

SALVATION: #4991

Because if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with his mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation; Rom. 10:9, 10.

God's salvation, as the OT spoke of it, had a broad meaning. It referred to deliverance or preservation from disease, dangers, sufferings, death, and the consequences of wrong doing, ***Ex. 14:30; Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Judges 2: 16; then the Lord raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them. Psalm 34:6; this poor man cried and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. Psalm 37:40; And the Lord helped them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in Him. Jeremiah 4:14; Wash your heart from evil, O Jerusalem, that you may be saved. How long will your wicked thoughts lodge within you? Jeremiah 17:14; Heal me O Lord and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for Thou art my praise.*** It is obvious to Jeremiah that his healing (and ours) ultimately comes from the Lord. The same holds true concerning his (and our) salvation also. Let's take a longer deeper look at this verse in Jeremiah 17:14 by looking at the Hebrew interpretation of these prophetic words: *Give me life by restoring my soul O Redeemer, and I shall be restored; bring me to a place of safety from distress and danger, deliver me from certain death and tribulation, rescue me from my enemies by your protective duty as my shepherd and I shall be rescued; because You are the focus of my adoration and thanksgiving.* The words in this verse indicate that Jeremiah was sensitive to his sins and backsliding and the part that he himself has played in this course of corrupt and bad times. He was also aware of his own impotency to cure himself. Being fully satisfied of the power of the Lord to heal him of the consequences of his wrong doings, he knew that if the Lord was going to heal him he would do a thorough job. God doesn't do anything half-way, it is not possible for Him to do anything but full measure, because doing things half-way is not in His character as God who is perfect and everything He does is equally perfect. Here we see sins as diseases; the healing comes from the forgiveness of them. Only God can grant this forgiveness. Jeremiah is also asking God to save him with a temporal, spiritual, and eternal salvation. "Save me from the corruption of these times; the designs of my enemies," he says; "save me with a salvation of the protection of Your kingdom and glory, Lord." How appropriate even for today, we still need protecting from this present evil age and its influences. "Just as a Shepherd has a duty to protect His flock," Jeremiah calls on the Lord. There is only one way for this saving to take place and that is by our Lord, anything man can produce in the way of safety will sooner or later break down, but God's safety will over-power any foe that comes up against it. But he does not save us just because we need saving, He has a serving purpose in mind. God, like the Good Shepherd, protects us from more than what we are aware of in this present evil age. But,

as Christian, we know that we are not protected from everything, some attacks, tribulations, (tests), can be used as a learning and faith building tool. Also, God does not want to intervene in every issue that comes our way so that we can live a comfortable life here on earth; He doesn't want us to be comfortable here because, this is not our permanent residence. To be comfortable here could cause us to resist wanting to leave here. We are as aliens, according to Peter, **1 Pet. 2:11; Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.** Why does God even consider saving Jeremiah, because Jeremiah's focus of adoration and thanksgiving has been on God. Jeremiah has established a relationship with God through confession and repentance and has God's favorable blessings on him. The means of God's salvation may have been as a warrior, a king, or some other national leader, but in the highest sense the Savior was always God, **1 Sam. 14:23; So the Lord delivered Israel that day, and the battle spread (or passed over) beyond Beth-haven. Isa. 33:22; For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our law-giver; the Lord is our King; He will save us... Isa. 43:3; for I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush (or Ethiopia) and Seba in your place. Isa. 43:11; I, even I, am the Lord; and there is no Savior besides Me. Isa. 43:15; I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Hab. 3:18; Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.** Let's take a closer look at this verse in Habakkuk 3:18: *Still I will be jubilant as an act of celebration in the God who was, who is, and who will always be, I will respond with joy in the Creator God whose character is compassionate, gracious, and faithful to His covenant and because He is the God of my hope and welfare who causes my deliverance, rescue, liberty, and salvation.* This verse is a good one for me for taking my mind off of the troubles of the day when I think I'm having a bad day. I must remember that no day is so bad that I cannot still rejoice in the Lord who has provided my salvation. Where do I draw my strength to get me through the day, God's word; there is a peace-fullness and a calmness that comes over me whenever I read His word. I get God's reassurance that everything and anything that I experience has been approved by Him for me to go through. Not so that I can live a life of frustration, but so that I can know and honor the One who is really in charge of my day. Although humans may be the vehicle that God chooses to bring me to the point of seeking Him out, it is still by His divine intervention in my life that not only allows the trials but also gets me through the trials. This is where Habakkuk is, he doesn't pout, or seek out a friend to complain to, what does he do? He stops whatever has occupied him and exults in His Savior that gave him salvation! Habakkuk seeks out Jesus Christ, in the fullness of His grace and righteousness, and in His spiritual presence has communion with Him.