

SERMON

SALVATION “GOD’S PROMISE FULFILLED”

"**Yeshua (יֵשׁוּעָה) – Salvation: God's Promise Fulfilled**" that explores the profound theme of salvation through Jesus and how it restores our relationship with God and others, with a special focus on *koinonia* (fellowship) as a community anchored in this salvation.

Opening Prayer and Introduction (5 minutes)

- Begin with a prayer for understanding, gratitude, and humility as we explore the profound mystery of salvation through Jesus.
- **Introduction:** Define "Yeshua" (יֵשׁוּעָה) as the Hebrew word for "salvation" and highlight how Jesus, whose Hebrew name is Yeshua, embodies God's plan of salvation.
- Briefly set the stage by explaining that salvation is not only a rescue from sin but also a restoration to a life of fellowship with God and others.

1. God's Promise of Salvation (10 minutes)

- **Scriptural Foundation:** Reference Genesis 3:15, God's first promise of salvation, indicating the arrival of one who will crush the head of the serpent and restore humanity.
- **Salvation Throughout Scripture:** Mention the echoes of salvation throughout the Old Testament – from the Passover in Exodus (Exodus 12) to prophecies in Isaiah 53 that speak of a suffering servant.
- **Promise Fulfilled in Jesus:** Transition to the New Testament and reflect on John 3:16-17: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..."
 - Explain how Jesus fulfills this centuries-old promise as the incarnate Word of God who not only speaks of salvation but embodies it.

2. The Meaning of Salvation Through Jesus (15 minutes)

- **Salvation as Redemption:**
 - Reference Romans 3:23-24 – "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."
 - Emphasize that Jesus redeems us from sin's penalty, granting us freedom and a new life in God.
- **Salvation as Restoration:**
 - **Restoring Our Relationship with God:** Highlight 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 – God reconciles us to Himself through Christ. Salvation repairs the broken relationship between humanity and God, drawing us close again.
 - **Restoring Our Relationship with Others:** Reflect on how true salvation renews not just our individual lives but our connections with others, calling us to forgive, serve, and love in the same way we have been loved (Colossians 3:13-14).
- **Salvation as Transformation:**

- Emphasize Romans 12:2 – we are transformed by the renewing of our minds. Salvation is not a static moment but a dynamic journey where we are continually shaped to be more like Christ, the true image of God.

3. Koinonia – Salvation in Community (10 minutes)

- **Defining Koinonia:**
 - *Koinonia* means “fellowship” or “communion,” but it is deeper than simple community or gathering; it is a shared life, founded on the experience of salvation in Jesus.
 - Reflect on Acts 2:42-47 – the early believers “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” This unity was a witness of salvation at work among them.
- **Salvation as the Foundation of True Community:**
 - Discuss how *koinonia* is only possible when the community centers on the salvation Jesus offers. This shared experience binds us in a bond that goes beyond superficial connections; it is a mutual sharing of our spiritual lives.
 - As a saved people, we reflect God’s love in the way we treat one another. Reference 1 John 1:7 – “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.”
- **Practical Expressions of Salvation in Community:**
 - *Sharing Each Other's Burdens:* Galatians 6:2 calls us to “carry each other’s burdens,” which is possible because of the grace we have received in salvation.
 - *Encouraging Growth:* As a community, we encourage each other to grow in our faith, reminding each other of our salvation and calling.
 - *Generosity and Service:* As seen in Acts 2, salvation inspires us to live generously, sharing resources, time, and love with one another.

4. Personal Reflection and Application (5 minutes)

- **Reflect on Our Own Need for Salvation:**
 - Ask listeners to ponder their personal experience of salvation. Have we truly accepted this gift? Are we living in the fullness of restored fellowship with God?
 - Encourage a moment of quiet reflection, allowing the Holy Spirit to convict and comfort each listener on their journey of salvation.
- **Living as Part of a Koinonia:**
 - Challenge listeners to engage actively in the *koinonia* of their faith community.
 - Consider practical steps: How can we build one another up in love, pray for one another, and serve each other as part of our response to the salvation we have received?

Closing: A Vision for a Salvation-Centered Life (5 minutes)

- **Final Encouragement:** Remind the congregation that salvation is not simply a past event but an ongoing reality that we live out daily in our relationship with God and in our community.
- Encourage everyone to embrace the depth of God’s love and the completeness of His salvation, fostering a sense of hope and purpose as they walk with Christ.

- **Closing Prayer:** Thank God for His unfailing love and the gift of salvation. Pray for the strength to live as people transformed, restored, and bound together in *koinonia*.

This outline allows time for each section to unfold thoughtfully and for congregants to connect personally with the message. Each segment builds upon the last, ultimately grounding the community in the shared experience of salvation through Jesus.