

NOVEMBER 5, 2017

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### THE GREAT SALVATION

The greatest story ever told is a true story. It is the story of how God has provided salvation for man through His Son, Jesus Christ. Obviously, this story would be without significance if man was not lost in sin. Looking at the Bible as a whole, it is the account of creation, the fall of man, the promise of a Deliverer, the coming of the Deliverer, His death for man's sins, His resurrection, His ascension into glory, and His return "to judge the quick and the dead at his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:1). The writer of Hebrews wrote, "How shall we escape if we neglect **so great a salvation...**" (Hebrews 2:1-4).

There were other salvations in Scripture. Noah and his household were saved when God destroyed the world by the Great Flood. By faith he obeyed God "to the saving of his house" (Heb. 11:7). God saved Israel from Egyptian bondage as His servant Moses miraculously led them by faith and obedience from Egypt to the Promised Land. But the salvation God has provided in Christ saves those who trust and obey, delivering from sin and its eternal consequences. It is great because: (1) God is its author (Heb. 5:8, 9); (2) it was made possible by the death of Christ (Rom. 1:16; 5:8-9) and (3) it is eternal in duration (Heb. 5:9).  
Ron; previously in *The Arthur Graphic*. 2-11-17

### YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?

**In the beginning** there was nothing. And suddenly, for no reason, nothing exploded and created everything. You expect me to believe that?

**At some point**, by chance the right chemicals happened to float together at just the right moment to be struck by an electrical charge and became life. You expect me to believe that?

**Somewhere** two non-human mothers each gave birth to a human child. They were born at the same time and in the same place. One was male and one was female. These two new "humans" gave birth to the human race. You expect me to believe that?

**One of the descendants** of these first humans was born with a knowledge of right and wrong. No longer driven by instinct, this person suddenly was making decisions based on a morality for which there is no real explanation. You expect me to believe that?

**I'm sorry.** I don't have that much blind faith. It's all just too far-fetched to be anything more than a fairy tale. I can't believe intelligent people claim it is "science." (cf. 1 Timothy 6:20)

**"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"** (Genesis 1:1). I can believe that without stretching my imagination into the realm of the impossible. The universe was created by an all-powerful, all-knowing God. That I can believe!  
--Phil Great, *House to House/Heart to Heart*

**"Irresistible power"** is inconsistent with liberty, and must corrupt those who who exercise it. *John C. Calhoun*)

**Frustration:**Not having anyone to blame but yourself.

### **“4-Year-Old Rider”**

Mother asks little Johnny, as they wait for the bus, to tell the driver he is 4 years old when asked because he will ride for free.

When they get into the bus, the driver asks Johnny how old he is. “I am 4 years old.,” he replies.

“And when will you be six years old?” asks the driver.

“When I get off the bus,” answers Johnny.

--Cybersalt Digest

### **FREEDOM OF RELIGION/WORSHIP --THE DIFFERENCE?**

When you hear politicians affirming their stand for “freedom of worship,” be wary! Most would equate that with “freedom of religion,” which is given us by God and defended by our Constitution. However, be aware of the difference. Freedom of worship allows you to meet with others in worship, while freedom of religion more broadly allows you to hold and express your religious views without fear of government interference. For example, Muslim countries may allow Christians to meet with other Christians to worship, but you dare not speak against Muslim beliefs, nor freely evangelize Muslims with the gospel of Christ. The direction we are heading is that the “powers that be” are comfortable for us to meet in our buildings, sing a few songs, bow in prayer, etc., but be careful not to offend a homosexual, A Muslim, etc. by speaking what the Bible teaches on this lifestyle. You may one day be charged with “hate-speech.”

--Ron

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### **HEARD BUT NOT SEEN**

Have you ever considered how different the true and living God is from the pagan deities spoken of in the Bible? The pagan gods were seen but never heard, but the one and only true God is heard but not seen. I believe that acknowledging this difference will help us in times of trouble.

You see, how many times do people ask the question, “Where is God?”, especially when they are suffering. I would suggest that this is the wrong question. The better question would be to ask, “What has God said?” And when we ask that question, we’ll find comfort and understanding. What comfort and understanding can come from a god who can be seen, but cannot speak to us? Oh, how those pagan deities stand in stark contrast with the God of heaven!

Next time you're tempted to ask, "Where is God?", remember that's not how God has chosen to reveal Himself. Instead, ask, "What has God said?", and it's in His Word that you will find comfort and understanding. Give it some thought.

(I copied the above some time ago, but failed to note the author. My apologies to the author for failing to give credit.)

### **TAKING THE HIGH ROAD**

*"Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter" (Ruth 1:20).*

Naomi had just returned to Judah from Moab. It had been a bad trip. Her only two sons died there, and now a daughter-in-law named Ruth had returned with her. They had no visible means of support, nor any prospects. In her tribulation, Naomi chose a path of righteous living for her and Ruth over other ungodly options. She was repaid richly for her faithfulness. A kinsman-redeemer blessed her life, married Ruth and produced a child that would begin the family of King David. As they placed the child in her lap, the women said to Naomi, "Blessed is the Lord who has not left you without a redeemer today". Ruth and this child would bless her in her old age. Naomi took the "high road."

God has provided a redeemer for us too in Jesus. It is the only right road for us for true blessings.

*--Grace for your spirit, submitted by Paul Kent*

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**PRAYER:** We continue to rejoice in answered prayer. Though I had a mastectomy over a year ago, but no follow up, such as chemo or radiation, the latest tests showed no recurrence of cancer. Doctors had expected to find cancer as one of my problems. I do still have the bladder stone and blood clots to cause problems, and prayers are requested on this matter as well. Also, Doris is seeking relief from her back and leg pains. \*\*\*  
Pray for a spiritual awakening in our country, and a resolve by our nation's leaders to seek the will of God.