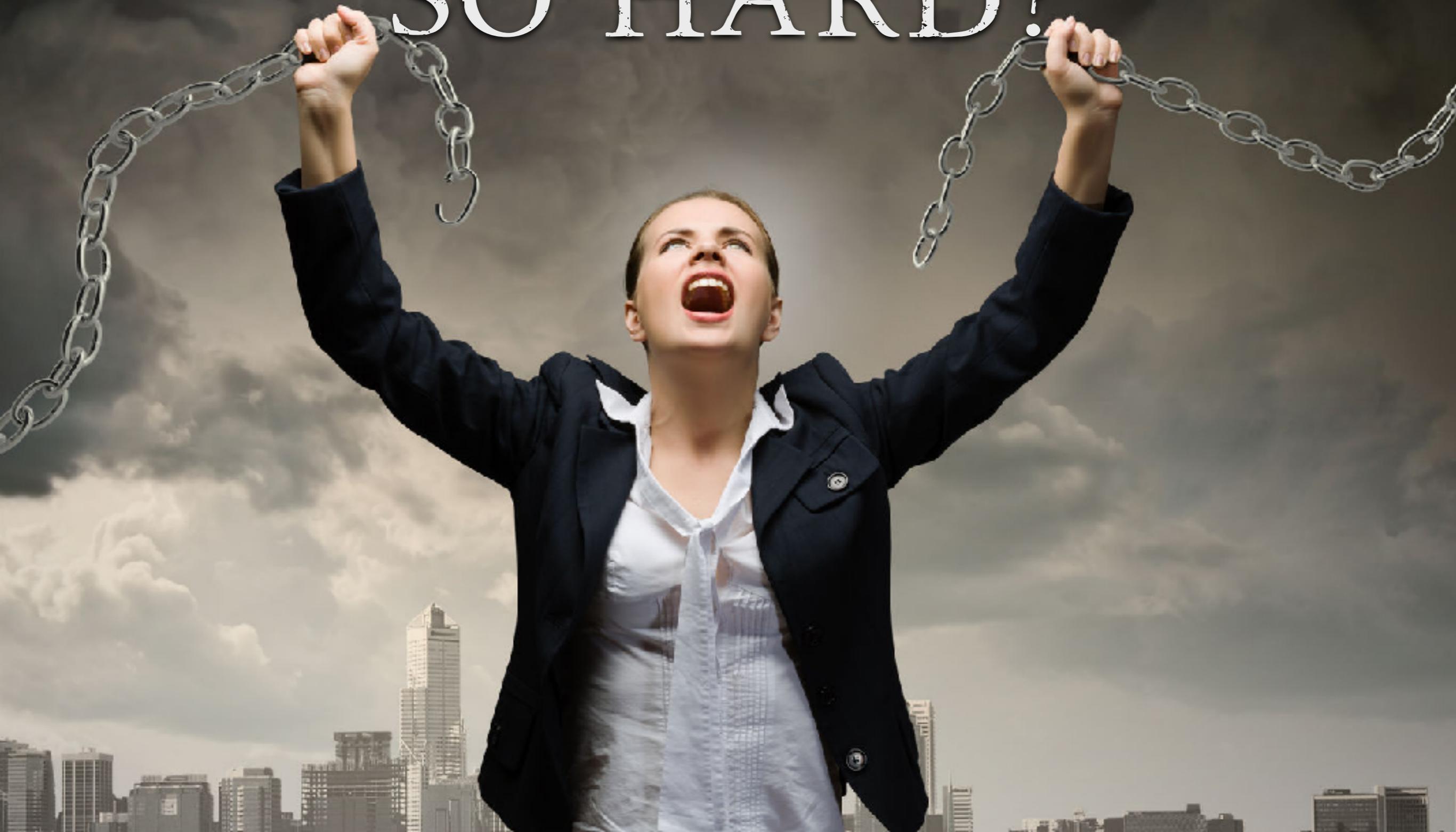


Why Is Salvation SO HARD?



LUKE 13:22-30 (NKJV)

²² And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³ Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, ²⁴ “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

Cf. Matthew 7:13,14; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Luke 12:49-53; 14:25-35; etc.

1 PETER 4:12-19 (NKJV)

¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

1 PETER 4:12-19 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. ¹⁷ For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?” ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Romans 1:18ff; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Timothy 3:1-7



Because of
Our Pride

The Pull of
The World

Our Blind
selfishness

Lessons from Israel's deliverance, failures & eventual reception of God's promises:

Type

Egypt

Pharaoh

Moses (deliverer)

Israel

Moses (Law giver)

Cloud & Sea

Wilderness

Canaan

Antitype

The world

Satan

Jesus (deliverer)

The church

Jesus (Law giver)

Baptism

Christian life

Heaven

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Lessons from Israel's deliverance, failures & eventual reception of God's promises:

- Their bondage — Exodus 1:1-14; .2:11-25
- God's deliverer - Moses — Exodus 3:1-4:31

EXODUS 4:29-31 (NKJV)

²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. ³⁰ And Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. ³¹ So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Lessons from Israel's deliverance, failures & eventual reception of God's promises:

- Their bondage — Exodus 1:1-14; .2:11-25
- God's deliverer - Moses — Exodus 3:1-4:31
- The STRUGGLE for freedom — Exodus 5:1-12:33

EXODUS 5:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.’ ” ² And Pharaoh said, “Who *is* the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.”

EXODUS 5:6-14 (NKJV)

6 So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers, saying, 7 “You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. 8 And you shall lay on them the quota of bricks which they made before. You shall not reduce it. ...

13 And the taskmasters forced *them* to hurry, saying, “Fulfill your work, *your* daily quota, as when there was straw.”

EXODUS 5:6-14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Also the officers of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten *and* were asked, “Why have you not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and today, as before?”

EXODUS 5:20-21 (NKJV)

²⁰ Then, as they came out from Pharaoh, they met Moses and Aaron who stood there to meet them. ²¹ And they said to them, “Let the Lord look on you and judge, because you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

EXODUS 6:6-9 (NKJV)

⁶ Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I *am* the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷ I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I *am* the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you *as* a heritage: I *am* the Lord.’ ” ⁹ So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage.

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?



Waters Turn to Blood
Exodus 7:14-25



Amphibians (Frogs)
Exodus 7:26-8:11



Gnats (Lice)
Exodus 8:12-15



Flies
Exodus 8:16-28



Disease on Livestock
Exodus 9:1-7

The Ten Plagues of Egypt



Unhealable Boils
Exodus 9:8-12



Hail and Fire
Exodus 9:13-35



Locusts
Exodus 10:1-20



Darkness
Exodus 10:21-29



Death of First-Born
Exodus 11:1-12:36

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Lessons from Israel's deliverance, failures & eventual reception of God's promises:

- Their bondage — Exodus 1:1-14; .2:11-25
- God's deliverer - Moses — Exodus 3:1-4:31
- The STRUGGLE for freedom — Exodus 5:1-12:33
- God delivers — Exodus 12:37-42; 13:17-14:31

EXODUS 12:37-42 (NKJV)

37 Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. 38 A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock. 39 ...

4^o Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt *was* four hundred and thirty years. 4¹ And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. ...

EXODUS 14:5-9 (NKJV)

5 Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, “Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” 6 So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. 7 Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. 8 And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; ... 9 ... and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

EXODUS 14:10-12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. ¹¹ Then they said to Moses, “Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? ¹² Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?’ For *it would have been* better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”

EXODUS 14:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ And Moses said to the people,
“Do not be afraid. Stand still, and
see the salvation of the Lord, which
He will accomplish for you today.
For the Egyptians whom you see
today, you shall see again no more
forever. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for
you, and you shall hold your peace.”

EXODUS 14:21-23 (NKJV)

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry *land*, and the waters were divided.

²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry *ground*, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

EXODUS 14:27-31 (NKJV)

²⁷ And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ²⁸ Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, *and* all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. ²⁹ But the children of Israel had walked on dry *land* in the midst of the sea, and the waters *were* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

EXODUS 14:27-31 (NKJV)

3^o So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 3¹ Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Lessons from Israel's deliverance, failures & eventual reception of God's promises:

- Their bondage — Exodus 1:1-14; .2:11-25
- God's deliverer - Moses — Exodus 3:1-4:31
- The STRUGGLE for freedom — Exodus 5:1-12:33
- God delivers — Exodus 12:37-42; 13:17-14:31
- Their early struggles — Exodus 15:22-17:7
- Their early commitment — Exodus 19:3-9; 24:3-8

EXODUS 19:3-9 (NKJV)

4 ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

EXODUS 19:3-9 (NKJV)

7 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. 8 Then all the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord. 9 And the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever.” So Moses told the words of the people to the Lord.

EXODUS 24:3-8 (NKJV)

³ So Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the judgments.

And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the Lord has said we will do.”

EXODUS 24:3-8 (NKJV)

7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.” 8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words.”

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Lessons from Israel's deliverance, failures & eventual reception of God's promises:

- The golden calf - Exodus 32:1-35
- The making of the tabernacle, it's furnishings, the ark, the court, the altar, the priesthood established, the Law explained, census, etc.
Exodus 33-Leviticus; Numbers 1:1-10:10
- Departure from Sinai (One month & 20 days into the 2nd year after leaving Egypt) - Numbers 10:11-36

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Lessons from Israel's deliverance, failures & eventual reception of God's promises:

- Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord — Number 11:1
- Intense cravings & increased complaining — Numbers 11:1-15
- Aaron & Miriam speak against Moses — Numbers 12:1-16
- The rejection of the promise — Number 13,14

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Lessons from Israel's deliverance, failures & eventual reception of God's promises:

1 Corinthians 10:1–11 (NKJV)

¹ Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink.

For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Lessons from Israel's deliverance, failures & eventual reception of God's promises:

Exodus 32:4-6

I Corinthians 10:1-11 (NKJV)

Israel's harlotry in Moab

7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “*The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.*” 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Exodus 17:2,7

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Lessons from Israel's deliverance, failures & eventual reception of God's promises:

Hebrews 3:12–19 (NKJV)

¹² Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called “*Today*,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Lessons from Israel's deliverance, failures & eventual reception of God's promises:

Hebrews 3:12–19 (NKJV)

¹⁵ while it is said: “*Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.*” ¹⁶ For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?* ¹⁷ Now with whom was He angry forty years? *Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?* ¹⁸ And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? ¹⁹ So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Lessons from Israel's deliverance, failures & eventual reception of God's promises:



- After 40 years, a remnant of Israel enters the land under the leadership of Joshua — Joshua 6ff; Hebrews 11:30
- But there remains a rest for the people of God — Hebrews 4:1-10

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Because Satan Is Determined To Destroy All He Can

Exodus 15:9 (NKJV)

9 The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; My desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, My hand shall destroy them.’

- Satan wants to “steal, and to kill, and to destroy” – John 10:10
- Satan is the father of lies and the great deceiver – He wants to keep us ignorant & blind — John 8:44; 2 Cor 11:3
- An enemy FAR more powerful than us - Eph. 6:11,12; 1 Pet 5:8;

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

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- Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life – John 14:6; 8:33-36
- God has given us what we need for “pulling down strongholds” – 2 Cor 10:4
- We must set our course to walk in the truth – Ps 86:11; 1 Pet 1:22,23; 3 John 1:4

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Because The Present Is More Real To Us Than God's Future Promises

Exodus 14:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Then they said to Moses, “Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? **12** *Is* this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For *it would have been* better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Because The Present Is More Real To Us Than God's Future Promises

Exodus 14:12 (NKJV)

¹² *Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.’*

- Real faith sustains hope — (Abraham, Joseph, Moses, ...) — Heb 11:1; 13-16; Rom 5:1-5; 8:15-25; 2 Cor. 4:16
- We choose between the here and now and the promises of God — Mat 6:19-24; 1 Jn 2:15-17

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Because We ARE Unwilling To Surrender Self Governance

Numbers 16:1–3 (NKJV)

¹ Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men; ² and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. ³ They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?”

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?

Because We ARE Unwilling To Surrender Self Governance

- Pride is our greatest enemy — 1 Peter 5:5-11; James 3:13-4:10
 - We can either yield COMPLETELY to God's authority or be destroyed — 1 Jn 2:15-17
Rom 1:21-32; 2 Thes 1:7-9



Salvation IS NOT HARD IF WE



HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD
SET OUR AFFECTIONS ON THINGS ABOVE
LOVINGLY SERVE & ARE LOYAL

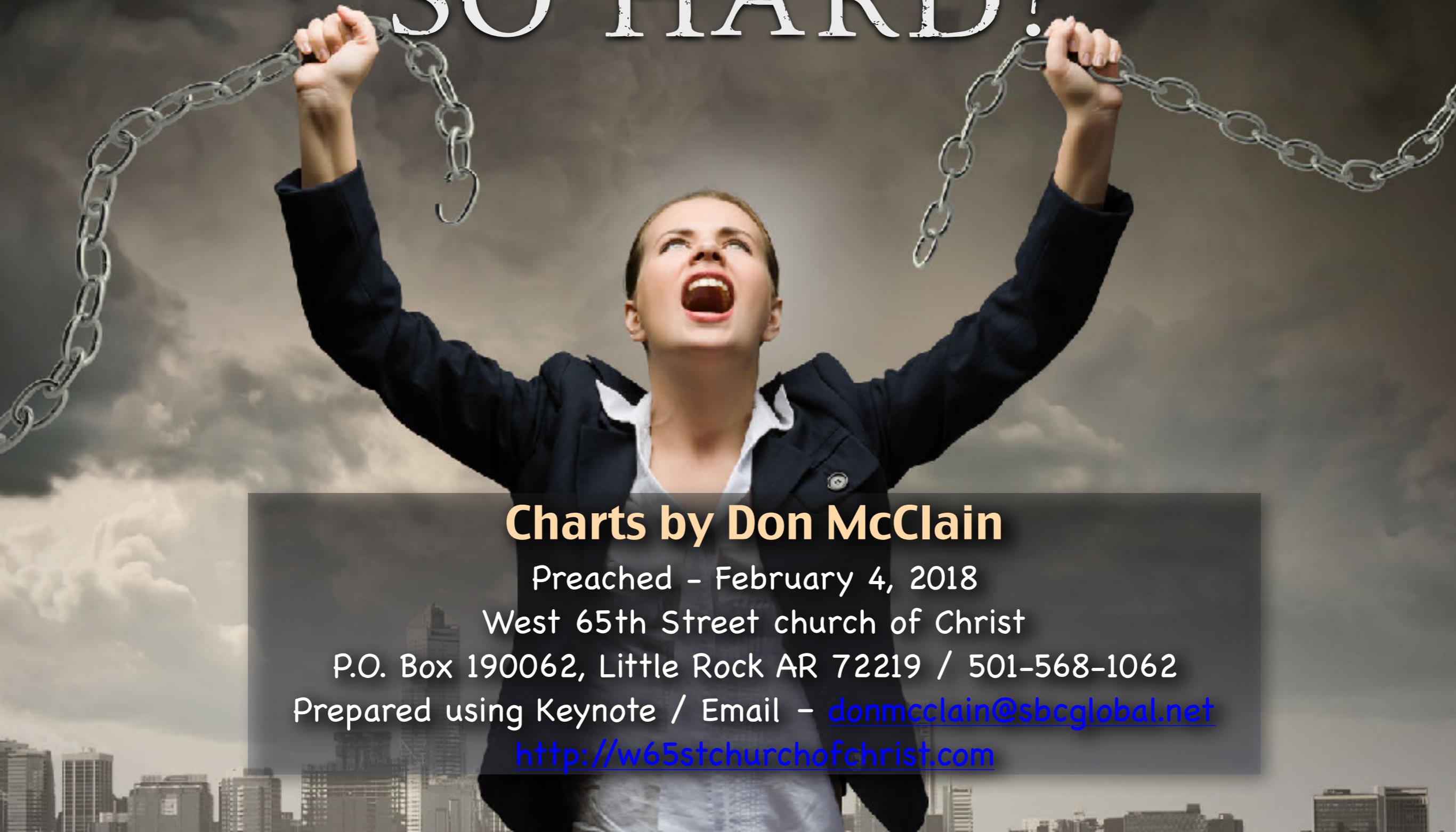
1 Peter 5:6-11; Romans 12:1,2; Colossians 3:1,2

Salvation IS NOT HARD

HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE GOD
SET OUR AFFECTIONS ON THINGS ABOVE
LOVING SERVICE & LOYALTY

- **HEAR** (the Gospel)--JN 6:45; ROM 10:14,17
- **BELIEVE** (in Christ as God's Son)—JN 3:16
- **REPENT** (of Your Sins)--ACTS 17:30
- **CONFESS** (Christ)—MT 10:32; ROM 10:9-10
- **BE BAPTIZED** (In The Name of Jesus for the Remission of Sins)-ACTS 2:38
- **BE FAITHFUL** (ENDURE)-MT 24:13

Why Is Salvation SO HARD?



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ACTS 7:33-42 (NKJV)

33 ‘*Then the Lord* said to him, “Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. 34 *I have surely* seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning and have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt.” ’ 35 “This Moses whom they rejected, saying, ‘*Who made you a ruler and a judge?*’ is the one God sent *to be* a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush.

ACTS 7:33-42 (NKJV)

36 He brought them out, after he had shown wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

37 “This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘*The Lord* your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him *you shall bear*.’

38 “This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and *with* our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us,

ACTS 7:33-42 (NKJV)

39 whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their hearts they turned back to Egypt,⁴⁰ saying to Aaron, ‘*Make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.*’⁴¹ And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.⁴² Then God turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the Prophets: ‘Did you offer Me slaughtered animals and sacrifices during *forty years in the wilderness*, O house of Israel?’