

Universal Salvation in Luke?

Commentary for September 1, 2019 — Should We be Surprised?

There are two articles this month. The article "A Key to Racial Harmony" discusses the fact that all human beings are of one race and all have the same origin. Differences among people will eventually work out to God's glory — from God through Adam. Eventually everyone will be made into the full image and likeness of God and Christ as said in Genesis 1:26 and no longer through Adam's image and likeness (Genesis 5:3).¹ This was God's purpose for every human being that ever has existed, exists now, or ever will exist.

The second article this month is "The Symbolism of Biblical Holy Days." These days were required to be observed by the people of Israel as God commanded through Moses. Israelites who are now Christians are not required to keep these Holy Days. Likewise, Gentiles who believe Christ was resurrected and that He is their Savior are also not required to observe these Holy Days. Gentile nations (non-Israelite peoples biblically called "the nations") have no requirement either. As you will read in the article, God and Christ will require national representatives to keep the Holy Days in Jerusalem for a few years.

Does Luke Teach Universal Salvation?

When John the Baptist preached in the wilderness, he made many powerful statements. One in particular is given only in the Gospel of Luke: "**And all flesh shall see the salvation of God**" (Luke 3:6). Luke is quoting Isaiah in the specific context of YHWH's future rescue of His people Israel (an event that has not happened even to our time today).

"YHWH has made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God."

• *Isaiah 52:10*

First, Luke and Isaiah are not referring to only "**all flesh**" of the people of Israel, but to "**all the nations,**" meaning all the Gentile peoples (all those who are non-Israelites), who are at "**all the ends of the earth.**"

Second, what will "**all the nations**" see? They shall witness two things:

- (1) the might of YHWH exhibited on behalf of Israel, and "**all the nations**" extends to "**all the ends of the earth.**"
- (2) the object of YHWH's salvation: His people Israel.

All nations, all peoples, in other words the entire human race will witness both those things.

¹ This includes the Nephilim, Anakim, Rephaim, and others born to the Sons of God with the daughters of men. YHWH says these hybrids have a leader who was of "the-*adam*" of "the human" (Joshua 14:15)." See my June 2013 Commentary, "[Anakim Are from Adam](#)" and the other articles about the Sons of God, such as "[Who Are the Nephilim](#)."

Earlier Isaiah had written that the Gentiles (the nations) would not only witness YHWH's salvation on behalf of Israel, but the Gentiles would participate in that salvation as well.

"And he said, It is a light thing that you should be my servant [1] to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and [2] to restore the preserved [the dispersed] of Israel: I will also give you for a light to the Gentiles, that you may be my salvation unto the end of the earth."²

• *Isaiah 49:6*

How would knowledge of God's salvation of Israel benefit the Gentiles? Not at all unless they somehow participated in that salvation. If there were no benefit, knowledge of Israel's salvation would be useless to Gentiles, especially if they were to suffer a fictitious eternal hell!

Luke wrote his Gospel as a Gentile helping the apostle Paul. Luke's Gospel is essentially Paul's Gospel written to Gentiles. The **"angel of the Lord"** (Luke 2:9) said this to the shepherds in the field about the coming of the Savior, Christ the Lord:

"And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.'"

• *Luke 2:10–11*

"All people" shall benefit from the acts of **"a Savior ... Christ the Lord."** Later in Luke Chapter 2, Mary and Joseph brought the newborn Jesus to the Temple. A devout man named Simeon encountered them and blessed the child (read the account in Luke 2:22–36):

"For my eyes have seen your [God's] salvation, Which you have prepared before the face of all people; [who are:] [1] a light to lighten the Gentiles, and [2] the glory of your people Israel."

• *Luke 2:30–32*

Luke quoted from Isaiah 42:1–9 (read it all for context). Paul (who guided Luke in his Gospel) gives us information in Romans and First Corinthians regarding salvation for Gentiles:

"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

• *Romans 10:12–13*

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: ... For he [Christ] must reign, till he has put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

• *1 Corinthians 15:22–23, 25–26*

Yes, Luke leads us to universal salvation; Paul openly reveals it.

David Sielaff
david@askelm.com

² Isaiah himself quoted Psalm 98:2–3:

"YHWH has made known his salvation: his righteousness has he openly showed in the sight of the heathen [the nations]. He has remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God."