

## Salvation during the Old Testament Era

By Richard Joseph Michael Ibranyi

To be saved during the Old Testament era, men had to know and believe in the true God, worship him, offer sacrifices to him, and obey all of his commandments. The true God manifested himself first to Adam and his faithful descendents, then to Noe and his faithful descends, and then to Abraham and his faithful descendants. Hence not only the faithful Israelites believed in the true God but also Abraham's other faithful descends believed in the true God, such as, the faithful Ismaelites, faithful Edomites, and Abraham's faithful children from his second wife, Cetura.

The Ismaelites descended from Ismael, the son of Abraham by Agar, an Egyptian woman:

“And Agar brought forth a son to Abram who called his name Ismael... And as for Ismael, I have also heard thee. Behold, I will bless him and increase and multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve chiefs, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sara shall bring forth to thee at this time in the next year.” (Gen. 16:15; 17:20-21)

The Israelites descended from Jacob (aka Israel), who was the son of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham:

“Abraham begot Isaac. And Isaac begot Jacob.” (Mt. 1:2)

“And God appeared again to Jacob... saying: Thou shalt not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name. And he called him Israel.” (Gen. 35:9-1)

The Israelites were God's most loved and favored race:<sup>1</sup>

“But thou Israel art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.” (Isa. 41:8)

“For the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto himself, Israel for his own possession.” (Ps. 134:4)

“And I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel, and I will not forsake my people Israel.” (3 Ki. 6:13)

After Sarah died, Abraham had six children from his second wife, Cetura:

“And Abraham married another wife named Cetura, who bore him Zamran, and Jecsan, and Madan, and Madian, and Jesboc, and Sue.” (Gen. 25:1-2)

All these children and their descendants that remained faithful to the God the Abraham were also in the way of salvation.

The Edomites descended from Esau, the son of Isaac:

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<sup>1</sup> Even though the Israelite race is God's most loved race, God loves all men and races. And God wants all men and all races to be saved: “Thou hast mercy upon all, because thou canst do all things and overlookest the sins of men for the sake of repentance. For thou lovest all things that are and hatest none of the things which thou hast made, for thou didst not appoint, or make any thing hating it.” (Wis. 11:24-25) “God our Saviour... will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim. 2:3-4) But God loving men and races does not save anyone. Men must love God back to be saved, which means they must believe in him, worship him, and obey all of his commandments: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole strength.” (Deut. 6:5) “Jesus answered, and said to him: If any one love me, he will keep my word and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and will make our abode with him. He that loveth me not, keepeth not my words.” (Jn. 14:23-24) “In this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments. For this is the charity of God, that we keep his commandments.” (1 Jn. 5:2-3) In the end, most men from every race (which thus includes the Israelite race) end up in hell. “How narrow is the gate, and strait is the way that leadeth to life: and few there are that find it!” (Mt. 7:14) Also, even though the Israelites are God's most loved race, they are no longer God's chosen people during the New Covenant era. God's only chosen people during the New Covenant era are Catholics, both Catholic Jews and Catholic Gentiles. “For there is no distinction of the Jew and the Greek, for the same is Lord over all, rich unto all that call upon him.” (Rom. 10:12) (See RJMI article *Brief on God's Chosen People and Church*; and RJMI article *On Racial Traits and the Origin of Races*.)

“And Isaac besought the Lord for his wife because she was barren, and he heard him and made Rebecca to conceive. But the children struggled in her womb. And she said: If it were to be so with me, what need was there to conceive? And she went to consult the Lord. And he answering said: Two nations are in thy womb and two peoples shall be divided out of thy womb and one people shall overcome the other and the elder shall serve the younger. And when her time was come to be delivered, behold twins were found in her womb. He that came forth first was red and hairy like a skin, and his name was called Esau. Immediately the other coming forth held his brother's foot in his hand, and therefore he was called Jacob.” (Gen. 25:21-25)

The faithful and holy Job was an Edomite:

Catholic Introduction to the book of Job: “THIS Book takes its name from the holy man of whom it treats; who according to the more probable opinion was of the race of Esau, and the same as Jobab, king of Edom, mentioned (Gen. 36:33).”

Not only the races and men that descended from Abraham were able to believe in the true God and be saved, but all races and men:

“The Lord is sweet to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.” (Ps. 144:9)

“But thou hast mercy upon all because thou canst do all things, being lenient to the sins of men for the sake of repentance. For thou lovest all things that are and hatest none of the things which thou hast made; for thou didst not appoint or make any thing hating it.” (Wis. 11:24-25)

“God our Saviour...will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim. 2:3-4)

“That we may know thy way upon earth, thy salvation in all nations. Let people confess to thee, O God, let all people give praise to thee. Let the nations be glad and rejoice, for thou judgest the people with justice and directest the nations upon earth.” (Ps. 66:3-5)

No race of men, then, was excluded from salvation unless they themselves brought it upon themselves. There were men from different races that did not descend from Abraham that either always believed in the true God or converted to belief in the true God. If they were unbelievers and wanted to be saved, they, too, had to have the true God and religion preached to them and then believe and obey it in order to be saved:

“How then shall they call on him, in whom they have not believed? Or how shall they believe him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they be sent, as it is written: How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, of them that bring glad tidings of good things!” (Rom. 10:14-15)

For example, the Old Testament speaks of many Gentile converts to the true God and true religion during the Old Covenant era:

“If any stranger [Gentile] be willing to dwell among you, and to keep the Phase of the Lord, all his males shall first be circumcised, and then shall he celebrate it according to the manner: and he shall be as he that is born in the land.” (Ex. 12:48)

King David prayed for the Gentiles to convert and called them to conversion:

“The Lord hath made known his salvation: he hath revealed his justice in the sight of the Gentiles. Declare his glory among the Gentiles: his wonders among all people. O bless our God, ye Gentiles: and make the voice of his praise to be heard. Bring ye to the Lord, O ye kindreds of the Gentiles, bring ye to the Lord glory and honour.” (Ps. 97:2; 95:3; 65:8; 95:7)

“Sing ye to the Lord, all the earth: shew forth from day to day his salvation. Declare his glory among the Gentiles: his wonders among all people. For the Lord is great and exceedingly to be praised: and he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens. Praise and magnificence are before him: strength and joy in his place. Bring ye to the Lord, O ye families of the nations: bring ye to the Lord glory and empire. Give to the Lord glory to his name, bring up sacrifice, and come ye in his sight: and adore the Lord in holy becomingness. Let all the earth be moved at his presence: for he hath founded the world immoveable. Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad: and let them say among the nations: The Lord hath reigned.” (1Par. 16:23-31)

*For the glory of God; in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Michael, St. Joseph, Ss. Joachim and Anne, St. John the Baptist, the other angels and saints; and for the salvation of men*

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**Mary's Little Remnant**

302 East Joffre St.

Truth or Consequences, New Mexico 87901-2878, USA

Website: [www.JohnTheBaptist.us](http://www.JohnTheBaptist.us)