

I. Know the Plan - 2 Peter 3:16-18: Names and Titles of Jesus

In both the Old and New Testament times the word was linked with the expectation of one who would liberate the people from national bondage.

Its original meaning in the Hebrew meant “to make wide,” as opposed to *sarar*, which meant “narrow,” “to be restricted,” or, “to cause distress.”

The one who makes wide is the one who provides freedom from distress, making it possible for the liberated to pursue his own objectives.

Such deliverance must come from somewhere outside the party oppressed.

The one who brings deliverance is known as the “*savior*.”

The Jews of our Lord’s day understood salvation in this manner, therefore they expected Him to deliver them from the oppression of Roman government.

But our Lord’s idea of salvation had to do with forgiveness of sins and liberation from the bondage of the slave market of sin.

Liberation from sin and establishment of a relationship with the God of the universe makes existence under human oppression tolerable.

Thus, those who are free spiritually have the capacity to seek political freedom.

At various times Israel was oppressed by other nations and thus had to go to war to maintain its freedom.

In these battles the nation often turned to God for help believing deliverance belonged to Yahweh Sabaoth, Lord of the Armies.

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As a result, they became known to the surrounding nations as the people saved by *Yahwah*.

Such deliverance not only included victory on the battlefield but the resultant safety and security necessary to maintain life unafraid of danger.

Such deliverance from human bondage is what motivated our Founding Fathers to declare independence from the oppressive regime of King George III of England.

The Declaration of Independence

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among them are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,