

"King of the Jews!"

Who is Melech Yisrael?

Shof'tim

A devotional study by Pat Adamson

Someone very dear to me once asked,

“What would you say is the most obvious assurance of salvation?”

What would you say is the most obvious assurance of salvation? How about the Scriptures? What Scripture would you point to as a proof text? What is the word you turn to as the “clincher” that will assure you of an afterlife with God?

How about John 3:16 – *“For God so loved the world . . .”* God’s love?

Ephesians 2:8 – *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works so that no one may boast.”*

God’s Gift?

Or, Romans 10:9? “. . . if you confess with your mouth Yeshua as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” Confession?

1 John 5:13 – *“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”* Belief?

Nobody would deny that these are all vitally important verses and words of assurance, and while each one does provide some assurance of salvation, please note with me that each of these verses are statements/teachings from an individual – two from Yeshua, and two from Paul.

Now based on the evidence, history would testify to the Godly integrity and honesty from both of these individuals. For most people including myself, Yeshua’s words alone are all the assurance necessary. In John 6:47 Yeshua said, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.”*

That’s pretty good assurance, wouldn’t you say? Nevertheless, since this is merely a deposit toward the future, we will not realize the ultimate fulfillment of that promise until we stand before Yeshua. The reality is ***we have to take Him at His word*** that He is telling the truth. This being said; is there any extra-Biblical, additional support that can bolster our faith and trust in the hope of salvation we have in Yeshua? Yes, there most certainly is!

You see, our faith and belief is not empty or unintelligent – the roots of our faith do not exist in a vacuum. The Scriptures say, *“Come, let us reason together.”* So how can we reason and be assured that Yeshua and Sha’ul are telling the truth?

One word: **history**. If we look at history and the promises of God to the Jewish people, we can know that His promises will come to pass. The Prophet Isaiah said,

“Sing, heaven! Rejoice, earth! Break out in song, you mountains! For ADONAI is comforting His people, having mercy on His own who have suffered. ¹⁴“But Tziyon says, ‘ADONAI has abandoned me,

*Adonai has forgotten me.' ¹⁵Can a woman forget her child at the breast, not show pity on the child from her womb? **Even if these were to forget, I would not forget you.** ¹⁶I have engraved you on the palms of my hands, your walls are always before Me.” Isaiah 49:13-16 (CJB)*

In 1 Kings 8:56, it reads, “*Blessed be ADONAI, who has given rest to his people Isra'el, in accordance with everything He promised. Not one word has failed of His good promise, which He made through Moshe His servant.*” 1 Kings 8:56 (CJB)

Everything HaShem had promised – the blessings and the curses that we’ve been reading about – all this has come to pass because of God’s love for His people. At a time long ago, He promised restoration and revival in the Land and among His chosen ones. We see this happening today! In fact, everything Adonai has said to the Jewish people has come to pass.

Therefore, the greatest assurance of salvation we have today is that history itself testifies to the faithfulness of God, not only in disciplining His people, but also by restoring them to the Land in faithfulness to the covenant He made with the Patriarchs.

**Therefore, we trust Yeshua; therefore, we believe Paul;
and therefore, we have assurance of salvation.**

As a matter of fact, the only thing left to happen is the final salvation of all of Israel and the return of Yeshua, the King of the Jews.

King of the Jews

Deuteronomy 18:15-19: “*ADONAI will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among yourselves, from your own kinsmen. You are to pay attention to Him, ¹⁶just as when you were assembled at Horev and requested ADONAI your God, 'Don't let me hear the voice of ADONAI my God any more, or let me see this great fire ever again; if I do, I will die!' ¹⁷On that occasion ADONAI said to me, 'They are right in what they are saying. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their kinsmen. I will put my words in His mouth, and He will tell them everything I order him. ¹⁹Whoever doesn't listen to My words, which He will speak in My name, will have to account for himself to Me.*”

What’s being said here? “Horev” is a generic name for Mt. Sinai, so Moshe reminds the people of when they stood at the foot of the mountain and God spoke the Ten Commandments . . . and it was too much for them! Lighting, fire, smoke – the sound of the Shofar – they couldn’t handle it and so they stood at a distance due to the Spiritual sensory overload they were experiencing! It was too much for them – it would be too much for almost anyone!

So HaShem says He will raise up a Prophet from the kinsmen of Israel and this Prophet would be approachable, but at the same time He would also be the voice of God to the people.

The plan of salvation and redemption for the world can be understood from verse 19. God says, “*Whoever doesn't listen to My words, which He will speak in My Name, will have to account for himself to Me*” (Deuteronomy 18:19). In other words, bad if you don’t listen to this Prophet – good if you do! So the idea was to bend your ear and open your heart to this Prophet-Messiah.

Remember the words of Yeshua. He said, “*So, everyone who **hears these words of mine** and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on bedrock.*” And what were Yeshua’s words that form the bedrock and foundation of our belief? Torah! Let’s read all of the passage.

Matthew 7:21-29 (CJB) “*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, **only those who do what my Father in heaven wants.** ²²On that Day, many will say to Me, 'Lord, Lord! Didn't we prophesy in Your Name? Didn't we expel demons in your Name? Didn't we perform many*

miracles in your Name?' ²³Then I will tell them to their faces, 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!' ²⁴"So, **everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man** who built his house on bedrock. ²⁵The rain fell, the rivers flooded, the winds blew and beat against that house, but it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain fell, the rivers flooded, the wind blew and beat against that house, and it collapsed -- and its collapse was horrendous!" ²⁸When Yeshua had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at the way He taught, ²⁹for He was not instructing them like their Torah-teachers but as One who had authority Himself."

**In other words, Yeshua taught Torah
with the authority of the Author Himself.**

Back to Deuteronomy 18:18 – “I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their kinsmen. I will put my words in His mouth, and He will tell them everything I order Him. ¹⁹Whoever doesn't listen to **My words**, which He will speak in My Name, will have to account for himself to Me.”

Obviously, Yeshua is much greater than any prophet and much greater than Moshe ever was because Yeshua spoke the words of God, not so that the people would hear and tremble with fear, but so that the people would hear and respond in love to their Heavenly Father.

Yeshua is the Living King of the Jews from the kinsmen of Israel.

You may recall that Magi (or kings) from the East had sighted a star in the East and came to Jerusalem inquiring about a particular child. They asked, “Where is the newborn **King of the Jews**? For we saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” (Matthew 2:2)

You may also recall that when Yeshua stood before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor questioned Him: “Are you the King of the Jews?” and Yeshua answered, “The words are yours” or, “it is as you say.”

At His execution, He was spit upon, mocked and ridiculed by the Romans as the King of the Jews. In fact, the inscription above Yeshua’s execution stake written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek was,

“YESHUA FROM NATZERET THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

Now, in D’varim chapter 17 verse 15, it says that God is the One who will choose and appoint an earthly king from their own countrymen. With Yeshua we have both an approachable earthly King, and one with the power of Heaven in His right hand.

King Saul was the first earthly king of Israel, but the people were drawn to him (I believe) because of his good looks and warfare skills rather than any particular appointment from HaShem. The Scriptures say he was attractive in appearance. As a matter of fact, in 1 Samuel 9:2 it says “*there was no one more handsome than he among all of the sons of Israel.*”

Thus, in appointing Saul as king, Israel allowed themselves to be led by the sight of their eyes, rather than the promises of God. They wanted polished appearance – they wanted stately form and majesty – and they got that with King Saul, but he was not the man for the job – he was not the King Israel longed for.

Back in our parashah reading, in Deuteronomy 17:18, it says the appointed king is to write a copy of the Torah scroll. Why? Because there is not to be one Law for the people to live by and another set of rules for the king! The king is not above God’s Law and since this standard was also true for Yeshua the King Messiah – if Yeshua came and did away with the Law, then He would have disqualified Himself and He could not possibly be the King Messiah at all.

As the End Times scenario continues to take shape in the world, we are also looking for a King . . . aren't we? We are awaiting the King of kings, but let us not be fooled by any slick politicians that may come on the scene or even by signs and wonders from anyone who does not uphold the Torah.

Truly, we are looking for Yeshua to return as He promised He would. He was born according to the Torah; he lived according to the Torah; He spoke Torah with divine authority; He taught Torah and expected His followers to do the same; He is the Torah personified, and according to Torah He will come again to rule and reign as the God-appointed King.

The promises of Torah are unshakable, history testifies to the faithfulness of God to His people, and thus, we have assurance of salvation and hope for eternity.

One day, we will all stand before Yeshua. But unlike King Saul, the Messiah-King will have no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him; He will have no outward physical appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

Nevertheless, beyond the sight of our eyes there will be a heart and Spirit connection in which we will recognize His wounds as the saving grace of our Heavenly Father and the glorious identity of the King we have longed for. Yeshua died and resurrected as a Jewish man; and He will return in fulfillment of Scripture as our King – the native King of Israel and Healer of the nations – the King of the Jews!

Baruch HaShem!