiris, Seth...
- They believed that Osiris presides over the netherworld and judges everyone there according to ma'at.
- Man was commanded to reflect divine harmony by assuming a spirit of quietude, reasonable behavior, cooperation, and a recognition of the eternal qualities of existence.



# Sumerians, Assyrians, Babylonians

## Views on life and thereafter:

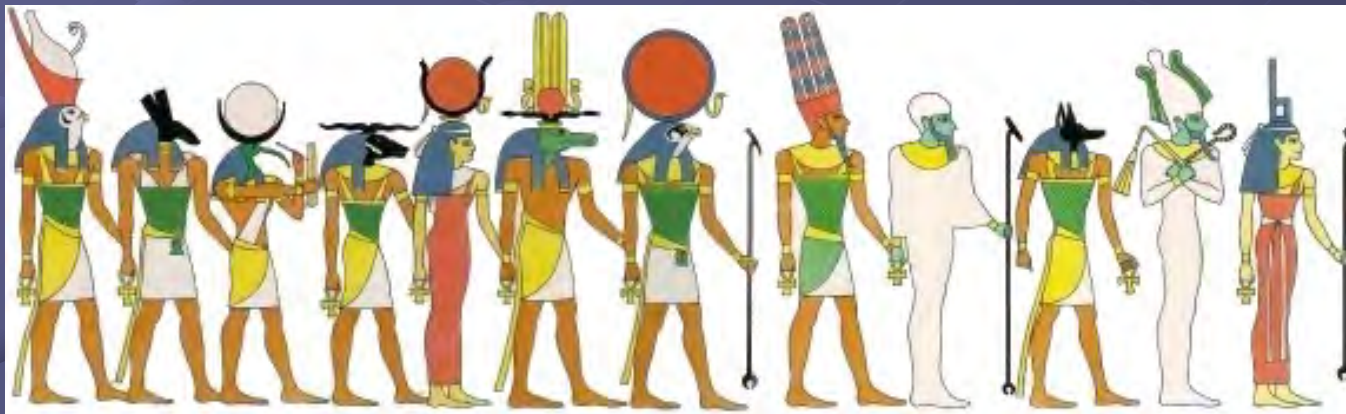
- Believed in a sacred land or paradise called Dilmun reserved only for the gods
- Thought humans are not destined for it but will end up in the Netherworld after death
- Blamed the existence of evil on demonizing powers and forces that manipulate men as pawns on a chessboard so that man is a victim.



# Sumerians, Assyrians, Babylonians

The gods they worshiped:

- Chief among the pantheon of gods – An, Enlil, Inanna, Enki, Nanna and Utu.
- Incest, fighting, lazy, manipulative
- The gods created humans to be their slaves



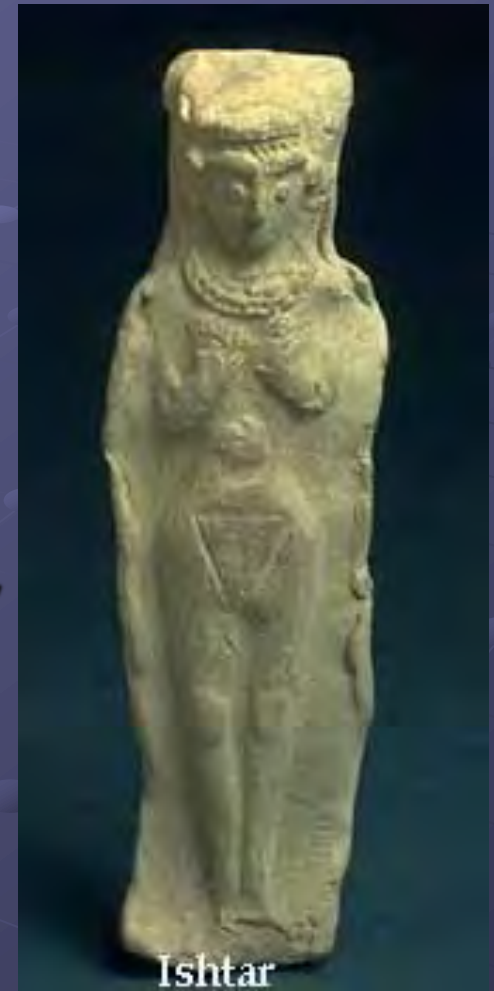
# Canaanites

## The gods they worshiped:

- **Pantheon of gods** – El, Hadad (Baal), Dagan, Ashtart (Ishtar), Anat...

## Views on life and thereafter:

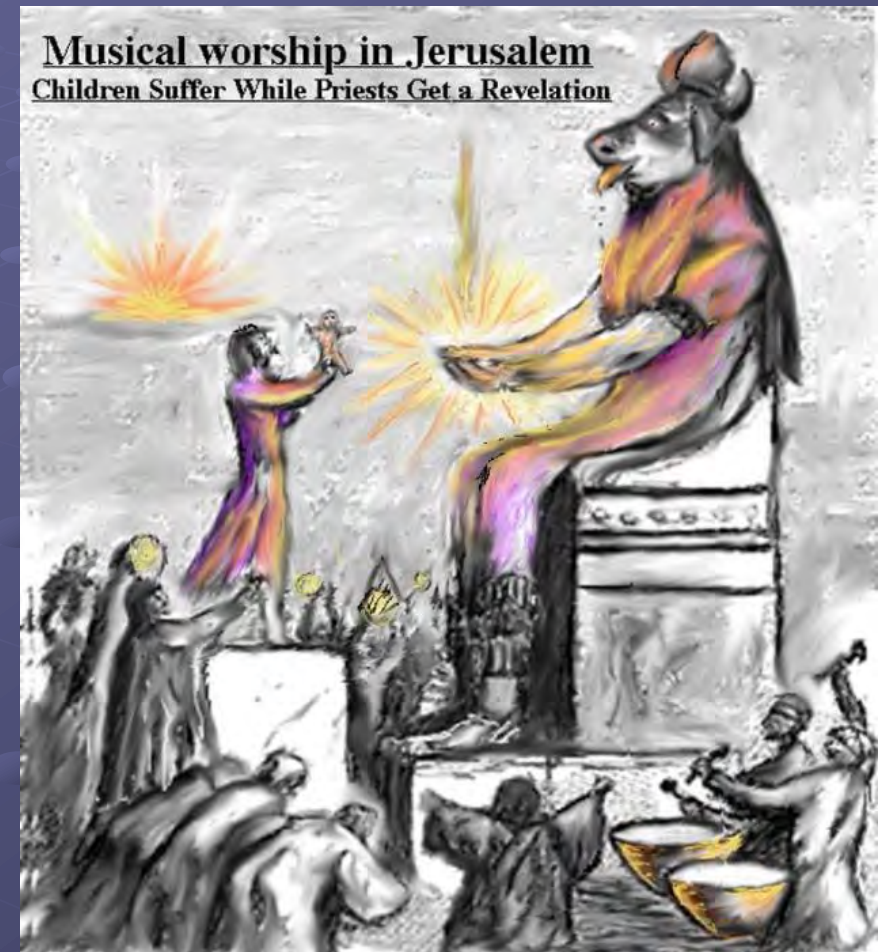
- Canaanites were **polytheistic** in their cultic practices – "Ba-al Cycle"
- Their religious practices were **more concerned about the here and now** rather than the here-after.





# Moabites

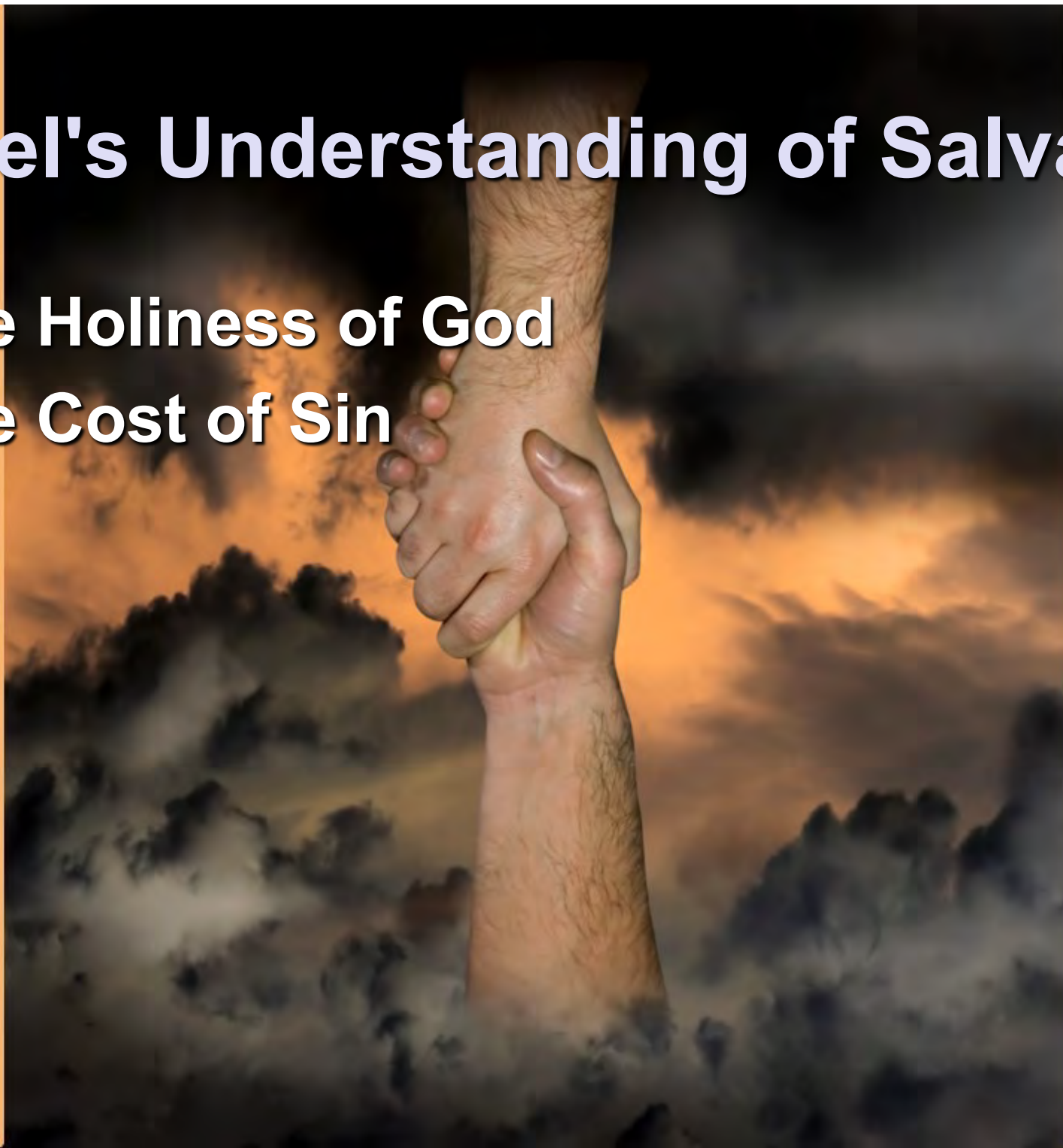
- **Chemosh** was the most prominent of Moabite gods.
- **Child and human sacrifice** to show devotion to Chemosh (even the king's son was probably sacrificed to Chemosh)
- **Nothing** indicates that the Moabites had any **understanding of salvation**



# Israel's Unique Understanding of Salvation

# Israel's Understanding of Salvation

- The Holiness of God
- The Cost of Sin



# The Holiness of God

- **The *search* for salvation is based on the realization of a *need* for salvation.**
- **The realization of that need comes from a conviction of sin.**
- **There can only be a conviction of sin, if there is a standard of holiness to begin with.**

# The Holiness of God

- **The primary reason for Israel's unique understanding of salvation was because God had revealed Himself to Israel as holy.**
- **He said, "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy" (Lev. 19:2).**

# The gods of Pagan cultures

- None of the gods of the pagan nations had revealed themselves to be holy in the way that the God of Israel had done.
- In fact, the gods of the pagan nations were immoral themselves.

# The gods of Pagan cultures

- Without a standard of holiness to begin with, there was no real conviction of sin among the pagan cultures.
- Therefore, there was no concrete search for salvation.

# The Cost of Sin

- **God gave Israel the sacrificial system to help them understand that the cost of sin was heavy.**
- **Sin demanded atonement and life must be given for life, for the atonement of sin.**
- **"For the life of the creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" (Lev. 17:11).**

# The Cost of Sin

- **In the Old Testament, animal life was used as a sacrifice for sin.**
- **But this was only a temporary solution until Christ Himself came and became the final and complete sacrifice for sin.**
- **In view of God's holiness, Israel clearly understood that the cost of sin was heavy and looked to God for salvation from sin.**

# Sin in Pagan Cultures

- Pagan cultures did not feel the weight of their misdeeds as much as Israel because there was no one to convict them of sin.
- Since there was no conviction, there was no search for salvation from their sin.

# Pagan Cultures and Their Gods

- Pagan cultures were primarily concerned with success and power.
- Note how their gods were gods of power:
  - Chemosh – god of war, Moabites
  - Dagon – god of Grain, Philistines
  - Enlil – god of Storm, Mesopotamians

# Pagan Cultures and Their Gods

- They sought their gods to gain their favor or to appease them when they were angry, so that they would bless them with success in war, agriculture and wealth.
- The search for salvation, as the Jews understood it, was pitifully, if not entirely absent.

# Salvation in the Old Testament



# Social–individual–YAHWEH

- The concept suggests more social than individual salvation
- Individuals were raised up for the benefit of the community
  - (Noah, Abraham, Joseph in Egypt, Moses, Judges and even Esther)
- Despite the importance attributed to these human agents, salvation is eventually attributed to God

# God

## ● God's revelation of Himself

- God is Creator of the universe (Gen. 1:1; 2:1)
- God is the only God (Deut. 6:4; Exod. 15: 11)
- God is Almighty (Exod. 14:13)
- God is Holy (Lev. 11:44)
- God is Love (Deut. 33:3)
- God is Eternal (Exod. 3:14)
- God alone can save (Isa. 43: 14)

# Mankind

- Created by God in his image (Gen. 1:27)
- Man is unique among all the creatures (Gen. 2:7)
- Man was created to rule over all living creatures (Gen. 1:28)



# The Fall of Man & Spread of Sin

- Sin is acting independent of God's counsel (Gen. 3)
- Sin doubts the trustworthiness of God's character (Gen. 3:4-5)
- The Pervasiveness of Sin:
  - Cain and Abel (Gen. 4:1-6)
  - The Generation of the flood (Gen. 6:5–9:28)
  - The Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9)

# God's Plan for Redemption

- **God the Seeker (Gen. 3:9)**
- **God's Promise (Gen. 3:15)**
- **God's Providence (Gen. 3:21)**

# REDEMPTION

# Plan Progressively Revealed

**Creation**

**Sin**

**Promise**

**Covenant**

**Law**

**Tabernacle**



# Plan Progressively Revealed

Temple Built  
Destruction of the Temple

Exile  
Redemption

Preparation for  
the coming of the  
Messiah



# Sacrifices?

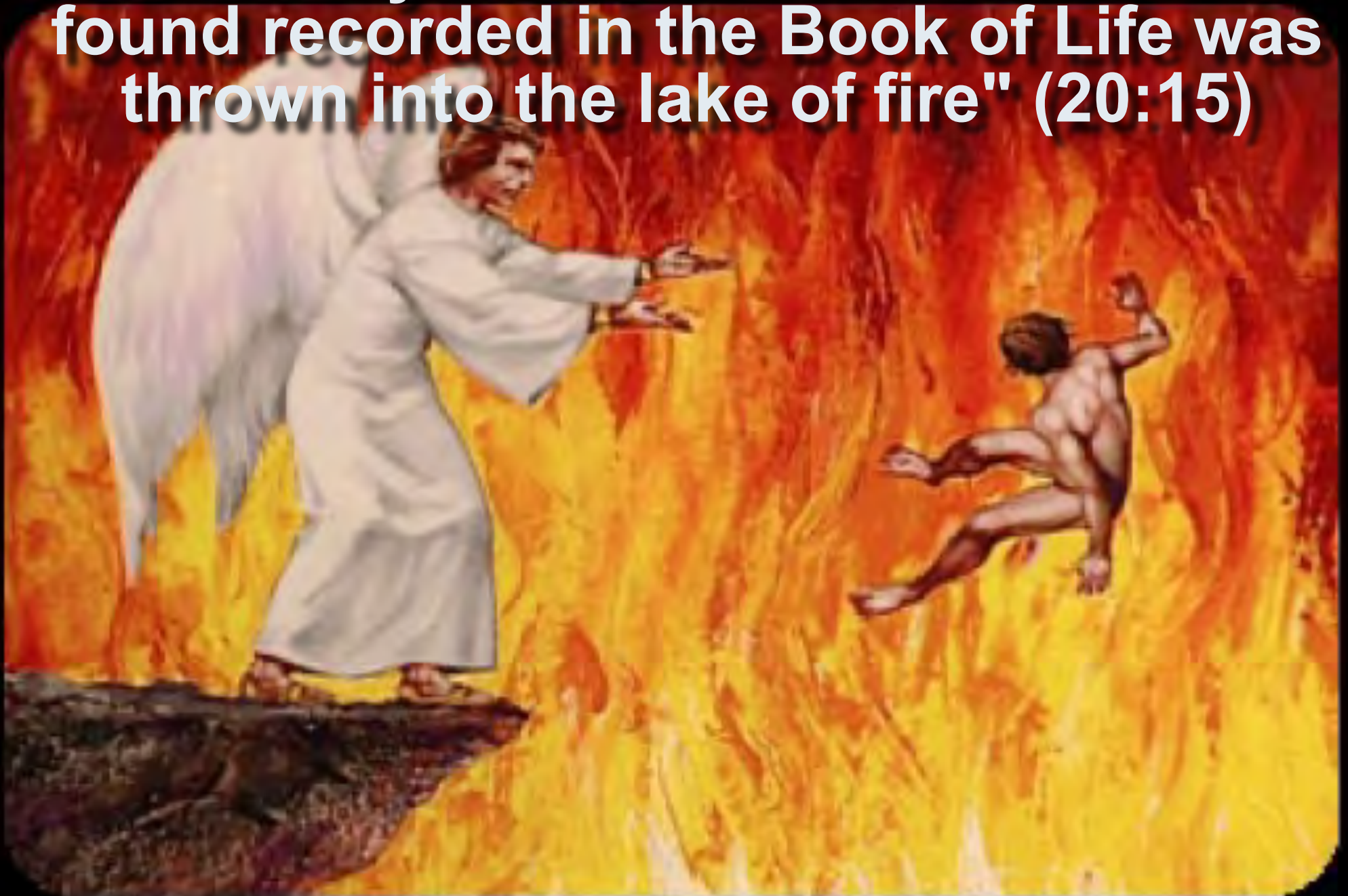
● In the Old Testament, the sacrifices performed:

- By faith in the God who saves,
- Not for salvation
- Personal righteousness was insufficient

● Whoever trusted the words of God and responded in faith was saved (Gen. 15:6).



**"And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire" (20:15)**



# *The Transfer to Paradise*

14 & 16  
NLT

S  
H  
E  
E  
L  
O  
L



Luke 16:26

"...there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there."

# The Transfer to Paradise

14 & 16  
NLT

S  
H  
E  
O  
L

Bliss

HADES

1 Pet.  
3:18-20



"Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

<sup>19</sup>So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— <sup>20</sup>those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood."

# The Transfer to Paradise

14 & 16  
NLT

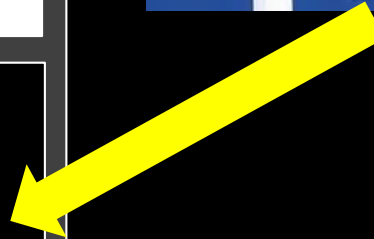
"...today you will be  
with me in paradise." Luke 23:43

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L

Bliss



HADES



# *The Transfer to Paradise*

14 & 16  
NLT

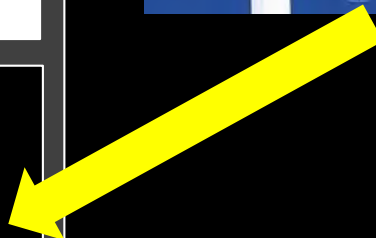
**HEAVEN**

**Bliss**



**HADES**

**S  
H  
E  
O  
L**



# *The Transfer to Paradise*

Eph. 4:8-10

"That is why the Scriptures say, 'When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people.'  
<sup>9</sup>Notice that it says 'he ascended.' This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. <sup>10</sup>And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself."

S  
H  
E  
E  
L  
O  
O  
L

Bliss

HADES



# The Transfer to Paradise

14 & 16  
NLT

**HEAVEN**

"I was caught up to the third heaven...I was caught up to paradise"

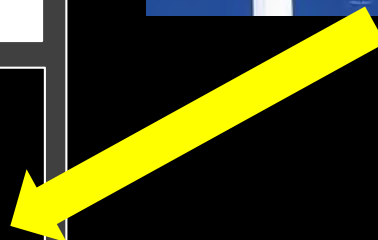
2 Cor. 12:2-4

**Bliss**



**HADES**

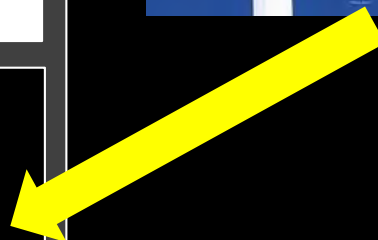
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# *The Transfer to Paradise*

14 & 16  
NLT

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# The Transfer to Paradise

14 & 16  
NLT

**HEAVEN**

Eph. 4:8-10

Luke 23:43

2 Cor. 12:2-4

**Bliss**



S  
H  
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L

**HADES**

1 Pet.  
3:18-20

**HADES**

Luke 16:26

Rev. 20:14-15

"Then death and [Hades] were thrown into the lake of fire... <sup>15</sup>And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire."

Hell  
Gehenna  
Lake of Fire  
Lake of Burning Sulfur  
Second Death

# The Lake of Fire (20:14-15)



A photograph of a man in a white tank top, likely in a prison setting, with the text "Salvation in the New Testament" overlaid in large white letters. The background shows a dimly lit area with a bright light source and some structural elements.

# Salvation in the New Testament

# What about the New Testament?

- **Consistent Plan, Unchanging Method:**
  - the same promise of deliverance
  - the same Redeemer
  - the same condition required for participation in the blessing of redemption (faith)
  - the same complete salvation for all who embrace the offer of divine mercy
- **The New Testament continues the Old Testament affirmation that salvation belonged to God alone**

# The Elements

- Firstly, God's Promise to man is that He will act on his behalf
- Secondly, God's Provision is the basis for salvation
- Thirdly, Man's Acceptable Response is to accept God's provision for salvation by faith

-noun

1. an act of redeeming or the state of being redeemed.

# The Objective & The Subjective

**PROMISE?**

**PROVISION?**

**RESPONSE?**

"Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done but by faith in Christ"  
(Eph. 2:8-9)

Paul Feinberg, "Salvation in the OT," in *Tradition & Testament*

# Subjective & Objective Salvation

*This righteousness from God comes  
righteousness  
through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.*

## Objective

- Removal of Sin
- Payment for Sin
- Christ's death as basis or ground of salvation

## Subjective

- Forgiveness of Sin
- Cleansing from Sin
- Covering (down payment)
- Hebrews 10:4

# The Objective Aspect of Salvation

- **Mystery of one body in Christ composed of Jews and Gentiles uncovered (Eph. 3:9; 6:19)**
- **God's Plan**
  - **Conceived before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:3-14)**
  - **For all the nations (Gen. 12)**
  - **Completed in Jesus (Heb. 10)**
  - **His death was for all (John 11:51-52)**
  - **Forgiveness of sins for all nations (Luke 24: 47)**
- **The promised blessing through Abraham for all people (Gal. 3:8)**

# The Objective Basis - Christ

- God's sovereign choice was Christ "...the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).
- This is the Christ who is described in the book of Hebrews as both the author and mediator of salvation (Heb. 2:10; 7:25).
- **"In Him** we have redemption **through His blood**, the **forgiveness of the sins** in accordance in the riches of **God's grace** that **He lavished** on us with all wisdom and understanding" (Eph. 1:7-8).



# The Subjective Aspect of Salvation

## ● Essence Vs Expression

- OT – Sacrifices
- NT – Baptism, Lord's Supper

# Implications for Today

- **Immutable Holiness of God**
- **Life has more to it than the here and now!**
- **Our attitude to Christ's sacrifice will impact the 'not yet Christian's' view of the gospel (we give them perspective)**



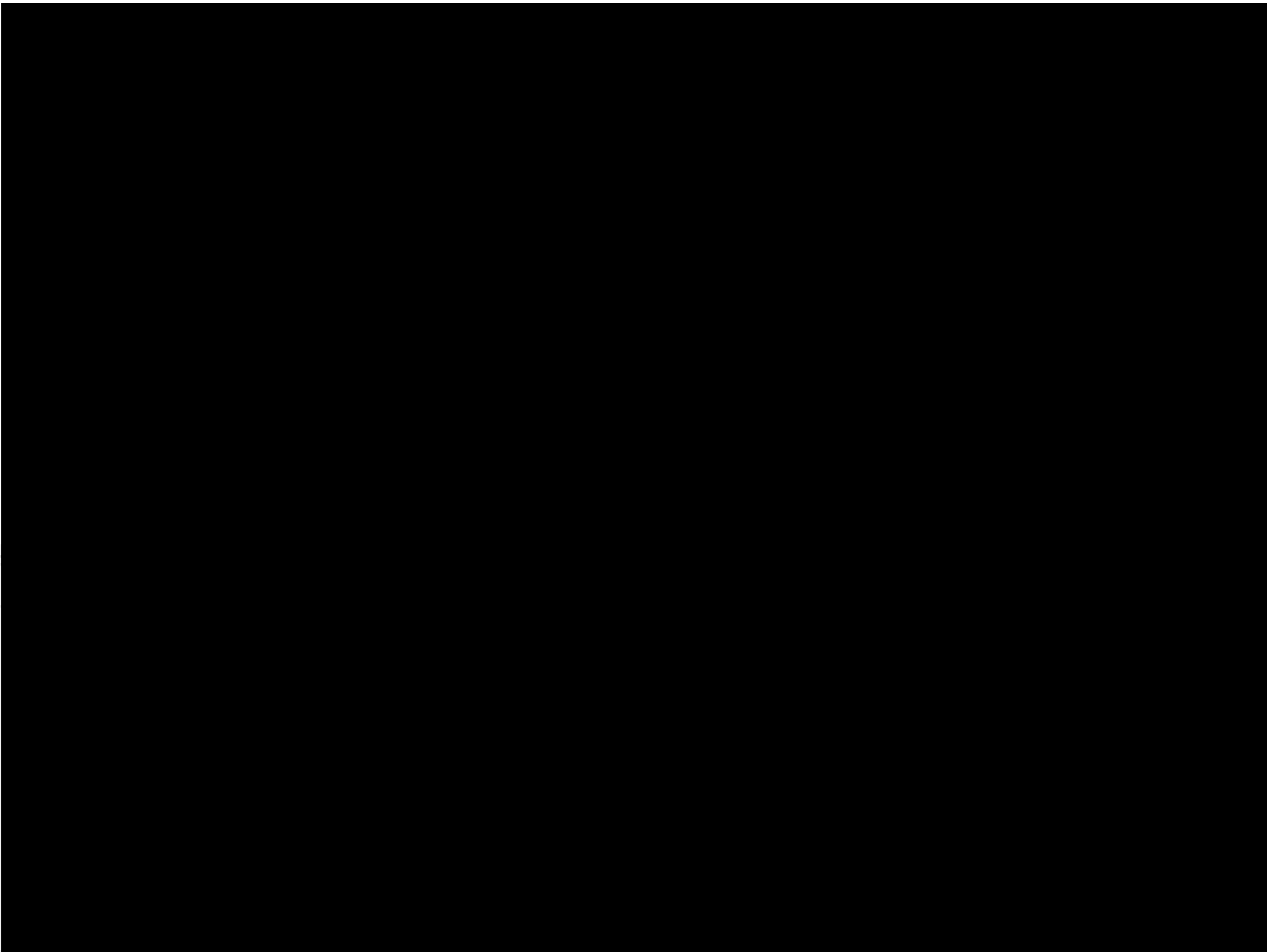


# **Now, how then shall we be saved?**

**Presenters:**

**Wendy Yiu, John Wong, Akshay Rajkumar, Jose Philip**

**October 2005**



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