

Then the LORD raised up judges who delivered them from the hands of those who plundered them.

Judges 2:16

Store In My Heart

Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

The message of an angel of the Lord to Joseph regarding Mary's Child.

The main import of this verse is it's declaration of salvation by Jesus. Jesus is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew Joshua which means Savior. God, born of woman, came to earth for the purpose of saving us from our own wickedness.

What a comforting thought to know our Creator is willing to give so that we might avoid the punishment we deserve. The wise man would accept this gift no matter what was necessary on his part to receive it.

As an aside, this passage also shows us that God considers the conceived seed to be one and the same with the one who is brought forth. Conception is the beginning of life, not birth.



Full Of Mercy And Grace

Ulysses Buckley

A while back I was talking with a man, I met at the tool store. During the conversation I invited him to come to church with me, his response was, 'No, if I walked in a church building the ceiling would fall in.'

I've heard several people say something like that. Usually, they mean that they feel that they have been so bad or have done such things that God could never accept them.

Scripture teaches us that no matter how far one has fallen into sin, if he will turn himself around God will receive him. Reading in the book of Isaiah chapter one we see that the people of Israel had become very wicked. **Isaiah 1:4** says, *"Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward."*

They had reached a point where the LORD would not even accept their worship. Notice **Isaiah 1:14-15** *"Your new moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood."*

This is indeed a bad situation to be in when God will not receive your worship or hear your prayers. But the LORD is still full of mercy and grace, extending to them the

opportunity to turn things around. Look at **Isaiah 1:16-19** *“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; Seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. ‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.”*

The LORD God is holy and cannot endure sin, but if one put away his sin and turn to the LORD, He wants to and will receive him. Notice these passages:

Ezekiel 18:31-32 *“Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies’ says the LORD God, ‘Therefore turn and live.”*

Ezekiel 33:11 *“Say to them, ‘As I live’, says the LORD God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel!”*

As we think of ourselves, there is no depth to which we can fall that God cannot save us if we are willing to listen and turn to Him. Let us seek Him, He has already sought and is seeking us.

(This article goes well with our recent lesson regarding God’s desire to save us. The mercy and grace of God are displayed vividly in His dealings with Israel. DLH)

For Our Information

Betty Ragsdale has physical therapy for a fractured vertebrae. She will have a cement injection into the vertebrae soon.

Ruben Keisler is still dealing with a foot ulcer and has an appointment with his foot doctor on Thursday

The Simpson Family is in Star City this weekend.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler leave Friday for a cruise to Quebec.

The Henderson's will have some more travel to get Dottie’s affairs taken care of, but they are getting back to a more regular schedule.

Thank you for the prayers and kindness you have offered during this time of sickness and loss.

Sunday Evening - **Daniel 2:36**. Wednesday Evening - **1Peter 1:17**.

Keep one another in your prayers each day.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!