

# Why Does God Save People?

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#1      **Ezekiel 36:22, 27, 32**      *(For the full passage, read 36:16-38)*

**“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. ... I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. ... Not for your sake do I do this,” says the Lord God, “let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!””**

God frequently refers to the nation of Israel as a stiff-necked (hard-headed) people. They did absolutely nothing to earn the many blessings God gave them. Why did God bless them, then? It was not for their sake, but for the sake of God’s holy name. They had profaned His name by being disobedient and worshipping false idols, but God gave them blessings so that everyone could witness God’s mercy, grace, and love.

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#2      **Psalms 23:3, 106:8**      *(For the full passage, read Psalms 23 & 106)*

**He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. ... Nevertheless He saved them for His name’s sake, that He might make His mighty power known.**

Although Psalm 23 is very well-known, this aspect of it is not often discussed. Why does God “restore my soul” and why does God “lead me in the paths of righteousness”—is it because there is something special about me? No, it is all for the glory of God. Further, Psalm 106 states that God saved Israel in order to show His mighty power to everyone.

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#3      **Psalms 25:11, 79:9**      *(For the full passage, read Psalms 25 & 79)*

**For Your name’s sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. ... Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; and deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, for Your name’s sake!**

Salvation through Jesus is a gift from God that is amazing beyond our comprehension. But God doesn’t save people because we’re good, and He doesn’t save people just to be nice. He saves people so that He is glorified as we see his mercy, love, and grace.

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#4            **Isaiah 48:9-11**

*(For the full passage, read 48:1-22)*

**“For My name’s sake I will defer My anger, and for My praise I will restrain it from you, so that I do not cut you off. Behold, I have refined you ... I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; for how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.”**

The true Christian is always being refined as God gradually makes us more and more like Jesus Christ. (If God is not doing this in your life, are you sure you have salvation?) Why does God do this? Once again we read that it isn’t simply for our benefit, although we certainly do benefit from it—but He does it so His name is not profaned. God’s name is profaned when someone claims to be a Christian but lives like a non-believer.

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#5            **Romans 2:23-24**

*(For the full passage, read 2:1-24)*

**You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” as it is written.**

The Israelites, God’s chosen people, often failed to take God seriously, causing other nations to think their God was a joke. The same is true in the United States today. Non-believers have lost respect for God because many churches do not take God seriously.

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#6            **Romans 10:19-20**

*(For the full passage, read 10:1-21)*

**But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: “I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation.” But Isaiah is very bold and says: “I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me.”**

Why does God save anyone who is not of Jewish descent? It’s not because of anything they’ve done, but in order to provoke Israel to jealousy, because of the many times (see the Old Testament) when they wandered off and worshipped false idols instead of God.

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#7            **1 Samuel 12:22, 24**

*(For the full passage, read 12:1-25)*

**“For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people. ... fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.”**

Why does God continue to save people? Why is it impossible for someone to lose his or her salvation? Again, it’s not because of anything they’ve done. It is all for God’s glory, so we might know He is full of love, mercy, and grace, and that He keeps His promises.