

### Fueling Station 3: Key to Universal Salvation



Universal salvation is the basic understanding that the God of all creation will eventually redeem, restore, and reconcile all things back to himself. This does not mean He will do this all at once or everything to the same degree and privilege. I first propose a philosophical argument based on judicial understanding that God cannot contradict in any way His own nature. We have a just and loving God who is in complete harmony with all of His moral traits and cannot overlook one trait for another or emphasize one at another's expense. The philosophy goes like this: it would be unjust to let an innocent person take the punishment for a guilty offender unless the guilty offender had something outside his control influencing his situation. Since Adams sin was not a deception but a willful transgression of Gods command, Jesus had to take his place completely. This is why Jesus is referred to directly as the Last Adam. No where else in the New Testament do we see a direct line substitution. Jesus is always referred to being a "type" of someone else. Since we the offspring of the first Adam had no choice in inheriting Adam's sin nature(Gen.5:1-3), God was Justified in making free Atonement for the rest of creation. Remember God must do everything to satisfy His own nature without any contradiction! So now that we have been forgiven through faith in the work of Jesus, how does God deal with our sin nature? He deals with our fallen nature by grace through faith participating with the gift of the Holy Spirit and being sanctified unto righteousness!

"Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit."

1 Corinthians 15:45 ESV

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**Strong's Greek: 2078. ἔσχατος (eschatos) -- last, extreme**

Acts 8:18 Bible

Bible Hub  Greek

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Summary **Strong's** Englishman's

Greek Hebrew Interlinear

**2078. eschatos**

**Strong's Concordance**

**eschatos:** last, extreme  
Original Word: ἔσχατος, η, ον  
Part of Speech: Adjective  
Transliteration: eschatos  
Phonetic Spelling: (es'-khat-os)  
Definition: last, extreme  
Usage: last, at the last, finally, till the end.

**HELPS Word-studies**

2078 *ésxatos* (from *esxaton*, "end, last") – properly, last, final (the furthest, extreme-end). 2078/*esxatos* ("future things"), the root of "*eschatology*" is "the study of *last things*." This includes future Bible prophecy, the *end-times*, and life after death ("the after-life").

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**Englishman's Concordance**

**Matthew 5:26 Adj-AMS**  
GRK: ἀποδώς τὸν ἔσχατον κοδράντην  
NAS: until you have paid *up the last* cent.  
KJV: thou hast paid *the uttermost* farthing.  
INT: you pay the *last* kodranten

**Matthew 12:45 Adj-NNP**  
GRK: γίνεται τὰ ἔσχατα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου  
NAS: there; *and the last* state of that man  
KJV: and *the last* [state] of that  
INT: becomes the *last* the man

**Matthew 19:30 Adj-NMP**  
GRK: ἔσονται πρῶτοι ἔσχατοι καὶ ἔσχατοι  
NAS: [who are] first *will be last*; and [the] last,  
KJV: shall be *last*; and  
INT: will be first *last* and last

**Matthew 19:30 Adj-NMP**  
GRK: ἔσονται καὶ ἔσονται πρῶτοι

NAS Exhai

\*In this instance Jesus was not said to be “like” Adam but to be the final Adam!

These verses are examples of Jesus being “like” or “as” someone else:

“Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.’”  
Acts 3:22 ESV

“But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”  
Matthew 12:39-40 ESV

Jesus legally had the right to pay for the sins of the whole world!

John 3:17  
“For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him”

1 John 2:2

“He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

John 1:29

“The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

\*The Greek word for “world” is Kosmos and it means universe and all of its inhabitants. This helps us understand God's grand scope of Salvation. This journey of deliverance will have many stages so that His total plan of reconciliation may be fulfilled.

“Therefore, as one trespass (1st Adam) led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.”

Romans 5:18-19 ESV

\*The parallel cannot be misunderstood, If all humanity fell because of Adam, All humanity will be restored because of Jesus the Last Adam!

“that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”

2 Corinthians 5:19 ESV

“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”

Colossians 1:19-20 ESV

“For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.”

1 Timothy 4:10 ESV

“putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”

Hebrews 2:8-9 ESV

“He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

1 John 2:2 ESV

“And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!””

Revelation 5:13 ESV

\*This is God’s way of making right all that was lost from the fall.

From the fall forward, God is redeeming all in heaven and on earth. He is reconciling all! Mankind, as well as a brand new heaven and brand new earth...objects as well as living creatures.

Everything will be made right with God!

God house consist of those who were found faithful at the end of their lives on earth and even among these there are varying degrees of glory:

“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.”

1 Corinthians 15:22-25 ESV

“But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

1 Corinthians 15:38-42, 50, 58 ESV

\*We have the idea that all will be redeemed but not to the same degree.

That degree will be dependent on our degree of faithfulness.

“The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.” Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.”

2 Timothy 2:11-13, 19-21 ESV

\*It is our responsibility to respond to what God has given us to determine our place of honor in the next life.

A Comprehensive collection of Scripture references:

I've been investigating universal salvation vs eternal torment for quite some time now but rarely do I come across a concise list of verses that support universal salvation. Here's one that I think is excellent. For those lurkers who are on the fence as I once was about which has more scriptural backing, refer to this list for study: Genesis 12:3 --- All peoples on earth will be blessed through Abraham. Genesis 22:18 --- All nations on earth will be blessed through Abraham's offspring. Psalms 22:27 --- All the ends of the earth and all the families of the nations will acknowledge God. Psalms 65:2 --- All men will come to God. Psalms 86:9 --- All nations will worship and glorify God. Psalms 103:8-9 --- God is compassionate, will not always accuse and will not be angry forever. Psalms 145:9-10 --- The Lord has compassion on all His creation and all He has made will praise Him. Psalms 145:13 --- The Lord loves all His creation. Psalms 145:14 --- The Lord upholds all who fall. Isaiah 25:6-8 --- God will prepare a feast for all people, He will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers up all nations. He will eliminate death, wipe away the tears from all faces and remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. Isaiah 45:22-23 --- God has sworn an oath that every knee will bow before Him and every tongue will swear by Him. Isaiah 49:6 --- God's salvation will be brought to the ends of the earth. Isaiah 54:8 --- Although God will hide His face in a surge of anger, He will also have compassion with everlasting kindness. Isaiah 57:16-18 --- God's anger is not permanent. Although He punishes man, He will heal, guide and restore comfort to him. Jeremiah 31:33-34 --- All men will know God, from the greatest to the least. Lamentations 3:31-33 --- The Lord does not cast off forever. Although He brings grief, he will also be compassionate. Ezekiah 18:21 --- God does not any pleasure in the death of the wicked. Rather, He is pleased when they repent. Micah 7:18 --- God does not stay angry forever. Matthew 18:13 --- Like the man who owes a hundred sheep and is not willing to lose even one, God is not willing that any one be lost. Luke 2:10 --- The birth of Jesus is good news for all the people. Luke 3: 5, 6 --- John the Baptist quotes Isaiah's words that all mankind will see God's salvation. John 1:29 --- Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John 3:35 --- God sent Jesus to save the world. John 4:42 --- God has committed all things to Christ. John 5:25 --- Even the dead will hear the sound of Christ and all who hear will live. John 6:37 --- Everything that God has given to Christ will come to him. John 12:32 --- When Jesus is lifted up from the earth, he will draw all men to himself. John 12:47 --- Jesus came to save the world. John 17:2 --- God granted Christ authority over all people so that Christ may give eternal life to all that God has given him. Acts 3:20-21 --- Jesus must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything. Romans 3:3-4 --- The unbelief of some will not nullify God's faithfulness. Romans 5:18 --- The act of obedience of one man (Jesus) will bring life for all men. Romans 8:19-21 --- Creation itself will be liberated and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. Romans 8:38-39 --- Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ. Romans 11:32 --- God made all

people imprisoned by disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all. 1 Corinthians 15:22-28 --- All will be made alive in Christ, but each in his own turn and ultimately Christ will subdue all his enemies, eliminate death and God will be all in all. 2 Corinthians 5:15 --- Christ died for all. 2 Corinthians 5:19 --- Through Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself. Ephesians 1:11 --- God will bring all things under heaven and on earth under Christ. Ephesians 4:10 --- Christ ascended higher than all the heavens to fill the whole universe. Philippians. 2:9-11 --- Every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord (In 1 Corinthians 12:3, Paul writes that no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit) Colossians 1: 19-20 --- God was pleased to reconcile to Himself, all things on earth and in heaven through the blood of Christ. 1 Timothy 2:4-6 --- God wants all men to be saved and to know the truth. Can God's desire be thwarted? 1 Timothy 4:10 --- God is the Saviour of all men, especially (not exclusively) those who believe. Titus 2:11-12 --- God's grace, which brings salvation has appeared to all men. Hebrews 2:9 --- Jesus tasted death for everyone. 1 John 2:2 --- Christ is the atoning sacrifice of the sins of the whole world. 1 John 3:8 --- Christ appeared to destroy the devil's works. The doctrine of eternal damnation denies the victory of Christ! 1 John 4:14 --- Christ is the Saviour of the world. Revelations 5:13 --- Every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and on the sea will sing praises to him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb (Christ). Revelations 21:4-5 --- God will dwell with men and he will wipe every tear from their eyes, death, mourning, crying, pain and the old order of things will pass and everything will be made new. The scriptural evidence is overwhelming. For those verses you struggle with that imply eternal torment check out this link that gives a concise explanation for EVERY verse that APPEARS to support eternal torment. This site refutes each verse by making reference to the original Greek and what the writer was really saying:

\*God will hold all accountable to what we have been given. Everyone will be judged and will have recompense for what we have done with what we were given. No distinction between Jew or gentile, male or female, circumcised or not!

\*Soteria is 'the aim of God' and 'the purpose of Jesus Christ'. The NT knows nothing of an angry God who has to be pacified into forgiving men. It knows nothing of a God whose attitude to men has somehow to be changed from wrath to mercy. In the NT the whole initiative of soteria is with God. God has not appointed us to wrath but to obtain soteria (I Thess. 5.9). God has from the beginning chosen men to 'salvation' (II Thess. 2.13). God will have all men to be 'saved' (1 Tim. 2.4). It is the long-suffering of God which makes soteria possible (II Pet. 3.15). So much so is soteria a prerogative of God that it is ascribed to him in the doxologies of the Revelation (Rev. 7.10; 19.1). It is God himself who has 'saved' us (II Tim. 1.9). Christ Jesus came into the world to 'save' sinners (I Tim. 1.15). He came not to condemn the world, but that through him the world might be 'saved' (John 3.17). The prime mover in soteria is God.

Conclusion of the matter:

““Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’”

Isaiah 45:22-23 ESV

“for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

Romans 14:11-12 ESV

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:9-11 ESV

\*Everything and Everyone will eventually be “right” with God and be given there proper place in the story in the ages to come!

#### Questions for contemplation:

1. Many opponents to Christianity have never been able to reconcile the justice and love of God in there minds. They have always blamed Christians for having a flimsy theological foundation. We have always said you have to accept it on blind faith not logic. Is this really the case? Is God not the creator of the justice system and its logic? Is He outside of its limits or is God even limited by His own character? Can God sin, tell a lie, etc...?
2. Atheists and Agnostics have always blamed Christians for saying they have a loving God but how can God send someone to Hell for all eternity? How would you answer them now according to the race to the kingdom understanding?
3. How does the law of “reaping and sowing” apply in Gods legal structure of atonement and reconciliation?

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

Galatians 6:7-9 ESV

\*Remember be a good Berean and be diligent in studying the scriptures to show yourself approved and encourage others to do the same!