**Dr. Robert A. Peterson, Christ’s Saving Work, Session 1,  
Introduction, Part 1, Biblical Storyline   
Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

**1. Abstract of Peterson, Christ’s Saving Work, Session 1, Introduction, Part 1, Biblical Storyline, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**  
  
**Dr. Robert Peterson's lecture** introduces the concept of **Christ's saving work**, outlining a four-part structure: **planned by God before creation**, **accomplished by Jesus in his death and resurrection**, **applied to believers by the Holy Spirit**, and **consummated at Christ's second coming**. Peterson intends to explore this panoramic view of salvation by examining the biblical storyline from creation to consummation, key Old and New Testament passages like Isaiah 53 and Romans 3, and the historical understanding of the atonement. He also emphasizes the inseparability of Christ's person and work, intending to briefly touch on Christology. The initial part of the lecture lays the groundwork by tracing the biblical narrative through creation, the fall, and redemption, highlighting themes like the promise of redemption and the Exodus as a model of God's saving and judging actions.

**2. 26 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of   
Dr. Peterson, Christ’s Saving Work, Session 1 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Theology 🡪 Theology, Peterson 🡪 Christology).**



**3. Briefing Document: Peterson, Christ’s Saving Work, Session 1, Introduction, Part 1, Biblical Storyline**  
  
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**Briefing Document: Dr. Robert A. Peterson on Christ's Saving Work - Session 1, Part 1**

**Overview:**

This briefing document summarizes the main themes and important ideas presented by Dr. Robert A. Peterson in the first part of his introductory lecture on Christ's Saving Work. Peterson outlines the biblical storyline as the context for understanding Christ's work and introduces the concept of salvation as a panorama encompassing planning, accomplishment, application, and consummation. He also briefly touches upon theological method and key resources to be covered in subsequent sessions.

**Main Themes and Important Ideas:**

1. **Christ's Saving Work as Central to the Biblical Storyline:** Peterson emphasizes that Jesus' saving work is the very core of the entire biblical narrative. He traces this storyline from creation to consummation.

* "Jesus' saving work is the center of the Biblical story." (p. 2)
* The narrative begins with God's good creation, the fall of humanity through disobedience, and God's immediate promise of redemption.
* The Old Testament prophecies and sacrifices (e.g., Levitical offerings, Psalm 22, Isaiah's suffering servant, Jonah) foreshadow the ultimate saving work of Christ.
* The Gospels narrate the coming of the promised one, culminating in his death and resurrection, the heart of his ministry.
* His ascension and promise of the Holy Spirit, as well as his promised second coming, are integral parts of this overarching story.

1. **Salvation as a Panorama: Planned, Accomplished, Applied, and Consummated:** Peterson presents a framework for understanding salvation as a comprehensive process with distinct stages.

* **Salvation Planned:** God's election of believers in Christ before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1).
* "God planned salvation before the creation of the world." (p. 2, 9, 10)
* This plan included the foreknowledge and choosing of Christ as Redeemer.
* Peterson cites Revelation 13:8 (NIV's traditional reading) regarding the "Lamb slain before the creation of the world," interpreting it as God's pre-temporal plan for Christ's atoning death.
* **Salvation Accomplished:** Jesus' saving work in the first century, primarily through his death and resurrection.
* "Jesus accomplished salvation in his death..." (p. 11)
* He stresses the inseparability of Christ's death and resurrection for the accomplishment of salvation, echoing Calvin's view.
* Peterson identifies nine saving events of Christ, with the death and resurrection at the center, contextualized by his incarnation, sinless life, ascension, session (sitting at God's right hand), Pentecost (pouring out the Spirit), intercession, and second coming.
* He highlights that Christ's sacrifice provides the ultimate basis for the salvation of Old Testament saints as well.
* **Salvation Applied:** The Holy Spirit's work in applying the benefits of Christ's accomplished work to individual believers (regeneration, calling, justification, sanctification, adoption, perseverance).
* "Salvation is applied by the Spirit, who applies the work of Christ in his death and resurrection, especially to the people of God." (p. 14)
* Christian baptism signifies union with Christ in his death and resurrection, the most comprehensive way of understanding the application of salvation.
* Regeneration, being born again through Christ's resurrection, is a key aspect of this application.
* **Salvation Consummated:** The future and final aspects of salvation at Christ's second coming, including the resurrection of the dead, the last judgment, and eternal destinies (eternal life on the renewed earth for believers, eternal hell for the lost).
* "God will only consummate salvation at the second coming of Christ." (p. 10)
* The resurrection to life and the renewal of creation are directly linked to Christ's death and resurrection.

1. **The Biblical Storyline: Creation, Fall, Redemption (Israel and the Church):** Peterson briefly outlines these major movements in the biblical narrative.

* **Creation:** God's creation of a "very good" world and humanity in his image.
* **Fall:** Adam and Eve's rebellion and its tragic consequences.
* **Redemption:** God's promise and unfolding plan to rescue fallen humanity.
* The "first promise of redemption" in Genesis 3.
* The Exodus event as a key Old Testament example of redemption, involving deliverance from bondage, judgment on oppressors, revelation of God's attributes (power, wrath, holiness, glory, love), and the context of God's covenant.
* The Levitical offerings as a divinely ordained system of sacrifice involving mediators, ceremonial purity, obedience, representation/substitution, shedding of blood/giving of life, atonement, and forgiveness, all foreshadowing Christ's sacrifice.
* The New Covenant prophesied in Jeremiah 31, characterized by the internalization of God's law, a new personal relationship with God, and the forgiveness of sins, inaugurated by Christ's death.

1. **Theological Method and Key Resources (Brief Mention):** Peterson indicates that he will discuss theological method in the next lecture. He also mentions key books that have influenced his study of the doctrine of the Atonement (Christ's Saving Work) and plans to examine influential biblical passages like Isaiah 53 and Romans 3:25-26. He will also delve into the history of the doctrine of the Atonement and Christology.

**Key Quotes:**

* "Gracious Father, thank you for sending your Son to be the Savior of the world, even our Savior." (p. 1 - Opening prayer)
* "Jesus' saving work is the center of the Biblical story." (p. 2)
* "The heart and soul of his ministry is his death and resurrection." (p. 2)
* "It is finished." (John 19:30, quoted on p. 2)
* "The incarnation is God's movement of rescue to redeem fallen human beings." (p. 3 - summarizing Calvin's view)
* "Here, early in the scriptures, we find the background for the Christus Victor theme of the saving work of Christ." (p. 3)
* "Here, we see the biblical pattern that God judges and saves at the same time. He redeems Israel and judges Egypt." (p. 4)
* "Christ's death is salvation for believers and is judgment for the devil, evil angels, and the sinful world system." (p. 4)
* "God planned salvation before the creation of the world." (p. 2, 9, 10)
* "Salvation is accomplished by Jesus saving death and triumphant resurrection." (p. 12 - summarizing Calvin's hermeneutical point)
* "...the one who died was God..." (p. 12 - on the mystery of the cross)
* "Salvation is applied by the Spirit, who applies the work of Christ in his death and resurrection, especially to the people of God." (p. 14)

**Conclusion:**

Dr. Peterson's introductory lecture lays the groundwork for a comprehensive study of Christ's Saving Work. By framing it within the broad biblical storyline and the panorama of salvation, he sets the stage for exploring the theological intricacies and historical development of this crucial doctrine. The upcoming sessions will delve deeper into theological methodology, key biblical texts, historical interpretations, and the doctrine of Christ itself.

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**4.** **Study Guide: Peterson, Christ’s Saving Work, Session 1, Introduction, Part 1, Biblical Storyline**

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**Christ’s Saving Work: A Study Guide**

**I. Quiz** (Short Answer - 2-3 sentences each)

1. According to Peterson, what is the central focus of the biblical story?
2. What significant event in Genesis 3 does Peterson highlight as the first promise after the Fall? What theological theme does this foreshadow?
3. Describe two ways in which the Exodus event served as a form of redemption for Israel, according to Peterson.
4. What are two key characteristics of the New Covenant as prophesied in Jeremiah 31?
5. Explain the difference between justification by infusion (as held by Ossiander) and justification by imputation (as supported by Calvin), in the context of the Incarnation.
6. What are the two essential prerequisites for Christ's saving work, according to Peterson?
7. Besides his death and resurrection, name two other events in the life and work of Christ that Peterson identifies as part of his saving accomplishment.
8. What is the significance of Christian baptism in relation to Christ's saving work, according to the lecture?
9. Briefly explain the four consummating events that believers have held as fundamental since the first century, as mentioned by Peterson.
10. How does Peterson describe the scope of Christ's saving work in terms of the people it affects and its timing?

**II. Quiz Answer Key**

1. Peterson states that Jesus' saving work is the center of the biblical story. This work provides the climax and the lens through which the entire narrative of creation, fall, redemption, and consummation is understood.
2. Peterson highlights God's promise to put enmity between the serpent and the woman's seed as the first promise of redemption. This foreshadows the Christus Victor theme, where Christ defeats the enemies of his people.
3. The Exodus event was a deliverance from the bondage of slavery in Egypt, signifying God's redemption of his people. Additionally, it involved judgment upon the Egyptians, demonstrating God's dual action of saving his people and judging their oppressors.
4. Two key characteristics of the New Covenant are the internalization of God's law, where it is written on people's hearts, and a new, personal relationship between God and his people, where God declares, "I will be their God, and they will be my people."
5. Justification by infusion, favored by Ossiander, suggests that righteousness is poured into believers, aligning more with Catholic theology. In contrast, justification by imputation, championed by Calvin, asserts that Christ's righteousness is credited to believers.
6. The two essential prerequisites for Christ's saving work, according to Peterson, are his incarnation (becoming fully human) and his sinless life. Without these, he could not have acted as a suitable and effective Savior.
7. Besides his death and resurrection, Peterson identifies his ascension to heaven and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost as crucial parts of his saving accomplishment. His session at the right hand of God and his intercession for believers are also included.
8. According to the lecture, Christian baptism signifies a believer's union with Christ in his death and resurrection. This union is the comprehensive way in which the application of salvation, including regeneration and justification, is understood.
9. The four consummating events are the second coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead (to everlasting life for believers), the last judgment, and the eternal destinies of heaven (for the redeemed on a renewed earth) and hell (for the lost).
10. Peterson describes Christ's saving work as vast, affecting all the elect of all ages and all believers for all time. Its timing spans from God's plan before creation to its full consummation at Christ's second coming.

**III. Essay Format Questions**

1. Discuss how the Old Testament events and prophecies, particularly the Exodus and the Levitical sacrifices, foreshadow and provide context for understanding Christ's saving work as presented by Peterson.
2. Analyze Peterson's argument that salvation is a "panorama" encompassing planning, accomplishment, application, and consummation. How does this framework enhance our understanding of Christ's saving work?
3. Compare and contrast the significance of Christ's death and resurrection in the accomplishment of salvation, according to Peterson. Why does he emphasize their inseparability?
4. Evaluate Peterson's inclusion of the incarnation, Christ's sinless life, ascension, session, Pentecost, and intercession as integral aspects of his saving work, beyond just his death and resurrection.
5. Explore the implications of the New Covenant, as described in Jeremiah 31 and understood in light of Christ's work, for the relationship between God and humanity and the forgiveness of sins.

**IV. Glossary of Key Terms**

* **Atonement:** The work Christ did in his life and death to reconcile humanity to God, making amends for sin. Peterson prefers the term "Christ's Saving Work" as it is broader than just atonement.
* **Biblical Storyline:** The overarching narrative of the Bible from creation to consummation, with Christ's saving work at its center.
* **Christus Victor:** A motif of atonement that emphasizes Christ's victory over the forces of evil (sin, death, the devil) through his death and resurrection.
* **Consummation:** The final completion and fulfillment of God's plan of salvation at the second coming of Christ, including the resurrection, final judgment, and eternal destinies.
* **Election:** God's sovereign choice before creation of individuals to be saved and brought into a relationship with him.
* **Fall:** The historical event in which Adam and Eve disobeyed God, resulting in sin, death, and alienation from God entering the world.
* **Incarnation:** The act by which the eternal Son of God took on human nature in the person of Jesus Christ, being born of the Virgin Mary.
* **Justification by Infusion:** The theological view (associated with Roman Catholicism and, in a modified form, Ossiander) that righteousness is imparted or "infused" into the believer, making them righteous.
* **Justification by Imputation:** The Reformation doctrine (supported by Calvin) that God declares believers righteous by crediting or "imputing" Christ's righteousness to them, while their sins are imputed to Christ.
* **New Covenant:** The covenant established by God through Jesus Christ, replacing the Mosaic Covenant and characterized by the internalization of the law, a personal relationship with God, and the complete forgiveness of sins.
* **Panorama of Salvation:** Peterson's term for the comprehensive view of salvation as planned by God, accomplished by Christ, applied by the Holy Spirit, and consummated at Christ's return.
* **Propitiation:** The act of appeasing or satisfying God's wrath against sin. Romans 3:25-26 is a key New Testament text discussing Christ as the propitiation.
* **Redemption:** The act of buying back or delivering from bondage or sin. In the Old Testament, the Exodus is a key example; in the New Testament, it refers to Christ's saving work.
* **Session:** Christ's act of sitting down at the right hand of God the Father after his ascension, signifying the completion of his earthly work and his present reign.
* **Substitution:** The theological concept that Christ died in place of sinners, bearing the penalty for their sins.
* **Synecdoche:** A figure of speech in which a part is used to represent the whole, or the whole is used to represent a part. Peterson uses this to explain how Scripture sometimes refers to Christ's death or resurrection to imply the entirety of his saving work.

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**5. FAQs on Peterson, Christ’s Saving Work, Session 1, Introduction, Part 1, Biblical Storyline, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)**  
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**Frequently Asked Questions: Christ's Saving Work**

* **What is the central theme of the biblical narrative, according to the source?** The central theme of the biblical narrative is Jesus' saving work. The Bible tells the story of God's creation, humanity's fall into sin, God's promise and provision of redemption through Christ, the application of this redemption, and its ultimate consummation. Christ's death and resurrection form the heart and soul of this overarching story.
* **What are the four major aspects or stages of salvation discussed in the source?** The source outlines four major aspects of salvation:

1. **Salvation Planned:** God's eternal plan for salvation, chosen before the creation of the world, including the selection of a people for himself and the foreordination of Christ as Redeemer.
2. **Salvation Accomplished:** Jesus Christ's work in the first century, primarily through his incarnation, sinless life, death, resurrection, ascension, session at God's right hand, and the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. These inseparable events constitute the objective accomplishment of salvation.
3. **Salvation Applied:** The work of the Holy Spirit in taking the accomplished work of Christ and making it effective in the lives of individual believers. This includes regeneration, calling, justification, sanctification, adoption, and perseverance, ultimately resulting in union with Christ in his death and resurrection.
4. **Salvation Consummated:** The future and final aspects of salvation that will occur at the second coming of Christ, including the resurrection of the dead, the last judgment, and the eternal destinies of believers in a renewed creation (new heavens and new earth) and unbelievers in eternal hell.

* **How does the Old Testament relate to Christ's saving work, according to the source?** The Old Testament lays the groundwork and foreshadows Christ's saving work in numerous ways. Following the first promise of redemption after the fall, the Old Testament narrative builds upon this promise. Examples include the sacrifices of Leviticus pointing towards a ultimate sacrifice, prophecies in Psalms (like Psalm 22) and Isaiah (like Isaiah 53) depicting the suffering and vicarious death of the Messiah, and events like the Exodus from Egypt serving as a type of deliverance and redemption. The Old Covenant also anticipates the New Covenant established through Christ's death, as prophesied in Jeremiah 31.
* **What is the significance of the Exodus event in understanding redemption?** The Exodus from Egyptian bondage is presented as a major Old Testament salvation event that provides insights into God's redemptive actions. It demonstrates deliverance from oppression, judgment upon the oppressors (Egypt), the revelation of God's attributes (power, wrath, holiness, glory, and love), and God's faithfulness to his covenant. The Exodus highlights the pattern of God judging and saving simultaneously and reveals God making himself known through both his words and deeds.
* **How did Israel's sacrificial system point towards Christ's saving work?** Israel's sacrificial system, as detailed in Leviticus, served as a divinely ordained religion for all Israel, involving mediators (priests), demanding ceremonial purity and obedience, and crucially, involving representation or substitution. The offering of animal sacrifices, the giving of life, and the shedding of blood all foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ, where his life was given and his blood shed to make atonement for the sins of humanity.
* **What are some key characteristics of the New Covenant prophesied in Jeremiah 31, and how does it relate to Christ's work?** The New Covenant prophesied in Jeremiah 31 has several key characteristics:

1. **Internalization of God's Law:** God's law will be written on people's hearts and minds, leading to willing obedience.
2. **A New Relationship with God:** God declares, "I will be their God, and they will be my people," signifying a personal and intimate relationship.
3. **Forgiveness of Sins:** God promises, "I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more," indicating a new and fuller experience of forgiveness.

* The source emphasizes that while Jeremiah 31 doesn't explicitly mention the Messiah, the New Testament teaches that Christ's death is the inauguration of this New Covenant (Luke 22:20) and secures these promised benefits for God's people.
* **Why is both Christ's death and resurrection essential for salvation?** According to the source, Christ's death and resurrection are inseparable and both are essential for the accomplishment of salvation. While his death on the cross is the atoning sacrifice, his resurrection is the triumphant victory over death and confirms the efficacy of his sacrifice. The New Testament often presents salvation through both (e.g., 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Romans 10:9-10). Even when only one is mentioned, the other is implied (synecdoche), as the crucified one is understood to be the risen one, and the risen one is the one who died for us.
* **Beyond his death and resurrection, what other events are considered part of Christ's saving work?** The source expands the understanding of Christ's saving work beyond just his death and resurrection to include:
* **Incarnation:** The Son of God becoming human, which was an essential prerequisite for him to be able to die for humanity's sins.
* **Sinless Life:** Christ's perfect obedience, without which he would have needed a savior himself.
* **Ascension:** His movement from earth to heaven, signifying his exaltation and transition to the heavenly realm.
* **Session:** His sitting at the right hand of God the Father, as prophet, priest, and king, signifying his accomplished work and ongoing rule.
* **Pentecost:** The pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the church, fulfilling prophecy and empowering the spread of the gospel.
* **Intercession:** His ongoing prayer for his people in heaven, presenting his finished work to the Father and preserving their salvation.
* **Second Coming:** His future return, which will bring the ultimate consummation of salvation, including resurrection and the renewal of creation.

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