**Same Savior, Different Age**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-11**

**10 I don’t want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters,[a] about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. 2 In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses. 3 All of them ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all of them drank the same spiritual water. For they drank from the spiritual rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ. 5 Yet God was not pleased with most of them, and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.**

**6 These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did, 7 or worship idols as some of them did. As the Scriptures say, “The people celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry.”[b] 8 And we must not engage in sexual immorality as some of them did, causing 23,000 of them to die in one day.**

**9 Nor should we put Christ[c] to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites. 10 And don’t grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. 11 These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-11 NLT**

Today I want to focus on three key points that have a huge impact on our worldview as Christians.

The first principle is found in verses 3-5. And I will express that truth as follows:

**It is possible to taste of the blessings of Christ, fail to trust in Jesus for Salvation, and therefore be lost.**

The second principle, that is also found in verses 3-5, is that:

**Jesus is the Savior of all who have been saved, are being saved, and will be saved.**

And the second principle that I will emphasize from these passages is found in verse 11, and that is:

**First century Christians were already living in the “end times.”**

Or as the NLT says, “The culmination of the ages.” The English Standard Version calls translates it “on whom the end of the ages has come.”

So let’s begin with the first principle.

**It is possible to taste of the blessings of Christ, fail to trust in Jesus for Salvation, and therefore be lost.**

These people were delivered from captivity in Egypt, they saw the parting of the Red Sea, and they had Moses as their advocate before God and yet grumbling and pagan revelry was common among them. Regardless of whether or not you want to view these people as saved or unsaved, they had enjoyed many of God’s blessings and yet they were rebellious. This reminds me of Hebrews 6, which says:

**6 So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds[a] and placing our faith in God. 2 You don’t need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.**

**4 For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— 6 and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.**

**7 When the ground soaks up the falling rain and bears a good crop for the farmer, it has God’s blessing. 8 But if a field bears thorns and thistles, it is useless. The farmer will soon condemn that field and burn it.**

**Hebrews 6:1-8 NLT**

God only gives faithless, rebellious people the blessing of spiritual food and drink for finite amount of time.

Time eventually runs out for people who fail to put their trust in Jesus (In spite of seeing His power). This was true for the Israelites in the desert and it is true for us.

That leads us into the second principle which is:

**Jesus is the Savior of all who have been saved, are being saved, and will be saved.**

I remember being in Bible college and a young student asked the professor… “Did Abraham know Christ?”

To my amazement the teacher calmly responded, “I don’t think Abraham knew anything about Christ.”

Abraham knew Jesus. Jesus once said to some Jewish listeners:

**“Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad.”**

**John 8:56 NLT**

Job knew he needed and advocate (Job 16:19).

David knew he needed God to cleanse him with Hyssop (Psalm 51).

Isaiah believed he was a man of unclean lips (Isaiah 6:5).

And John the Baptist said he wasn’t fit to untie Jesus’ sandals (John 1:27).

But, how does that show that these people had faith in Jesus?

The name Jesus when transliterated means, “The Lord who saves.”

When water came from the Rock…It was the Lord who saved.

When the Red Sea was parted…It was the Lord who saved.

When Manna came from heaven…It was the Lord who saved.

And Moses, Abraham, David, and many others understood this was a message of the Good News. It was the Gospel beforehand. Jesus was the sustenance of salvation even before people knew exactly how God would save them.

Let me explain what I am calling the sustenance of salvation, it is what we read in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4:

**“Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. 4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.”**

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NLT**

These people in the Old Covenant may not have known exactly how Jesus was going to accomplish their spiritual safety, but they saw enough evidence to understand that He would be their advocate, their scapegoat, and their life blood.

In the Old Covenant times, some of the Israelites trusted their faithfulness to the law and the sacrifices as the reason that they were right with God.

And others, because of their faith in “The Lord who Saves,” sought to obey the law and honor God with sacrifices.

This is no different than saying that some believe they are saved because of good works and some do good works because they are saved.

God does not believe, nor has He ever believed, that we will ever do enough good work to earn our right standing with Him.

His Kingdom is made up of people who have realized that they will never be good enough and so they must cast all their sins as well as all their hopes for the future on Him.

In fact, the door to His Kingdom is only open to people recognized their brokenness, that is what Matthew 5:3-5 means.

**3 “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,**

**for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.**

**4 God blesses those who mourn,**

**for they will be comforted.**

**5 God blesses those who are humble,**

**for they will inherit the whole earth.**

**Matthew 5:3-5 NLT**

You see, many of the Israelites and many Christians today can lose sight of the gospel and start thinking it is about creating a promise land. God’s Kingdom is and was a spiritual kingdom no matter what geographical location His people were living in. That is why God told David that He didn’t live in a temple made with human hands. As Christians God’s presence in us and among us wherever demonstrates His rulership over us as King.

This is why Paul wrote:

**17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

**Romans 14:17 NLT**

And why Jesus said:

**“The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. 21 You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.”**

**Luke 17:20-21 NLT**

God’s Kingdom was already among the 1st century Christians and it is already among us. It is a spiritual kingdom that is (for now) seen as God’s people demonstrate the spiritual fruit of His Holy Spirit in this world.

That brings me to the last principle for the day.

**First century Christians were already living in the “end times.”**

Remember 1 Corinthians 10:10-11 says:

**“And don’t grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. 11These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.”**

**1 Corinthians 10:10-11 NLT**

The NLT says, “End of the age.”

The NIV says, “culmination of the ages.”

The ESV says, “The end of the ages has come.”

The KJV says, “upon whom the ends of the world come.”

Please remember that this letter was not written **to us**. It is definitely beneficial for us, but it was not written **to us**.

First century Christians were already living in the end times. So there really is no need for us to go out in search of the anti-Christ or try to calculate all the things that some people try to calculate.

What there is a need for is for us, as Christ-followers, to put our faith completely in Jesus, and encourage others around us to do the same.

If I were a media agency, I would try to hype you up by talking to you about the mark of the beast or how the love of some has grown cold and try to make you think we are living in a different age than the Corinthians were living in.

They were living in the culmination of the ages and so are we.

So don’t wait.

Believe that you are broken and in need of Jesus (The Lord who Saves) power that parted the Red Sea, brought water from the rock, that made atonement for our sins, that rose from the grave, that empowers us to repent and that makes us born anew.

And then tell others about the goodness of God. Introduce them to the one who saved you, instead of trying to prove to them that you are superior to them.

After all, there is only so much time. And trusting that Jesus is God, “The Lord who saves.” Is the only way to have true spiritual life and enter into the kingdom of God.