



# Hallelujah, What a Savior!

*“To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (Revelation 1:5b, 6).*

At the beginning of the Book of Revelation is a doxology, a bursting forth of praise. This praise is given to Jesus because of the salvation He has procured for each one who has come to Him in obedient faith. The writer seems to have looked up from his parchment and shouted, “Hallelujah, what a Savior!” His brief doxology is divided into three hallelujahs.

*First is the hallelujah of loving compassion:* He said, “To Him who loves us.” The cross symbolizes the highest love—the love of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit for lost people. Every drop of blood that fell from our Savior’s veins represented love for mankind. The English phrase “who loves us” translates a present participle that conveys a continual type of love. He has always loved us and will love us forever. He loved us as He writhed in agony on the cross, and He loves us now with the same deep, abiding, sacrificial love. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Hallelujah, what a Savior!

*Second is the hallelujah of total cleansing:* Jesus has “released us from our sins by His blood.” The word here is sometimes translated “loosed” (ASV), but manuscript evidence seems to favor the word “freed” (NLT). Through the blood of the cross, we are freed from the guilt, slavery, and condemnation of sin. The cross is the source and the avenue of forgiveness. Through His blood, our sins have been removed. As we walk in the Light (1 John 1:7), we live in a state of justification (Romans 5:1). One cannot be half-saved; he is either saved or unsaved. The blood of Jesus gives full and complete

freedom from the condemnation of sin, if we will receive it and stay in it. We were bound by sin, but the blood of Jesus freed us. Hallelujah, what a Savior!

*Third is the hallelujah of the new creation:* Jesus “has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father.” The cross did more than cleanse us; it made us into new people. Through it we entered a new relationship with God, becoming a priesthood. We have been saved to serve our Father as part of His “kingdom” (see John 1:9; Colossians 1:13). Christ reigns over His kingdom and will do so until the end of time, when He will deliver up the kingdom to God and all enemies will be put under His feet (1 Corinthians 15:24, 25). His reign is not *when* the end comes, but *until* the end comes. God called Israel to be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:6a). John’s similar language shows that the purpose of Israel is continued and accomplished in the church of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, what a Savior!

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*Revelation 1:5, 6 shows the cross to be a display of Christ’s compassionate love. It provides total and complete cleansing, and it has produced a new creation—the church. The members of this church are the priestly kings and servants who do the will of God, living in His fellowship and fulfilling His eternal purpose. Surely, we cannot think about these blessings without pausing to shout, “Hallelujah, what a Savior!”*