

# Hebrews

## Our Provider of Salvation

### Hebrews 13:20

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# Hebrews

## Our Provider of Salvation

### Hebrews 13:20

#### INTRODUCTION:

#### All Stand and Read Scripture

#### **Hebrews 13:20 (NASB95)**

<sup>20</sup> Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord,

#### Prayer

One of the strange ironies of human existence is that all of us are weak and needy, but we try to project the impression that we are strong and self-sufficient. I am sure that pride is at the root of this, but it is still strange to observe.

For example, every one of us is physically frail, but we act as if we are going to live forever. Even if you are young and in good health, there are many ways that you could die before this day is over.

Every one of us is financially frail and needy. Again, someone may protest, "I have got adequate investments and properties that I own that will more than meet my future needs. I have got a great job with seniority." I am sure that Saddam Hussein had similar thoughts about a year before we invaded Iraq! But his investments and job security did not do him much good then.

Jesus warned about the man who thought that he had achieved financial security, but God demanded his soul of him that very night.

#### **Luke 12:15-21 (NASB95)**

<sup>15</sup> Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not *even* when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions." <sup>16</sup> And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. <sup>17</sup> And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry.'" <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'You fool! This *very* night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?' <sup>21</sup> So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Our bodies and our finances are only two areas, but pick any area of life that you wish, and the conclusions are the same: you are weak, vulnerable, and needy. Emotionally,

maybe you are doing great today, but tomorrow a series of tragedies could hit you as they hit Job, and you would be shattered. Nothing in this life is a sure basis for security—except for God! He designed it that way so that we would be driven to trust in Him for every need. But in spite of the obvious truth of this, we madly scramble to find our security in other things.

The church of Laodicea thought that they had it together. They said...

### **Revelation 3:17a (NASB95)**

<sup>17</sup> Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,”

God had a slightly different opinion:

### **Revelation 3:17b-18 (NASB95)**

and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,  
<sup>18</sup> I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

There could hardly be a greater contrast! How could a church **think** that they were rich, wealthy, and in need of nothing, and yet God sees them as wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked?

The irony is, when we see ourselves as God sees us, recognizing our desperate need for Him, and cry out to Him, He is ready to flood us with His abundant blessings. As Mary acknowledged,

### **Luke 1:53 (NASB95)**

<sup>53</sup> “He has filled the hungry with good things; And sent away the rich empty-handed.

When we come hungry to God, He fills us. When we think we are rich and do not need God, He sends us away empty-handed. This is great news—that the only requirement for receiving God’s abundant blessings is to come to Him as a desperate, needy sinner and ask for mercy. He delights to provide for those who rely on Him.

The author of Hebrews has just acknowledged **his** need by asking his readers for prayer. Now, he returns the favor by praying for his readers in this wonderful benediction. We can sum it up by saying,

God, who has provided everything for our salvation through Jesus Christ, will also provide all that we need to live for His glory.

God has promised to do everything that is in these two verses, and yet the author prays that it would be so. God has ordained that prayer is the way for us to receive His promises. Prayer acknowledges that we are needy and that God is mighty to provide. When He does provide, He gets the glory because we know that He did it.

The author gives five aspects of our salvation:

## **BODY:**

## I. God Provided Everything Needed for Our Salvation.

### **Hebrews 13:20 (NASB95)**

<sup>20</sup> Now the **God of peace**, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord,

The author refers to God as “**the God of peace.**” People desperately seek peace for their souls in many ways, but true peace can only come through being reconciled to God. The Bible teaches that we are born in rebellion against God. Our sins make us enemies of God, who is absolutely holy. Paul writes of those who are outside of Christ,...

### **Romans 8:7-8 (NASB95)**

<sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

People who are God’s enemies often do not recognize their true spiritual condition, because Satan has blinded their minds.

### **2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NASB95)**

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**(Emphasize)** I know everyone here wants to go to heaven. You have all indicated this to me at one point or another. If you are truly wanting salvation so you can spend eternity in heaven, you will listen intently to the Gospel and do your very best to live by it. It is so easy to get distracted by this world. If our life is not driven by the Gospel, you are one of “**those who are perishing**”!

One of the first signs that God is at work in your heart is that you begin to see your sin and guilt before God.

You recognize that there is no way that you can atone for your own sin. You wonder if there is any way that you can have true peace with God. The great news of the Bible is, Yes! That is why Jesus Christ came. Paul wrote...

### **2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NASB95)**

<sup>18</sup> Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

What is reconciliation? **Reconciliation is the restoration of our good standing with God that we lost when we became sinners.**

Before we explore how He did that, note...

## II. God Provided the Good Shepherd of the Sheep that We Needed.

This is the only time in Hebrews that the author refers to Jesus as our Shepherd, but that metaphor is used often of Him. Jesus referred to Himself as “**the good shepherd**”.

### **John 10:11 (NASB95)**

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Here, the author has just referred to the leaders of the congregation as those who “**keep watch over your souls**” back in verse 17. But even the best of leaders are imperfect shepherds at best. Jesus is “the good Shepherd,” who does not lose any of the sheep that the Father has given to Him.

### **John 10:28-30 (NASB95)**

<sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one.”

Domestic sheep are some of the most helpless animals in the world. They literally cannot survive without a shepherd. They need him to guard them from predators, to lead them to pasture, to provide quiet sources of pure water, and many other necessities. In fact, they can even get stuck on their backs, with their legs flailing in the air, and die in that position if the shepherd does not come along and set them upright! The Bible calls us “**sheep**” to point out what should be obvious, but what we often deny, that we cannot survive without the good Shepherd. God graciously sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be our good Shepherd and provide our most wanted desire: the opportunity to spend eternity in heaven with God.

## **III. God Provided Salvation by Allowing Christ to Die for our Sins.**

### **Hebrews 13:20 (NASB95)**

<sup>20</sup> Now the God of peace, who brought up from the **dead** the great Shepherd of the sheep through the **blood** of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord,

Our verse mentions “**death**” and “**blood**.” As the author has shown, in His death Jesus fulfilled all that the Old Testament sacrifices pointed toward. God instituted those sacrifices to provide a temporary solution for the sins of the Jewish people. The wages of sin is death, and because He is just, God cannot simply forgive sins without the penalty being paid.

### **Hebrews 9:22 (NASB95)**

<sup>22</sup> And according to the Law, *one may almost say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

The blood of animals could never totally atone for sins

What those sacrifices could not do, Jesus did. As the eternal Son of God, He took on human flesh, perfectly obeyed God’s law, and then offered Himself as the just payment for the sins of His people.

### **Hebrews 10:1-4 (NASB95)**

10 For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. <sup>2</sup> Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? <sup>3</sup> But in those *sacrifices* there is a reminder of sins year by year. <sup>4</sup> For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Even in the Old Testament, Isaiah prophesied of Jesus' death on our behalf:

#### **Isaiah 53:4-6 (NASB95)**

<sup>4</sup> Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Thus the God of peace has provided the way for us to have peace with Him by sending the great Shepherd and putting Him to death for our sins.

I want you to note that Jesus confirmed this New Covenant by resurrecting from the grave as He promised He would do. No other religion can make that claim! All other religious leaders are still in the grave. That is significant!

## **IV. God Raised Christ from the Dead and Confirmed His New Covenant.**

#### **Hebrews 13:20 (NASB95)**

<sup>20</sup> Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep **through the blood of the eternal covenant**, *even* Jesus our Lord,

God gave Jesus the authority to lay down His life on the cross and rise from the dead.

#### **John 10:18 (NASB95)**

<sup>18</sup> No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

The phrase, "**through the blood of the eternal covenant**" is connected with God's bringing Jesus up from the dead. The resurrection confirmed God's acceptance of Jesus' death as validation of the new covenant. The covenant is "**eternal**" in the sense that it never will be replaced. Jesus' shed blood is the final, complete sacrifice for our sins.

The bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the solid foundation of the Christian faith. If you can disprove it, there is no basis for Christianity, and you should live for all the pleasure you can get in this life. The apostles were dejected and disillusioned after the crucifixion, but they were transformed into bold witnesses after Jesus rose from the dead. They saw Him, they touched Him, they ate with Him, and He taught them for 40 days before He ascended into heaven. He promised that He would return just as they saw Him ascend. If these things are just the **wishful** fulfillments of a bunch of deluded men, then Christianity is false. If these witnesses spoke the truth, then Jesus is the risen Lord.

## V. God Provided Jesus, Who is Our Lord.

### Hebrews 13:20 (NASB95)

<sup>20</sup> Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, **even Jesus our Lord,**

The last phrase of 13:20 identifies the great Shepherd of the sheep as “Jesus our Lord.” This shows both the **humanity** and **deity** of the Savior. Jesus is His human name, born of the virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. As a man, He could die on the cross as the substitute for **human** sinners. “Lord” is a title for the sovereign God. As God in human flesh, Jesus’ death could do what the death of animals never could do: permanently take away our sins.

The Bible is clear that while Jesus is Lord of all, He is not the Lord of all in the same way. He is the Lord of some in the sense that He is their Judge, who will condemn them. He is Lord of others in the sense of being their Savior. Those are the only two options. If Jesus is not your Lord personally, then you will face Him someday as the Judge who will impose the just penalty of eternal separation from Him because of your sins.

### CONCLUSION:

Now is the day of salvation when every sinner may find mercy at the cross.

### 2 Corinthians 6:2 (NASB95)

<sup>2</sup> for He says, “At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you.”

Behold, now is “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation”—

Your acceptable time for your salvation will end when you die or when Jesus comes again. Then it will be too late and you will face judgment. So the first part of the author’s benediction shows that God has provided everything for our salvation through Jesus our Lord. But, He does not just save us from His judgment and then leave us to fend for ourselves.

Has God opened your eyes to the realization that you need Christ? If so, let go of everything else and lay hold of Jesus Christ. He is that “**treasure hidden in the field**”.

### Matthew 13:44 (NASB95)

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Through Christ, God has provided all that you need for salvation from His judgment. In Him, God has provided all that you need to live in a manner that is pleasing unto Him, for His glory. Make sure that your faith rests in the risen great Shepherd, even Jesus our Lord!

### What a Day That Will Be.