

## Salvation is NOT Fair

### Virgin Conception/Birth

There are some observations on genetic science that need comment. We believe that Mary was the only woman that had a virgin pregnancy/birth. In those days, there was no such thing as in vitro fertilization. So virgin pregnancy meant that Mary did not have sex in order to become pregnant. The Holy Spirit provided the necessary DNA to produce a perfect sin free man.

In science today, there are efforts to produce a pregnancy that has DNA from just men or just women or even just one woman. But these would not qualify as “virgin” pregnancies. Just because a man’s seed is not used does not mean there is no sin nature. As I see it, there is a positive and a negative in this issue. The positive is that the sin nature is transmitted by the man. The negative is that even if a man’s DNA is not directly involved, whatever is added to a woman’s DNA to produce a child through science would still be imperfect and have a sin nature. The Holy Spirit provided a unique DNA to match Mary’s DNA to produce Jesus who had no sin nature. He also was not imputed Adam’s sin. This is said because I know that science at some point will try to say, “Look we created a human being with a man’s DNA. So we produced a duplicate like Jesus.” But from my perspective, such an effort could produce something that has a distorted sin nature. Something far worse than an ordinary sin nature.

Salvation is not fair.

There is much in life that does not appear to be fair. There is the often quoted sentence, “Life is not fair.” We see that throughout the Bible. So much so, that I have considered developing a series titled “Profiles in

**Salvation is NOT Fair**  
**Romans 5:6-21**

Suffering and Blessing.” I would want to ensure I added “blessing” because God blesses faith wherever He finds it, especially in the midst of suffering. Jesus responded to the faith of non-Israelites in the New Testament. There are many stories, especially in the Old Testament of people that suffered. But if they relied on faith in Yahweh, they were blessed. Rather than make a list of them, I would just refer you to the list in Hebrews chapter 11. Those and others often suffered unfairly. But God used their situations to bring them to a place of abounding blessings.

Salvation is NOT fair. That is certainly a provocative title. But consider this. Because of our sin Jesus had to die to redeem us. It was unfair that Jesus had to die. Remember spiritual death is required to pay the price for our sins. And then He died physically. It is unfair that sinners be imputed God’s righteousness and be resurrected to everlasting life. We do not deserve it. It is unfair. But that is what was required to satisfy God’s righteousness to bring us into fellowship with Him. It was God’s love that motivated Him to provide for our salvation. It may not seem fair but it is righteous. And it is to our eternal advantage. For believers, it is unfair to our advantage. It is righteous. The book of Romans. The book of righteousness.

**Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

The love of God is demonstrated. John 3:16 echos this fact.

**John 3:16 (Wuest, a literal translation) For in such a manner did God love the world (i.e. God demonstrated His love), insomuch that His Son, the uniquely-begotten One, He gave (i.e. Christ died spiritually and then physically), in order that**

**Salvation is NOT Fair**  
**Romans 5:6-21**

**everyone who places his trust in Him may not perish but may be having life eternal** (Romans 5:9 & 10 references to being saved. Paul emphasizes righteousness; John emphasizes eternal life)

**Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.**

Remember. Justification is used by Paul to express what we call salvation. Justification is a declaration by God that we are now righteous because He imputed to us His righteousness. Paul often uses “saved” for phase 2 of the Christian life.

**Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

How can enemies of God receive such a great salvation? Not just that we avoid going to the Lake of Fire for ever. But we have a human spirit, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, “family” membership...the list goes on and on. WE do not deserve this. It is unfair, but it is God’s grace. All that He is able to do based upon the work of Jesus on the cross. Work that Jesus did that was unfair to Him. Yet, that was His purpose in coming to earth the first time. And we look forward to serving Him in the Millennial Kingdom and on into eternity. Wow!

Salvation is inherently unfair. Typically, something unfair means someone benefits and someone loses. So in the case of salvation, we are sinners and Jesus suffers unfairly for us. He took our place. That is

**Salvation is NOT Fair**  
**Romans 5:6-21**

“substitutionary” atonement. There are several stories in the Old Testament that illustrate the unfairness that even believers go through so that the glory of God can be revealed. In the end, if the believer perseveres, there is blessing multiplied. We are to learn about life in the Devil’s world, we persevere in faith and are blessed in time and in eternity.

Take for instance the story of Joseph. Let me quote a few verses to provide the background to Joseph’s suffering and subsequent blessing. In the end, Joseph says something that should grab our attention. I start with the end in Genesis chapter 50. Then we will jump forward to Genesis chapter 37 and following.

**Genesis 50:20** (Joseph is speaking to his brothers) **As for you (Joseph’s brothers), you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.**

This ties into Paul’s admonition.

**Romans 8:28** **And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**

If time permits, we will look at Joseph in the Old Testament and the man born blind that Jesus healed.

But quickly, I want to quote the verse that parallels the concept expressed by Joseph that “God meant it for good” from John chapter 9.

**Salvation is NOT Fair  
Romans 5:6-21**

**John 9:1 As He (Jesus) passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.**

**John 9:2 And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?”**

**John 9:3 Jesus answered, “It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.**

Each has a statement of God’s purpose. God allows for unfair situations. Yet where faith exists blessing will overcome and prosper. Things happen in our lives which may seem unfair. But God has a purpose. At the right time He will reveal it. In the meantime, we must just trust Him.

**Genesis 37:1 Now Jacob lived in the land where his father had sojourned, in the land of Canaan.**

**Genesis 37:2 These are the records of the generations of Jacob. Joseph, when seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers while he was still a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father.**

**Genesis 37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of**

**his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic.**

I don't have time here to go into why in some verses Jacob is called "Jacob" and in other verses he is called "Israel." A simplified answer is that Jacob was his given name associated with stealing and lying. Israel was his God-given name associated with grace blessing. A blessing that was undeserved. A blessing that might seem unfair. But it is God's grace.

**Genesis 37:4 His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.**

This sets the stage. Hatred. Perhaps they thought it was unfair that Jacob/Israel loved one son more than another. But, I warn you constantly to avoid hatred. It breaks fellowship with God. It can lead you to do violent things that you will regret later. So here, hatred causes Joseph's brothers to sell him into slavery.

**Genesis 37:18 When they (Joseph's brothers) saw him from a distance and before he came close to them, they plotted against him to put him to death.**

**Genesis 37:19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer!"**

**Genesis 37:20 Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, 'A wild beast devoured him.' Then let us see what will become of his dreams!"**

**Genesis 37:21 But Reuben heard this and rescued him out of their hands and said, “Let us not take his life.”**

Joseph is saved from murder by his brother Reuben. But not from an evil act.

**Genesis 37:22 Reuben further said to them, “Shed no blood. Throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not lay hands on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hands, to restore him to his father.**

**Genesis 37:23 So it came about, when Joseph reached his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the varicolored tunic that was on him;**

**Genesis 37:24 and they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty, without any water in it.**

**Genesis 37:28 Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt.**

I am going to skip over much of the narrative. It is a wonderful journey to read through the entire narrative of Joseph. But since I am time restricted, I will only hit the high points.

**Salvation is NOT Fair**  
**Romans 5:6-21**

Joseph is sold as a slave to the Midianite traders who then sell him in Egypt.

**Genesis 37:36 Meanwhile, the Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, Pharaoh's officer, the captain of the bodyguard.**

God makes Joseph successful in Potiphar's house so he is elevated to manage the house.

**Genesis 39:5 It came about that from the time he (Potiphar) made him (Joseph) overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph (blessing by association); thus the Lord's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field.**

**Genesis 39:6 So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge; and with him there he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate.**

But Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph of sexual improprieties which got him thrown into jail. Eventually Joseph interprets dreams of fellow inmates. When one of the inmates is restored to his former job as the Pharaoh's cupbearer he eventually tells Pharaoh of Joseph's ability to interpret dreams. Joseph successfully interprets a dream from Pharaoh. As a result, Joseph is promoted to second in command under Pharaoh to rule Egypt. Egypt was blessed by associated. During years of famine, Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to buy grain. After Joseph reveals



**Salvation is NOT Fair**  
**Romans 5:6-21**

himself to his brothers he states that it was God that made him successful.

**Genesis 45:5 Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.**

God had a plan. God used the grace-oriented Joseph to implement that plan.

God sent me. The Hebrew word for sent means sent on a mission. It is the parallel word to the Greek apostello. Indeed, in the LXX a form of apostello is used to translate the Hebrew. God “apostled” Joseph to carry out His plan.

**Genesis 45:6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.**

**Genesis 45:7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.**

**Genesis 45:8 Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.**

**Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.**

**Salvation is NOT Fair**  
**Romans 5:6-21**

God had a purpose. There were many unfair situations in which Joseph found himself. Yet, he always trusted God. There is that word: faith. But in the end, Joseph was blessed so much that when Jacob/Israel heard the story he didn't believe it. How could God bless someone so much? Grace.

Our salvation is available because Christ's suffering on the cross, His spiritual death.

**Matthew 27:46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"**

Cried out with a loud voice. Thieme translated this as "screamed." "Cried" is a compound verb in the Greek. The basic word means to cry out. But with the "ana" prefix it becomes intense<sup>1</sup>. Jesus took the physical beatings and abuse without a whimper. Yet when God is judging Him for the sins of the world, He screams in spiritual pain. This was a visceral primal scream. It was a pain we will never know. It was unfair. But it was necessary for our salvation. A salvation that we are given unfairly since we do not deserve it. Yet it is God's love that provides the death of His Son to redeem us and satisfy God's righteousness.

**Romans 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.**

**Romans 5:7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.**

---

<sup>1</sup> [310 (anaboáo) is an intensified form of boáo/"to cry out." The prefix (ana) adds the idea, "up to the maximum (limit)."] <https://biblehub.com/greek/310.htm>

**Salvation is NOT Fair  
Romans 5:6-21**

**Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

**Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.**

**Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

**Romans 5:11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

**Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—**

**Romans 5:13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.**

**Romans 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.**

**Salvation is NOT Fair  
Romans 5:6-21**

**15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.**

**Romans 5:16 The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.**

**Romans 5:17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.**

**Romans 5:18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.**

**Romans 5:19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.**

**Salvation is NOT Fair**  
**Romans 5:6-21**

**Romans 5:20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,**

**Romans 5:21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**