

EXPLORATION: BIBLE

By Chip Thompson

TRUTH CLAIM #6: ONLY THE TRUE GOD CAN SAVE

In previous Exploration Bible articles we examined reasons to believe Yahweh, God of Israel, is the only true God. Yahweh is the only ancient God who accurately foretold the future. His prophets accurately foretold the demise of the nations that hated Israel and all those nations ceased to exist. Not only did those nations cease to exist, but all their gods were lost to the ravages of time. The only God that survived is Yahweh, God of Israel.

WE HAVE AN ENEMY

A spiritual war has been raging throughout the history of mankind. The first chapters in the Bible tell us about mankind's mortal enemy – in the Garden of Eden our enemy appeared as “the Serpent.” In Genesis 3:15, God told Eve there would be continual conflict between her “Seed” and the “Serpent.” We know the identity of “that serpent of old” he is “*the Devil and Satan*” (Revelation 12:9, 20:2).

There are instances in the Bible when Satan tried to annihilate God's chosen people, Israel. In each case, if Satan had succeeded, God's plan of salvation would have been thwarted. So, in each case, God miraculously intervened and Israel was saved.

Why was the Devil so intent upon destroying Israel? Again, the answer comes from the very beginning. The end of Genesis 3:15 tells us the “Seed” of the woman would inflict a fatal blow and ultimately crush the Serpent's head. For this reason, the Serpent sought to utterly destroy God's chosen people before the promised “Seed” would come.

GOD SAVED ISRAEL

Perhaps the most dramatic instance of God saving Israel happened in the 8th century BC when the Assyrian armies waged war on the ancient empires of the Middle East. Assyria was infamous for ending nations. They would destroy every fortified city down to the capital, they would flay the sons of the king alive and then kill the king – thus ending the kingly dynasty, and finally they would deport the people and import foreigners. This practice ended nations.

The Lachish Relief



Jewish nobles being flayed alive

Every ancient nation in the Middle East fell to the Assyrians and many of these nations ceased to exist. In 721 BC, Samaria, capital city of Northern Israel, fell to the Assyrians, and Northern Israel ceased to exist as a nation. Then the Assyrians waged a campaign against Hezekiah, King of Judah. Sennacherib's prism says this, “As for the king of Judah, Hezekiah, who had not submitted to my authority, I besieged and captured forty-six of his fortified cities... As for Hezekiah, I shut him up like a caged bird in his royal city of Jerusalem.”

Sennacherib's Prisms – extra-biblical support for the narrative found in Isaiah 36 & 37



British Museum Prism

Taylor Prism

Jerusalem Prism

At this point in history, the Assyrians had destroyed ALL the fortified cities of the Middle East except one city, Jerusalem. Isaiah 1:9 says, “*Unless the Lord had left us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah.*” Israel was in danger of annihilation. So, King Hezekiah prayed to the God of Israel for salvation (read Isaiah chapters 36-37). Then, Yahweh, Israel's God supernaturally intervened to save his people. Isaiah 37:36-37 says,

“Then the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty five thousand; and when the king's nobles arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed...”

None of the gods of the ancient nations could save them from the mighty Assyrian army. Yahweh, was the only God who saved his people! Yahweh, God of Israel, is the only true God! Only Yahweh can save!

Questions? Comments? EphChip@gmail.com