

WHO CAN BE SAVED?

Note to the speaker:

Help audience to appreciate the need to be saved from sin, suffering, and death. Build appreciation for the ransom as you outline the steps that must be taken to benefit from this loving provision. Emphasize that all can endure and thus be saved

FROM WHAT DO WE NEED TO BE SAVED? (4 min.)

Mankind was created with the desire to live forever (Ec 3:11)

Sickness and death were not part of God's purpose for man (*w99* 4/15 5-8)

When he sinned, Adam brought suffering and death upon himself and his future offspring (Ge 3:19; Job 14:4)

Adam no longer possessed perfect life to pass on to his children as an inheritance (*w99* 3/15 9; 2/15 13-14)

All humans keenly feel the effects of Adamic sin (Ro 5:14; 8:20-22)

Even God's faithful servants are not immune (Select excerpts from two or three of the following scriptures:
Genesis 27:46; 47:9; 1 Kings 19:4; Jonah 4:8; Romans 7:22-24)

Hence, all need to be saved from slavery to sin and death and need relief from the anxieties that are common to imperfect humans (Job 14:1; Ps 90:10)

JEHOVAH'S PROVISION FOR OUR SALVATION (10 min.)

Adam passed on his sinful condition—and hence death—to all his descendants (Ro 5:12)

Jehovah is "a lover of righteousness and justice," and his Law to the Israelites demanded that life should be given for life (Ps 33:5; Nu 35:20, 21)

Adam lost *perfect* life; to balance the scales of justice, a *perfect* human life would have to be sacrificed (*w91* 2/15 12-13)

Since we are born in sin, none of us can provide that perfect human life (Ps 49:6-10)

It is as if we have a life-threatening disease and cannot afford to pay for the medical care that will cure it
Jehovah lovingly arranged to redeem sinful humanity while satisfying the demands of justice (De 32:4; 1Jo 4:8; *w96* 3/15 21-2)

After the rebellion in Eden, he announced a provision for salvation, a promise to save repentant mankind (Ge 3:15)

Jehovah arranged for his Son to give his perfect human life in place of the perfect life forfeited by Adam (Joh 10:17, 18; *w99* 2/15 14-16; *ws* 162-4)

Jesus was born without sin; hence, he possessed what Adam had lost—perfect human life

On Nisan 14, 33 C.E., Jesus allowed himself to be put to death by his opposers, thereby paying the price for our sins (1Ti 2:5, 6)

His faithful course made it possible for us to be saved from sin and death (1Co 15:45)

Unlike Adam, Jesus was not a sinner; hence, at his death he still had the right to perfect human life

When he returned to heaven, Jesus presented the value of his sacrifice to Jehovah (Heb 9:24; *w99* 2/15 16)

Jesus purchased sinful mankind

He also became our new Father, a replacement for Adam (Isa 9:6)

JEHOVAH GOD IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN OUR SALVATION (7 min.)

The ransom is an outstanding expression of Jehovah's love and mercy and of his fidelity to his exalted standards of justice (*it-2* 19)

Christ's sacrifice was truly the greatest expression of love ever made (*w87* 2/15 12-14)

Jehovah showed his great love by sending his only-begotten Son (Joh 3:16)

Jesus demonstrated his love by obediently accepting the assignment of becoming mankind's Redeemer (Joh 15:13)

Jehovah desires all to attain to repentance and thus be saved (Ro 2:4; 2Pe 3:9)

He has kept the narrow door to salvation open to all who qualify (Lu 13:23, 24)

WHAT WE MUST DO TO BE SAVED (10 min.)

Many religions teach an oversimplified view of salvation

Some say that simple mental acceptance of Jesus is all that is required (*g90* 5/22 14)

Others hold to the belief of once saved, always saved (*w92* 5/1 15)

Still others teach universal salvation, the idea that God will extend a general amnesty to *all* sinners (*rs* 356-8)

The Bible outlines specific requirements for salvation

First, we must obtain accurate knowledge of God and Jesus (Joh 17:3)

This should lead us to put faith in God (Heb 11:6)

Faith will move us to repent of our sins and turn around in our course of life (Ac 3:19)

Faith will also move us to share what we learn with others, recommending the way of the truth both by our words and by our actions (Mt 5:15, 16; Ro 10:10)

Love for God will move us to dedicate ourselves to him

In private prayer, we tell Jehovah that we are giving ourselves to him to do his will (Heb 10:7)

After making a dedication, we should be baptized (Mt 28:19, 20)

Baptism is for those who are old enough to make a decision to serve God (Ac 2:41)

ENDURANCE IS VITAL TO OUR SALVATION (10 min.)

After we have made a dedication, Jehovah will expect us to live up to our promise (Ec 5:4, 5)

Endurance is vital, for the Devil will try to stop us from serving Jehovah (Mt 24:13; 1Pe 5:8)

Endurance involves not only struggling with obstacles but also adhering to “a set way” of right works (Ps 50:23)

We must persist in being doers of the word, not just hearers (Lu 6:46-49; Jas 1:22-25)

The course of endurance is not easy (Mt 16:24; w93 9/15 9-11)

Sometimes we must endure with tears (Ps 126:5, 6)

Even if this is so, it is crucial that we remain steadfast, confident that Jehovah is aware of our endurance and values it (Heb 6:10)

WE CAN BE SAVED (4 min.)

Jehovah knows how to deliver people of godly devotion out of trial (1Co 10:13; 2Pe 2:9)

He saved Noah and his family through the global Deluge (2Pe 2:5)

God saved the Israelites and a vast mixed company of non-Israelites from Egypt (Ex 6:6)

He saved Christians from Jerusalem’s destruction in 70 C.E. (Mt 24:15, 22)

Jehovah can also preserve us through the destruction of Satan’s world (Ps 37:29, 34)

Salvation is possible for any who accept God’s provisions for life (De 30:11-14)

Draw close to God in prayer (Php 4:6, 7)

Study his Word regularly (Ps 1:1-3; 94:19)

Stick close to the congregation (Heb 13:17)

All who wish to take life’s water free can be saved (Re 22:17)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)