

GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#141)
Learning the basics about being saved:
Studying the Bible to find out (4).

1

TWO methods of TRANSLATING the Bible
from the original languages.

> Both have value. <

THE PROBLEM: Because different languages are structured in different ways, it is *impossible* to make an exact word-for-word translation. We can attempt to get as close as possible; but the closer we get, the more awkward the translation becomes. This increases the chance of *not* understanding what it really means. Figures of speech and idioms also complicate matters, because they don't mean what they "literally" say.

THE SOLUTION: Because of this, some translations will focus on trying to be as word-for-word close to the original as possible (without creating confusion). Others will focus on meaning-for-meaning. There will also be different translations that are made for different reading levels.

2

★ This has resulted in a range of translations between two "extremes." ★

WORD-FOR-WORD TRANSLATIONS: Though these tend to be more word-for-word accurate, they can also be more difficult to read. Since different languages do *not* function the same way, this type of translation may sound awkward, if it attempts to match the original language too closely.

MEANING-FOR-MEANING TRANSLATIONS: These tend to be easier to read and to understand, though the words used may be different from those found in the original text. One danger of this type of translation is the possibility of inserting *opinion*, when the meaning of the text is uncertain. On the extreme end of this group are paraphrases – which are *not* precise translations, but are designed for easy reading.

3

WHAT IF TRANSLATIONS DON'T AGREE ON SOMETHING? Often, it's just a matter that words can sometimes be translated in different ways. It's also a fact of life that some things may be more difficult to understand than others.

WHAT ABOUT "MANUSCRIPT VARIATIONS"? SHOULD I WORRY?
For 15 centuries, copies of the Bible were hand-written. Sometimes a person would make a copy error (just like people do today). With nearly 6000 manuscripts of the Greek New Testament (complete or fragments), plus many thousands of other supporting documents, we know where these copy errors are. Most are inconsequential misspellings, changes in word order, accidental omissions or repeats of words. Even if we aren't sure which variation is the original, there are only a few that we might call "significant" – and *NONE of them have any impact on any key Christian doctrine.*

Besides... There are so many passages where there are NO textual questions, that there is NO threat to our salvation or to our understanding of Biblical truth!

4

THE KEY ISSUE IS THIS:

THE OVER-ALL MESSAGE OF GOD'S WORD IS RESILIENT.
It's NOT based on some difficult-to-understand verse (or manuscript variation), but on the whole Bible. It will show through, even if our understanding of an occasional verse or phrase seems cloudy.

SO WHICH TRANSLATION SHOULD I USE? Most people tend to prefer a translation that is somewhere between the two extremes. Some people prefer an easier-to-read translation for getting an overview of the message of God's Word, and a more word-for-word translation for serious Bible study. But the key issue is this: **NO translation will be of much value, if we aren't willing to pay attention to what it says, and base our lives on it!**

5

THIS PRESENTATION ABOUT "CONNECTOR WORDS" is based on a literal word-for-word translation.

- Though it excels in word-for-word accuracy; some might find it difficult to read (and perhaps even to understand).
- In most cases, other translations will tend to use the same "connector words." Occasionally, easier-to-read translations may say things differently. Here is an example, focusing on the word "OF":

LUKE 3:6 (EXAMPLE)

"All flesh [people, humanity] shall [will] see... "

- A word-for-word translation would say:
"... the salvation **of** God."
- A meaning-for-meaning translation might say:
"... God's salvation."
"... the salvation sent from God."
"... the salvation that God gives."

6

A BASIC METHOD FOR UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE.

⇒ We're looking at a basic and valuable starting point for studying the Bible, using the "save/salvation" concept to illustrate it.

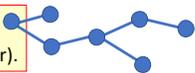
We need to pay attention to:

- ① The words and their meanings.
- ② How those words connect.
- ③ The context of the passage.
- ④ What other passages say.



⇒ **Step #2 involves Paying attention to:**

- ② How words connect (or go together).



ILLUSTRATING HOW WORD CONNECTIONS CAN TEACH US.

★ **WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT WORD CONNECTIONS?** ★

- An occasional, random misinterpretation of a verse might not be a big issue (though sometimes it is). But as a way of life, ignoring these issues can be a heaven-or-hell matter.
- Many false teachings begin by not paying attention to details; and it can impact all of life – now and forever.
- Ignoring word connections is also one of the reasons for so many disagreements about the Bible. (Totally ignoring the whole Bible is another reason.)

TWO SPECIAL TYPES OF CONNECTORS:

- ① **CONJUNCTIONS** – These words *combine* separate statements.
 - ✓ Each of the statements is meaningful by itself.

TWO STATEMENTS: "I have a cat." + "I have a dog."
COMBINED: "I have a cat AND a dog."

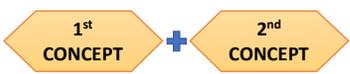
 - ✓ EXAMPLES: **AND, OR, BECAUSE, SO THAT**
- ② **PREPOSITIONS** – These words *add* information to a statement.
 - ✓ *By itself*, the additional information has little meaning.

STATEMENT: "My dog chased a squirrel."
PREPOSITION (little meaning by itself): "up a tree"
COMBINED: "My dog chased a squirrel up a tree."

 - ✓ EXAMPLES: **UP, IN, TOWARD, AFTER**

PREPOSITIONS ⇔ visually compared to CONJUNCTIONS

CONJUNCTION
(REPRESENTED VISUALLY)

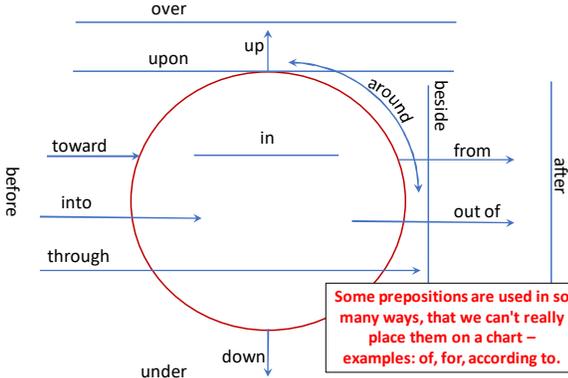


PREPOSITION
(REPRESENTED VISUALLY)



In our study, **SAVE/SALVATION** can be the focus of the **CONCEPT**, OR of the **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**. (We will see both.)

PREPOSITIONS typically express place, position, time or method. The "core concepts" can often be illustrated in a drawing.



Some prepositions are used in so many ways, that we can't really place them on a chart – examples: of, for, according to.

What can we learn from the preposition "OF," when it's related to the "SALVATION" concept?



SAVE/SALVATION is connected to *so many topics!*
 The passages don't always provide us with "earth-shattering" discoveries; but altogether, they show us the greatness of our Savior and our salvation.
 We learn a lot about life and godliness, about God's accomplishments and about our life obligations.

The word "OF" is used in too many ways to allow for a short definition. Paying attention to the context can help us understand its significance.

① THE PREPOSITION "OF" OFTEN TELLS US SOMETHING ABOUT OUR SALVATION.

When *salvation* is the topic or main focus (*before* the "OF").

EXAMPLE: ... and everyone will see the *salvation* of God.
Luke 3:6 (CSB)

- Scripture mentions several types of *salvation/deliverance*. Here, "OF" indicates the specific type of salvation – the type that comes from God.

"WHICH TYPE OF SALVATION?"

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Main topic: SALVATION. What about it?

1. The *source* of this salvation: God.

... and everyone will see the *salvation* of God.
Luke 3:6 (CSB)

- Some translations may describe this salvation as "sent from" God – which accurately communicates what the verse says.

"Now have come the *salvation* and the power and the kingdom of our God, ..."
Revelation 12:10b (NIV)

2. The *object* of this salvation: the lives ("souls") of people.

... because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the *salvation* of your souls.
1 Peter 1:9 (CSB)

- The same word can be translated as either *soul* or *life*.

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Main topic: The SAVIOR [God/Jesus]. What about him?

1. In one sense, he is the *world's* Savior.

"[We] know that this [Jesus] really is the *Savior* of the world."
John 4:42b (CSB)

... the Father has sent the Son to be the *Savior* of the world.
1 John 4:14 b (NET)

2. In another sense, he is the Savior of "the body of Christ."

He is the *Savior* of his body, the church.
Ephesians 5:23b (NLT)

3. Here is a verse that brings together both concepts.

... the living God, who is the *Savior* of all people, *especially* of those who believe.
1 Timothy 4:10b (CSB)

★ The word "especially" shows us that there is a *difference* in the way he is the savior to those who *believe* (vs. those who *don't believe*). ★

15

IF JESUS IS THE "SAVIOR OF THE WORLD," DOES THIS MEAN THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE SAVED?

To answer this, we have to look at other Scripture passages.

We need to use the last two steps of our Bible Study method.

- ③ The context of the passage.
- ④ What other passages say.

Some of the things we can consider (you can look for more).

- Only JOHN** uses that phrase. He also says that God loved the *world*... (John 3:16), and that Jesus is the one who "takes away the sin of the *world*" (John 1:29). *But he does not say that all will be saved*. That would *contradict* what John (and the rest of the New Testament) says in *other* passages. (Examples: John 3:18, 36; 8:24; 2 Peter 3:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; Revelation 20:11-15; etc.)
- The word "savior" points to *Jesus*. There is no verb "save" that points to the *world* being saved... just *individuals* from the world.

→ CONTINUED →

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- John's emphasis** is that Jesus doesn't save only *Jews*, but that he also saves *non-Jews*. There are no other "saviors" in the world.

We can look for similar concepts elsewhere:

- Paul** points out that there is a *special* way that God is the believer's savior, which *does not apply* to the unsaved - 1 Timothy 4:10b.
- Paul** says that God's grace brings salvation to "all people." Mentioned in the context of slaves and masters, it refers to *all social classes* of people. For those who *accept* this salvation, grace *teaches* them to live godly lives – Titus 2:11-14. (The *unsaved* don't learn.)
- The apostles** taught:

"There is *salvation* in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be *saved*."
Acts 4:12 (CSB)
- The Old Testament** has a similar focus: There is no other Savior (except for the God of the Bible) – Isaiah 43:11; Hosea 13:4.

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② THE PREPOSITION "OF" OFTEN SHOWS HOW SALVATION RELATES TO OTHER ISSUES.

When *some other topic* is the main focus (*before* the "OF").

EXAMPLE: ... to give [God's] people knowledge of *salvation* through the forgiveness of their sins.
Luke 1:77 (CSB)

- There are many types of "knowledge." This verse is about a specific type of knowledge – the type that has to do with *salvation*.

"WHICH TYPE OF KNOWLEDGE?"

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On the next two pages are examples of topics that are connected to salvation/save (by the preposition "OF").

Many concepts are connected, in one way or another, to SALVATION.

- The "way" – Acts 16:17. [] ... of SALVATION.
- Knowledge – Luke 1:77.
- The source – Hebrews 5:9.
- The author – Hebrews 2:10.
- Hope – 1 Thessalonians 5:8.
- Good News – Ephesians 1:13.
- The word (message) – Acts 13:26.
- Horn (symbolizing strength) – Luke 1:69.
- Preparing for a coming day – 2 Corinthians 6:2.
- A sign (for both saved and unsaved) – Philippians 1:28.

Many concepts are connected, in one way or another, to the SAVIOR.*

- Kindness – Titus 3:4. [] ... of the SAVIOR.
- Knowledge – 2 Peter 2:10.
- Righteousness – 2 Peter 1:1.
- Doctrine (teaching) – Titus 2:10.
- The eternal kingdom – 2 Peter 1:11.
- Grace and knowledge – 2 Peter 3:18.
- Two comings – 2 Tim 1:10; Titus 2:13.
- Commands (pertaining to all of us) – 2 Peter 3:2.
- A command (pertaining to Paul) – 1 Tim 1:1; Titus 1:3.

* Some of these passages refer to "Jesus" as Savior; some to "God" as Savior; and some connect both "Jesus" and "God" to the word Savior. (Since Jesus *is* God, there is no contradiction.)

A Summary: What "OF" teaches us.

In our SALVATION focus, we learned:

- Its source (i.e., who does the saving).
- It's recipients (i.e., who gets saved).

Concerning our SAVIOR, we learned:

- There is only ONE savior for all people (i.e., no other "savior" exists).
- This savior is the savior *in a special way* for those who are saved.
- [We had to look at the context and at other Scripture passages, in order to understand some of these verses.]

We also learned:

- A significant number of concepts are connected to *salvation* and to our *Savior*.

This week's MISSION:

✓ **Prepositions** and **conjunctions** don't always lead us to "earth-shattering" concepts. Sometimes, they just fill in the details that show us the greatness of our Savior (and his salvation). As you read the Bible...

Let the prepositions (and conjunctions) teach you about the Savior and his salvation!

For the grace **of** God has appeared that offers **salvation to** all people. It teaches us **to say "No" to** ungodliness **and** worldly passions, **and to** live self-controlled, upright **and** godly lives **in** this present age, **while** we wait **for** the blessed hope—the appearing **of** the glory **of** our great God **and** Savior, Jesus Christ, **who** gave himself **for** us **to** redeem us **from** all wickedness **and to** purify **for** himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2:11-14 (NIV)

Credits

The choice of verses used in this presentation was based on the New American Standard Bible (1995 version) – though the actual verses quoted were from easier-to-read translations that used the same preposition (= "of").

SCRIPTURE

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