

Part 2 - The Call for a Free Will Offering – a Willing Heart

[A Review of: Stones of the Ephod and Breastplate, the tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his sockets]

Exodus 35

9 And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate.

In the ephod and breastplate were to be stones, which have spiritual significance, even to us *today*. However, it is a bit difficult to figure out exactly what stones were used. Some of the references to stones in the Bible are to gems whose names are obscure and whose identity is uncertain (such as ‘adamant’ or ‘ligure’). And even the etymology of the Hebrew words provides little help in determining the names of the stones. Consulting various translations of the Hebrew Scriptures does not add much clarification. It is thought by some that the original Breastplate (made under the direction of Moses) may have been lost when Nebuchadnezzar sacked the Temple. This is a very likely possibility because 2 Kings 24:13 tells us that “*he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said*”. Certainly, the breastplate (made of gold and precious stones) would have been of great value so one would think this would have been something the Babylonians would have spoiled. Because of this, many scholars think that a new Breastplate was made in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah (Ezra 2:63, Neh 7:65) but, they had such difficulty with obtaining such phenomenal gemstones that others were substituted for them. This possibility may help explain the serious differences between the lists given by the Septuagint and the Book of Exodus.

Therefore, it is wise to look to other ‘ancient authorities’ concerning the stones used in the Breastplate. There’s the ancient writer ‘Josephus’, who wrote his famous history in the first century A.D... But, because of inconsistencies (and even some mistakes), information from that source is not always helpful. Then there is also *Theophrastus* (370-287 B.C.) whose treatise “*Concerning Stones*” is a description of gem stones and minerals known to men of that age. The other is *Pliny the Elder* whose “*Historia Naturalis*” was published in 77 A.D. And while the information given by these two men is valuable, there still are some difficulties with the works because both describe (under the same name) many gem stones which are known to differ entirely from one another. However, even with the difficulties, the search to find the truth of what gemstones were really used in the Breastplate is not hopeless. One can seek the available sources and find a general consensus of the different versions and (along with other available aids) come to fairly firm conclusions, although not definite. This is exactly what E. Raymond Capt did and he published his findings (and conclusions) in a short booklet called “The Gemstones in the Breastplate”. This booklet gives an *excellent* study on the gemstones and draws reasonable conclusions as to what the stones might actually be. While we don’t normally promote books in these studies, an exception is being made here simply because it’s so difficult to find information about this subject and Capt does a pretty good job explaining his studies, research and

conclusions and for this reason, we think it would be beneficial for all those interested in the gemstones of the Bible to consider reading the book. But, as always, it is up to each one of us to study to show ourselves approved, as 2 Tim 2:15 reminds us. Take the information given and make sure to compare it to the Bible, *always*, for God's Word is our *everlasting* standard (John 17:17).

Keeping this in mind, the following chart is an 'educated guess' as what the stones in the Breastplate were and the tribe was assigned to. The following diagram gives the tribe's name, the stone, the color and a picture of what the stones might *possibly* have looked like. Please keep in mind that, while these conclusions are a 'good guess', they are not, 'set in stone'!

TRADITIONAL STONES OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL			
<u>TRIBE</u>	<u>STONE</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>PICTURE</u>
Reuben	Carnelian	Blood Red - translucent	
Simeon	Peridot	Yellowish Green	
Levi	Emerald	Green	
Judah	Carbuncle	Almandite Garnet	
Dan	Lapis Lazuli	Sparkling - Blue	
Naphtali	Crystal	Sparkling - Clear	
Gad	Jacinth	Fiery, Yellow	
Asher	Aagte	Banded Colors	
Issachar	Amethyst	Midern Amethyst	
Zebulun	Citrine	Yellow – Clear	
Joseph	Onyx	White and Brown layers	
Benjamin	Plasma	Green - Translucent	

The following diagram is a possibility of how the High Priest's breastplate could have looked...



The important point to remember is that these stones represented the 12 tribes of Israel, as the High Priest was to *bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually* (Ex 28:30). Indeed today, Jesus Christ (who is our eternal High Priest who sits at the right hand of God for us, Ps 110:1, Matt 26:64, Acts 2:32-36, Acts 7:55-56, Rom 8:34, Eph 1:20-23, Col 3:1, Heb 1:1-3, Heb 8:1, Heb 10:10-13, Heb 12:3, 1 Peter 3:21-22) does continuously ‘bear’ the judgment for the twelve tribes of Israel on His heart for *it is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us* (Rom 8:34).

Something else that needs to be pointed out (and *never* forgotten) is that these stones were in no way ‘mystical’. They did *not* have magic properties nor healing powers. God’s Word specifically outlaws any form of mysticism or communication with the other dimension other than through what God’s Word permits (Deut 18:10-12). From the days of Moses God gave us His Written Law. When Israel was a young nation, they were to go to the priesthood to communicate with God and to learn of Him. While the Bible does speak of a “Urim and Thummim” that were kept in the Breastplate of the High Priest (Ex 28:30, Lev 8:8), they were not ‘necromancing’ as some suggest. Instead, they provided to the priesthood a clear cut ‘yes or no’ answer. However, there is little written about them. Some think these were stones that were either color coded or engraved somehow to provide a ‘yes or no’ but we simply don’t have enough information from Scriptures to know for sure exactly what they were because there’s no record in the Bible of God instructing Moses to make these.

So then, what is the spiritual significance of stones? In 1 Cor 3:9-17 we’re told that the stones represent the *spiritual* Temple Jesus Christ is building, which is the Kingdom of God (the eternal governmental Administration which is righteous and un-corruptible). The stones, therefore, for this Temple are not physical but spiritual, because it is our very soul that will house the Holy Spirit of God. Acts 2:32-33 explains that Jesus is now at the right hand of God and is in charge of

giving out the Holy Spirit of God to those who believe, trust, love and serve our Heavenly Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. The giving of the Holy Spirit is how Jesus is building the Body of Christ, which is the true Temple of God. And, just as a stone refracts light, so too we refract the Light of Jesus Christ, which is the Word of God. When the Holy Spirit (the Light) is given to a person, it flows through that person and they reflect the Light (the Word of God) given to them and it then shines to other people (whether they like it or not!). This is why Jesus told us we are *the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid* (Matt 5:14).

True Christians are New Jerusalem in the making. And, just as the way a stone reflects (or refracts) the light is called the ‘fire’ of the gemstone (and each stone has their own ‘refractive index’) likewise each individual person has their own unique way of reflecting the Light of Christ (1 Cor 12:4-7). So, the spiritual significance of the stones used in the Tabernacle (and Temple) of God is seen in *the way God’s Holy Spirit shines through us and helps others ‘see’ the Light (truth) found only through, Jesus Christ*. Our ability to reflect the Light of Jesus Christ is why we are likened to stones in 1 Peter 2:5-10.

Also important to remember is that (as pointed out earlier), in the breastplate, there were 12 stones – one stone for each of the tribes of Israel. And, in New Jerusalem, the foundations of the wall of the city are ‘adorned’ with all manner of precious stones – this is symbolic of His loyal servants who love and obey Him. They make up the ‘foundation’ for His righteous Government in New Jerusalem. And, even before the eternity, Jesus will rule with them during the 1000 years of teaching (Rev 20). This is why Paul stated that: *other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ* (1 Cor 3:11). He went onto explain...

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Eph 2:20-22

This explains how we will be the ‘lively stones’ of New Jerusalem! Our Heavenly Father is explaining (through symbology) how He is building a righteous Government (headed by Jesus Christ) that will never, *ever* be done away with (Ps 45:6, Ps 103:19, Ps 145:13, Isa 9:7, Isa 60:12, Rom 14:17, 1 Cor 4:20, 1 Cor 6:9-10, 2 Peter 1:10-11). Yes, indeed, the Kingdom of Jesus Christ is everlasting. The question is, will you be in it? (2 Cor 13:5-6).

So, along with precious metals, God also asked Israel for very precious fabrics, skins and wood that all have great spiritual significance to us even today. These were similar to the riches were given to Joseph (Gen 41:42) and Daniel (Dan 5:7, 16, 29) for serving in the governments of their time. These are also the kinds of things found in Rev 18 and Ezekiel 27, which explains what Satan’s worldwide (wicked) government will be full of. These physical riches are valued in both God’s Government and Satan’s. However, there is a very large difference - *the way you get them*. To get riches by fraudulent means, is what leads to spiritual corruption, as happened to Satan in

the first earth age (as Ezek 28 reveals). [Study this further in the special study: **Exalted, The Inside Scoop** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/192?single>].

As this chapter (and chapter 25) reveals, our Heavenly Father wants us to *willingly* give Him spiritual sacrifices such as: thanksgiving (Ps 50:7-15, 107:11, 116:17, Jonah 2:9, Amos 4:5), praise (Ps 54:6, Jer 17:26, 33:1) and righteousness (Deut 33:19, Ps 4:5, Heb 13:15). He candidly reveals what He really wants from us in Scriptures such as: Isa 1:11-17, Amos 5:21-24, Mic 6:6-8, Jer 7:21-23, Ps 40:6-8, Hos 6:6, Prov 21:3. However, He does *not* want blood sacrifices but *spiritual* sacrifices, *for to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry* (1 Sam 15:22-23). Also, it's important to point out a note in the Companion Bible that says: there are fifteen objects God said to gather for the Temple. This is important because it means that all numbers connected with the Tabernacle *are multiples of five*. And five in Biblical numerics means: *grace*. And it is grace (unmerited favor) that we are seeking when communing with God, is it not?

Exodus 35

*10 And **every wise hearted** among you **shall come**, and make all that the LORD hath commanded:*

We should remember that it is YHVH who *giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding* (Prov 2:6). Prov 1:7 also tells us that *the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction*. Prov 2:7 further states that *He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly*. Prov 3:13-14 further explains that *happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold*. So, the gifts of wisdom that the Israelites had, were given to them by God Himself; and that's what made them able to make the Tabernacle. It is the same today, albeit we are working to make God a *spiritual* Tabernacle... first in our own soul (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor 6:14-18) and then in the hearts of His children, by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to *whosoever* will receive it (Mth 28:18-20, Mk 16:15-20, Acts 26:16-18). As God said in Exodus 25:8 - *let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them*. He does want to dwell among us – in fact, He wants to dwell in our own soul...

*14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and **will also raise up us by his own power**.*

15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

*17 But **he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit**.*

18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

*19 What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?***

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Cor 6:14-20

Let us therefore fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Eccl 12:13-14

Exodus 35

11 The tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his sockets,

The tabernacle Moses and Israel made was basically a tent, because it had to be mobile as they were moving around in the dessert. But just because it was a tent did not make it un-sturdy. Quite the contrary, God designed it so it would be incredibly strong. It was so sturdy, in fact, that it would last for *hundreds* of years, even until the time Solomon built the permanent Temple. And, even then, the only reason they ‘retired’ it (1 Kings 8:4, 7:51) was because a new Temple had been built. **This in itself is a type for us too.** Because Jesus has died for our sins, we no longer need the physical Temple of old. In fact, we don’t even need to worship at Jerusalem anymore, as Jesus told the woman at the well...

19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

John 4:19-26

So, while Israel made the first Tabernacle and Solomon’s Temple (with the help of the gentiles, like Hiram [1 Kings 7:13-14], it was God Himself who made the true Tabernacle, Jesus Christ. Yes, Jesus Christ was God in the flesh... God came to earth in a fleshly Tabernacle but one that *He* built, as it is written...

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:34-35

The word ‘overshadow’ here is #1982 and means: *to cast a shade upon*, i.e. (by analogy) to *envelope in a haze of brilliancy*; figuratively, *to invest with preternatural influence*.

[Interestingly, this is the same word used in Mth 17:5, Mk 9:7, Lk 9:34 when it says that *a bright cloud overshadowed them*]. God Himself put His own soul into Jesus Christ and therefore, it was the only pure conception ever made. If you have trouble understanding that Jesus Christ is indeed God incarnated then remember what the Bible tells us...

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.***

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not...

*... 14 **And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,** (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

John 1:1-14

John tells us that God is ‘the Word’ and ‘the Word’ was made flesh... that’s Jesus Christ. God literally was ‘dwelling’ among Israel (and the gentiles) via a flesh body, in fulfillment of Ex 29:45, where God said: *I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God*. It also fulfilled a prophesy given by Moses...

17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

*18 I will raise them up **a Prophet** from among their brethren, like unto thee, and **will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.***

19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Deut 18:17-19

Jesus Christ was ‘that prophet’ (John 1:21, 25, 6:14, Acts 3:23) prophesied of by Moses but the prophesy was first given to Moses by God Himself (Deut 18:15-16), looking forward to the time when God would be incarnated so He could dwell in a flesh ‘Tabernacle’ and truly be dwelling among His people (John 1:14). But you may ask, how could God Almighty ‘be His own Father’? It is simple: Mary was conceived of the Holy Spirit, which is God’s Holy Spirit (Luke 1:34-35). To be a father you have to be the one that ‘begats’ a child, don’t you? *God so loved the world, that he gave **his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life* (John 3:16). This is one of the most famous verses in Christianity yet few realize what it really means. God put the seed in Mary’s womb (without sexual relations) so... that makes God His own Father, right? Yes, it does. And why not, for He said in Rev 1:9: *I am Alpha*

and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. God Almighty (YHVH) has *always* existed and *always* will. He has made all things (Rev 4:11) and therefore, He even created a flesh body (Tabernacle, who is Jesus Christ) for Himself to live in. But... how can God be in two places at once? Well, you'll have to ask Him that the next time you see Him, but remember: *with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible* (Matt 19:26). Paul also confirms that Jesus Christ is indeed God in the flesh in his letter to the Colossians...

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

*15 Who is **the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of every creature:*

*16 For **by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

*17 And **he is before all things, and by him all things consist.***

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

*19 For it pleased the Father that **in him should all fulness dwell;***

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Col 1:12-20

And in the second chapter he also said...

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

*9 For **in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.***

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Col 2:8-10

Paul confirms this fact again in his letter to the Hebrews (Israelites who had been scattered into the nations by that time) ...

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

*2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by **his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*

*3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and **the express image of his person,** and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

4 *Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*

5 *For unto which of the angels said he at any time, **Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?** And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?*

6 *And again, when **he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world**, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.*

7 *And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.*

8 *But **unto the Son he saith**, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.*

Heb 1:1-8

Note that, in verse 3, the word ‘express’ (as in ‘express’ image) is #5481 and means: *a graver* (the tool or the person), i.e. (by implication) **engraving** (["character"], the *figure stamped*, i.e. **an exact copy** or [figuratively] representation). **Jesus Christ was an exactly copy of God Himself but in a flesh body.** Jesus Christ is therefore, truly, God in the flesh – God came to ‘dwell among’ His people in a flesh body, just as we are in a flesh body. Paul further explains this in his letter to the Hebrews...

5 *For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.*

6 *But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?*

7 *Thou **madest him a little lower than the angels**; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:*

8 *Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.*

9 *But we see **Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death**, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

10 *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

11 *For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

12 *Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren [Deut 18], in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.*

13 *And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.*

14 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, **he also himself likewise took part of the same**; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

15 *And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

16 *For verily **he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.***

17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Heb 2:5-18

How was Jesus made ‘a little lower’ than the angels? *He came in a flesh body*, that’s how. Verse 14 then points out how, just as all of God’s children (who want to have eternal life) have to come to this earth in a flesh and blood body (in John 3, Jesus explains this), so likewise did God come into this world in a flesh body and ‘took part of the same’. Why? So, He could destroy him who had power of death, which is of course, the devil (also called Satan, the old dragon in Rev 12:9 and 20:2). And through a flesh body (Jesus), God Himself was able to sacrifice Himself (die) so He could deliver us who were in bondage to sin (which we all were at one point in our life, Rom 6). Verse 17 says that it really pleased God (behooved Him) to be made in a flesh body (made like unto his brethren). Why? So, He could overcome death (Satan) but also so He could get experience needed to be a faithful High Priest. What experience? *Suffering*. He had been tempted in this life to know what we go through in order to be able to help us. He thus willingly endured all the sufferings that come from living in the flesh, just so He could perfectly understand how to deliver us out of our bondage to sin and give us comfort and strength when we need it. When the Bible says that Jesus is at the ‘right hand of God’ (Ps 110:1, Matt 26:64, Acts 2:32-36, Acts 7:55-56, Rom 8:34, Eph 1:20-23, Col 3:1, Heb 1:1-3, Heb 8:1, Heb 10:10-13, Heb 12:3, 1 Peter 3:21-22), this indeed is true because *they are one in the same person*. But the right hand is often used as a figure of speech to denote power (Ex 15:6, Deut 33:2, Ps 16:8, 63:8, 89:13, 98:1, 108:6, 118:15-16). This means that, through His life in the flesh as Jesus Christ, God has power over death (Satan). Jesus Christ (God in the flesh who now lives eternally in an interdimensional body) is *forever* the strength (right hand) of God. You can think of Jesus Christ as an ‘office’ or a ‘job’ that God is performing if you want to understand it better. We all have different responsibilities in life. We are first born as a child, but then we become parents, friends, an employe and so forth. And we can also take on other jobs, titles and duties. This is essentially what Jesus Christ is – another job, title, duty of God Himself. But *they are one in the same*. And, through a flesh body (as Jesus Christ) God has died for us to pay for our sin. We must accept His sacrifice for us if we want to obtain eternal life. There’s no ‘special salvation’ for anyone. Even the “Jews” will have to accept Jesus Christ (which means they also must repent for their sins) if they want eternal life. No one can hate or even disbelieve in Jesus Christ and have eternal life.

So, also: when Jesus Christ called God (YHVH) His Father (Mth 1:32-33, 11:27, 12:50, John 10:14-18, 14:6-7, etc.) He was not only being humble but He was also being very accurate for Jesus Christ truly was begotten of God Himself – no flesh man was Jesus’ father. So, hopefully this helps clarify the great significance of what the *true* Tabernacle really is – Jesus Christ, who is God in the flesh. God Himself lived in the flesh body and was called Jesus Christ. Jesus simply means “Jehovah-saved”, it’s from the Hebrew word we know as Joshua (#3091). And remember that God said: *I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour* (Isa 43:11). And again

in Hos 13:4 He said: *Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for **there is no saviour beside me.*** God didn't change His mind and send someone else to earth as Jesus Christ. God Himself came to earth into a flesh body and He was called Jesus because Jesus literally means "YHVH saves".

What is also so very beautiful is that, through Jesus' death and resurrection, we have an example of the spiritual rebirth that we experience through the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ (God) living in us. Paul explains this several places in the New Testament but consider just one place, which clearly tells us about the spiritual death and resurrection we go through in Christ, Jesus...

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

*4 Therefore **we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.***

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

*6 Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.***

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

*9 Knowing that **Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.***

*10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, **he liveth unto God.***

*11 **Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

Rom 6:3-11

Like God's Holy Spirit begat Jesus Christ in Mary's womb, so too He begets His Word into our heart and creates a 'new spirit' into us, *through His Holy Spirit that dwells within us*. It's an internal transformation only made possible by the Holy Spirit (God) but He uses His Word (the Bible) to make the transformation because His Word is how He transfers truth to us (John 17:17). Do you see now why it's so important to study and understand these 'Old Testament' Scriptures? They reveal such a beautiful, yet simple, truth to us that has very powerful implications for our very soul. **It is through the Holy Spirit that we are 'born' of God because we are conformed into the 'image' of Jesus Christ by His Holy Spirit dwelling within our heart and mind** and helping us to *truly* understand His Word and how to obey it, willingly, from the heart (carnal mind).

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Eph 4:21-24

8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Col 3:8-10

So, because *the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth* (as Jesus told the woman at the well in John 4:23), we *that worship him must worship him in spirit **and in truth***. This means, it doesn't matter where we are, IF we believe in Jesus Christ (meaning, if we believe that He is the Son of God and in His sinless conception, life, death for our sins and literal resurrection from the dead) then we can worship Him because we'll be worshipping Him (who is truth) in our spirit (heart and mind). This is the great type that the Tabernacle of old teaches us, with all its parts (*his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his sockets,*) that made it so sturdy it did not decay though it lasted for hundreds of years. But our true Tabernacle (Jesus Christ) now lives forever (at the right hand of God).

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever (Heb 13:8). Thus, His body is eternal. *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever* (Isa 40:8). The promise of eternal life is given to us who believe in Jesus Christ, and remain loyal to Him. *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new* (2 Cor 5:17).

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

*5 Who are kept by the power of God **through faith** unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

1 Peter 1:3-5

We'll pick this up in Part 3...

AMEN.