

# John 3:16

One glorious quote from Jesus may encapsulate the entire theme of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. This theme is the key to finding salvation and eternal life.

When writing these studies, I always try to place a quick synopsis of the content below the title; this gives the potential reader the main points or theme of the article. It is rare that I can abridge two to ten pages of information into one or two lines. Yet for Jesus, summing up hundreds of pages of scripture into just one line seems to be as natural as breathing.

## THE QUOTE

Let us look at one quote of Jesus found in the gospel of John.

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

Besides being the most clear evangelical statement in Scriptural text, this one verse could quite possibly contain the entire summation of the Bible. Let us break down the verse and see how this may be.

## GENESIS TO MALACHI

**For God so loved the world...**

The first portion of the quote identifies the creator introduced in the opening verse of the Bible.

In the beginning *God* created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

It then focuses God's attitude toward His creation, and that is with overwhelming love. This love is the theme of the Old Testament as seen in God's intervention within the affairs of man. This intervention always seems to climax with a picture or type of redemption.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called, accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. Hebrews 11:17-19

Abraham is the clearest example of God demonstrating His love toward His chosen people. And, as we will see, this blessing will spread unto all nations.

## MATTHEW TO JOHN

**...he gave his only begotten son...**

This part of the verse points to all four of the gospels. The Old Testament pointed to a coming sacrifice for sin. This sacrifice was to be the only Son of God, that is, Jesus of Nazareth.

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved...

... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

I Corinthians 15:1-4 <sup>1</sup>

Though the Christ was to come out of the Hebrew nation, the promised messiah would provide redemption for *the entire world* as was promised to Abraham in Genesis 12...

"...and in you [Abraham] all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

The love of God is seen through the redemption of man from his fallen state, and that by way of the Father giving His only begotten son...

... how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:14

## ACTS TO III JOHN

**... whoever believes in him...**

This portion of the quote has to do with our free-will choice between life in fellowship with God or our own devices. Beginning in the book of Acts, we find documentation of living examples toward or against the Lord Jesus Christ.

From the epistle to the Romans, to the third letter of John, we have doctrines that base their exposition on those "who believe on Him".

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who *believe* in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to *believe* in the name of the Son of God.

I John 5:12-13

As we will see in the next section of the quote, this "belief" in the Son of God is key to avoiding eternal damnation.

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<sup>1</sup> Edited for brevity

## JUDE TO REVELATION

**...should not perish...**

This portion of the quote of Jesus points to coming judgment illustrated by Jude and climaxing in the great tribulation and second death seen in the majority of the book of Revelation. However, the quote is put in the context of avoiding such a conclusion.

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

## REVELATION

**... but have everlasting life.**

This segment points to the final healing and eternal life with our awesome God seen at the conclusion of Revelation.

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." Rev. 21:3-5

## CONCLUSION

Only one determination can be drawn from our one verse study, and that is:

*God, in His overwhelming love for His creation, has provided eternal life and salvation from hell by way of His Son; who gave His life as a ransom for all who would believe the good news of His provision.*

Notice that even in my attempt to be brief with my conclusion, I still could not abridge my above statement as well as the Lord so eloquently did in John 3:16.