

Dr. Robert Peterson, Theology of Luke-Acts, Session 20, D. Bock: Dimensions of Salvation in Luke-Acts Resources from NotebookLM

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

1. Abstract of Peterson, Theology of Luke-Acts, Session 20, D. Bock: Dimensions of Salvation in Luke-Acts, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Robert A. Peterson's session on Darrell Bock's "Dimensions of Salvation in Luke-Acts" summarizes key conclusions about salvation as presented in Luke and Acts. It explores how proclaiming good news, preaching, and teaching constitute the communication of salvation. The scope of salvation is depicted as universal, extending to Jews, Gentiles, the poor, and outcasts. Peterson highlights the authentication of this message through scriptural fulfillment, miracles, and the Holy Spirit. Finally, the session examines the objective work of God in Christ and the subjective human response of repentance and faith, alongside the resulting benefits like forgiveness and peace.

2. 22 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Peterson, Theology of Luke-Acts, Session 20 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Gospels → Luke).



**Peterson_Theo_LkA
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3. Briefing Document: Peterson, Theology of Luke-Acts, Session 20, D. Bock: Dimensions of Salvation in Luke-Acts

Briefing Document: Dimensions of Salvation in Luke-Acts

Overview: This briefing document summarizes the key themes and important ideas presented by Dr. Robert A. Peterson in his lecture on the dimensions of salvation as synthesized in the biblical books of Luke and Acts, drawing heavily on the work of Darrell Bock. The lecture outlines the multifaceted nature of salvation in Luke-Acts, encompassing its proclamation, scope, authentication, objective and subjective aspects, and its resulting benefits.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. Proclaiming Good News (The Gospel):

- The proclamation of good news is fundamental to understanding Luke-Acts.
- In Acts, the word "gospel" (euangelion) is used, emphasizing the message going to the Gentiles through faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 15:7, 9-11).
- The verb "to proclaim good news" (euangelizo) is used more frequently in Luke-Acts than elsewhere in the New Testament, often summarizing Jesus' ministry in Luke.
- The content of the good news in Acts is specific: "The apostles proclaim the message that Jesus is the Christ and, indeed, he is the focus of the apostolic preaching."
- The core message includes peace (shalom/ereine) with God through Jesus Christ, who is declared "Lord of all" (Acts 10:36, 2:36).
- Even when addressing pagan Gentiles (Acts 14:15), the initial message involves turning from idols to the living creator God, acknowledging God's active engagement with the nations (Acts 14:16).

2. Preaching (Kerusso):

- While the noun "preaching" is rare in Luke's writings, the verb "to preach" (kerusso) is more frequent, often referring to Jesus proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor (Luke 4:18-19).

- In Acts, "Christ is the one preached" (Acts 10:42). Apostles are commissioned as witnesses to testify that Jesus is the God-appointed judge of the living and the dead.
- The message of preaching includes the promise that "everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10:43).

3. Teaching (Didasko):

- Jesus' teaching was characterized by its authority (Luke 4:32) and covered topics ranging from salvation to life with God and his return.
- In Acts, the apostles continued teaching, focusing on the resurrection and the name of Jesus (Acts 4:2).
- Paul's teaching summarized "repentance toward God and of faith in the Lord Jesus" (Acts 20:20).
- Teaching in Luke-Acts is a broader term than preaching, encompassing more than just the salvation message and often occurring in intimate settings.

4. The Scope of Salvation:

- Salvation in Luke-Acts is universally offered, encompassing both Jews and Gentiles, the poor, sinners, and outcasts.
- The Infancy Narrative foreshadows this, with Simeon declaring Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32).
- Luke's gospel emphasizes that "all people will see God's salvation" (Luke 3:6).
- Acts explicitly details the inclusion of Gentiles, citing Jesus' command to take the message "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8) and highlighting events like Peter's ministry to Cornelius (Acts 10) and Paul's focus on the Gentiles (Acts 28:28).
- Special attention is given to the poor, as seen in Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) and Jesus' own preaching (Luke 4:18, 6:20-23, 7:22).
- Jesus' interactions with sinners and outcasts, such as tax collectors (Luke 5:27-32, 19:1-10), demonstrate the gospel's transformative power for those on the fringes.

5. Authentication of the Message:

- The gospel message is authenticated through:
- **Fulfillment of Scripture:** Jesus' ministry is presented as fulfilling Old Testament prophecies (Luke 4:18-21, quoting Isaiah 61:1-2).
- **Miracles (Signs and Wonders):** Jesus' miracles served as evidence of his identity and the power of God (Luke 7:18-23, 11:22). Similar authority was given to the apostles (Peter, John, Stephen, Philip, Paul, and Barnabas).
- **Presence of the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is described as "power from on high" (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8, 2:1-4), authenticating the message and enabling its spread (Acts 10:38, 11:15-16).

6. The Objective Aspect of Salvation (What God has done in Christ):

- Key words associated with salvation include "Savior" (sōtēr) and "to save" (sōzō). Jesus is the promised Savior (Luke 2:11).
- "To save" refers to God rescuing and delivering people from calamity, both physical and spiritual (Luke 8:36, 8:50, 17:19, 18:42).
- In Acts, "save" (sōzō) often accompanies acts of healing and preaching, encompassing forgiveness, deliverance from wrath, and the giving of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:47, 4:12, 16:30-31).
- Nouns for salvation (sōtērion, sōteria) carry similar meanings.
- Salvation is centered in Jesus, possessing spiritual qualities that ultimately impact earthly life (Luke 1:68-79).

7. The Subjective Side of Salvation (Our Response):

- Personal appropriation of salvation involves a multidimensional response characterized by:
- **Repentance (Metanoia):** A "reorientation, a total shift of perspective" (Luke 3:3, 5:30-32, Acts 2:38, 20:21, 26:20). It is a turning to Jesus for spiritual healing.
- **Turning (Epistrephō):** The "reversing of estrangement" from God, recognizing and accepting wrongdoing (Luke 1:17, Acts 3:19, 26:18-20). It's a vivid portrayal of a change in direction, turning from Satan to God.

- **Faith (Pistis/Pisteuō):** A reliance on another (Christ) to provide what one cannot provide for oneself (Luke 22:32, Acts 6:7, 16:5, 20:21, 24:24). Belief in Jesus leads to justification (Acts 13:39).

8. The Benefits of Salvation:

- **Forgiveness of Sins:** Central to Jesus' ministry and the message preached (Luke 3:3, 4:18, Acts 10:43).
- **Life:** Not defined by possessions but viewed as a result of resurrection. Jesus is the "author of life" (Acts 3:15), and rejecting the message means not considering oneself worthy of eternal life (Acts 13:46).
- **Gift (Primarily the Holy Spirit):** A key provision of salvation (Acts 2:38, 8:20, 10:45, 11:17).
- **Peace (Eirene):** A reconciled relationship between God and humanity made possible through Jesus (Luke 2:14, Acts 10:36).
- **Grace or Favor (Charis):** An expression of divine working and God's gracious choice, resting on believers and describing salvation or its message (Acts 4:33, 11:23, 13:43, 15:11, 20:24, 32).
- **Justification:** Illustrated by the tax collector's humble appeal for mercy being commended by God (Luke 18:9-14). Justification comes through seeking God's mercy with a recognition of one's lack of entitlement, tied to repentance.

Conclusion:

Salvation is a pervasive theme in Luke-Acts, representing God's active work through Jesus and the Holy Spirit to fulfill His promises and restore humanity's relationship with Him. This restoration is achieved through repentance, turning, and believing in Jesus, resulting in the benefits of forgiveness, life, the Holy Spirit, peace, and grace. The transformative power of salvation calls individuals to love God fully and love their neighbor as a reflection of God's grace.

Key Quote:

- "Salvation means reestablishing a lost relationship with God and finding peace with him. In repenting, turning to or believing in Jesus, the person receives the benefit of forgiveness, the spirit, and life."

4. Study Guide: Peterson, Theology of Luke-Acts, Session 20, D. Bock: Dimensions of Salvation in Luke-Acts

A Study Guide to the Dimensions of Salvation in Luke-Acts

Quiz

1. According to the lecture, what is the fundamental action associated with understanding salvation in Luke-Acts, and where in Acts is the word "gospel" explicitly mentioned?
2. Describe the dual focus of the "good news" proclaimed in Luke-Acts, referencing at least one example from Acts to illustrate this focus.
3. What are the three primary methods of "authentication of the message" discussed in the lecture, and can you provide a brief example of one from Luke's Gospel?
4. Explain the significance of the titles "Savior" and "Lord" in relation to Jesus' role in salvation as presented in Luke-Acts, citing one specific instance where Jesus is referred to as Savior.
5. What are the three key subjective responses to salvation emphasized in Luke-Acts, and how does the concept of "turning" relate to repentance?
6. According to the lecture, what is a key passage in Acts that brings together the concepts of repentance and turning in the context of Paul's ministry?
7. Identify at least three of the "benefits of salvation" discussed in the lecture, providing a brief description of each as presented in Luke-Acts.
8. How does Luke portray the "scope of salvation" in terms of both Jewish and Gentile inclusion, and what is one specific example from Acts that highlights this inclusivity?
9. Explain Luke's emphasis on salvation for the "poor, sinners, and outcasts," referencing one specific example from Luke's Gospel that illustrates this theme.
10. How does the lecture summarize the essence of salvation in Luke-Acts, particularly regarding the restoration of a relationship with God?

Answer Key

1. Proclaiming good news is basic and a key to understanding Luke-Acts. The word "gospel" occurs only twice in Acts (Acts 15:7).
2. The good news is about the grace that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. For example, Acts 10:34-43 describes the gospel message preached to the Gentiles, highlighting God's impartiality.
3. The three levels of authentication are fulfillment of scripture, miracles (signs and wonders), and the presence of the Holy Spirit. In Luke 4:18-21, Jesus proclaims that scripture attests to his ministry.
4. Jesus as "Savior" (Luke 2:11) signifies God rescuing people from calamity, both physical and spiritual. As "Lord" (Acts 2:36), the exalted Jesus has authority over all, making the gospel applicable to everyone.
5. The three key subjective responses are repentance, turning, and faith. "Turning" is a vivid term that portrays a reversal of direction, similar to repentance but emphasizing a change in one's path and allegiance.
6. Acts 26:20 is a key verse where Paul describes his preaching, stating that he urged both Jews and Gentiles to repent and turn to God, demonstrating a concrete change in their lives.
7. Three benefits of salvation are forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:3, Acts 10:43), life (Acts 3:15, 13:46), and the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38, 10:45). Forgiveness removes the barrier of sin, life is viewed as a result of resurrection and a gift from God, and the Holy Spirit is a primary provision.
8. Luke emphasizes that salvation is available to everyone, Jews and Gentiles alike (Luke 2:30-32, 24:47, Acts 28:28). Peter's speech in Cornelius' house (Acts 10) demonstrates God bringing Gentiles to saving knowledge through Christ.
9. Luke gives special attention to the poor (Luke 4:18, 6:20-23, 7:22), sinners (Luke 5:27-32, Luke 15), and outcasts (Luke 18:9-14, Luke 19:1-10). In Luke 19:1-10, salvation comes to Zacchaeus, a tax collector considered a social outcast.
10. Salvation in Luke-Acts is summarized as God at work completing his promise through Jesus, bringing the Spirit, and forgiving sin. It means reestablishing a lost relationship with God and finding peace with Him through repentance, turning to, or believing in Jesus.

Essay Format Questions

1. Analyze the interconnectedness of proclaiming the good news, preaching about Christ, and teaching in Luke-Acts as essential components in communicating the message of salvation.
2. Discuss how Luke's emphasis on the universality of salvation, encompassing both Jews and Gentiles, the poor, sinners, and outcasts, serves as a theological argument within his writings.
3. Evaluate the significance of scriptural fulfillment, miracles, and the presence of the Holy Spirit as the three levels of authentication for the gospel message presented in Luke-Acts.
4. Compare and contrast the objective and subjective aspects of salvation as presented in Luke-Acts, explaining how God's actions in Christ and humanity's response are both crucial.
5. Explore the various benefits of salvation highlighted in Luke-Acts (e.g., forgiveness, life, peace, grace, the Holy Spirit), and discuss how these benefits collectively illustrate the transformative nature of salvation.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Soteriology:** The theological study of salvation.
- **Euangelizo (εὐαγγελίζω):** A Greek verb meaning "to proclaim good news" or "to evangelize."
- **Kerusso (κηρύσσω):** A Greek verb meaning "to preach" or "to proclaim publicly."
- **Didasko (διδάσκω):** A Greek verb meaning "to teach" or "to instruct."
- **Didache (διδαχή):** A Greek noun meaning "teaching" or "doctrine."
- **Soter (σωτήρ):** A Greek noun meaning "savior" or "deliverer."
- **Sozo (σώζω):** A Greek verb meaning "to save," "to rescue," or "to deliver."
- **Soteria (σωτηρία):** A Greek noun meaning "salvation" or "deliverance."
- **Soterion (σωτήριο):** A Greek noun meaning "salvation" (often used in relation to God's saving work).
- **Metanoia (μετάνοια):** A Greek noun meaning "repentance" or "a change of mind."
- **Metanoieo (μετανοέω):** A Greek verb meaning "to repent" or "to change one's mind."
- **Pistis (πίστις):** A Greek noun meaning "faith," "belief," or "trust."
- **Pisteuo (πιστεύω):** A Greek verb meaning "to believe," "to have faith in," or "to trust."
- **Xaris (χάρις):** A Greek noun meaning "grace," "favor," or "goodwill."

5. FAQs on Peterson, Theology of Luke-Acts, Session 20, D. Bock: Dimensions of Salvation in Luke-Acts, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions on Salvation in Luke-Acts

1. What is the foundational message of salvation in Luke-Acts? The basic and key message is the proclamation of good news (the gospel). This good news centers on the grace that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. The apostles specifically proclaimed that Jesus is the Christ, making him the focus of their preaching. This message offers an opportunity for peace, a restored and well-being relationship between humanity and God, potentially leading to peace among people as well, echoing the Old Testament concept of shalom.

2. Who is the scope of salvation intended for according to Luke-Acts? Luke emphasizes that salvation is universally available, encompassing the rich and the poor, the high and the low, men and women, and both Jews and Gentiles. This point is highlighted early in the Infancy Narratives and continues throughout both books, culminating in the explicit inclusion of the Gentiles and the message reaching the ends of the earth. Luke portrays God as actively engaging with all nations, moving beyond a time when they were allowed to go their own way. Furthermore, special attention is given to the poor, sinners, and social outcasts, demonstrating the transformative power of the gospel for those on the fringes of society.

3. How is the message of salvation authenticated in Luke-Acts? The authentication of the gospel message occurs on three levels. First, Jesus' ministry is authenticated through his fulfillment of Old Testament scriptural promises. Second, his works and message are validated by miracles, often referred to as signs and wonders, demonstrating God's power and authority and even signifying the defeat of Satan. Third, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit serve as a crucial authentication of the gospel message, empowering Jesus and the apostles to carry out their ministry.

4. What is the objective aspect of salvation presented in Luke-Acts? The objective aspect of salvation is what God has done in Christ. Key terms associated with this include "Savior" and "to save," signifying God's act of rescuing and delivering people from calamity. This deliverance is not merely physical, as seen in miracles, but fundamentally spiritual, providing forgiveness of sins, sparing from wrath, and giving the Holy Spirit. Salvation is centered in Jesus and has profound spiritual qualities, ultimately impacting how people live and relating them to God.

5. What is the subjective side of salvation as described in Luke-Acts? The subjective side of salvation involves the personal appropriation of God's saving work. Luke highlights three key aspects of this response: repentance, turning, and faith. Repentance is a fundamental reorientation and shift in perspective, turning away from sin towards Jesus for spiritual healing. Turning signifies the reversal of estrangement from God, acknowledging and accepting wrongdoing. Faith involves a reliance on Jesus Christ to provide what one cannot provide for oneself. These responses are often intertwined and essential for receiving salvation.

6. What are some of the key benefits of salvation highlighted in Luke-Acts? Luke-Acts presents several significant benefits of salvation. Forgiveness of sins is a primary benefit, as seen in John the Baptist's preaching and Jesus' ministry. Salvation also brings life, understood as more than earthly existence, connected to resurrection and described with Jesus as the author of life. The gift of the Holy Spirit is another crucial benefit, empowering believers. Peace, a reconciled relationship between God and humanity, is made possible through Jesus. Grace or favor signifies God's gracious working in the lives of believers and is often used to describe salvation itself. Finally, justification, as illustrated by the tax collector's humility, points to the acceptance and mercy received from God through repentance and faith.

7. What is the role of proclaiming, preaching, and teaching in the context of salvation in Luke-Acts? Proclaiming good news (the gospel) is the foundational act in making salvation known. While "gospel" appears less frequently, the verb "to proclaim good news" is common, especially in summarizing Jesus' ministry. Preaching, specifically about Christ as the appointed judge and the one through whom forgiveness is received, is a key apostolic activity. Teaching in Luke-Acts is a broader term, encompassing Jesus' authoritative instruction on various topics related to salvation and life with God, as well as the apostles' instruction following Jesus' ascension. Preaching often focuses on the initial salvation message, while teaching has a wider scope, including the implications and ongoing aspects of following Christ.

8. How does Luke-Acts emphasize the active role of God in salvation? Throughout Luke-Acts, there is a strong emphasis on God's initiative in bringing about salvation. The message of salvation originates from God. God fulfills his promises through Jesus Christ, sends the Holy Spirit, and actively directs events, such as Peter's encounter with Cornelius, to extend salvation to the Gentiles. Even the subjective responses of repentance and faith are ultimately enabled by God's grace. Luke consistently portrays God as working to complete his plan of salvation, reestablishing a lost relationship with humanity and offering peace through Jesus.