

Book # 3 in the series ...

TOOLBOX BOOKS PRESENTS

"CHRISTIANITY IN CHEWABLE FORM"

SALVIFICOLOGY!

(sal-VIH-fuh-KALL-uh-GEE)

So much more than just going to heaven when you die.

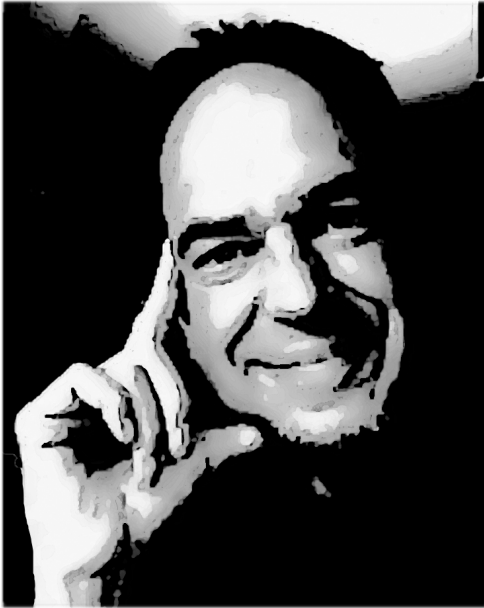
**"NOW HAVE COME THE SALVATION,
THE POWER, AND THE KINGDOM OF
OUR GOD, AND THE AUTHORITY OF
HIS CHRIST!"**

REVELATION 12:10

LIFE-PROVOKING PRINCIPLES FOR TWEENS

written and illustrated by Alan Root!

SHORT BIOGRAPHY (by-AWG-ruh-fee)



short biography

Alan Root is a rock & roll musicianary to older kids. He's taller than he looks in this picture. He enjoys reading books like Treasure Island and Nero Wolfe mysteries and of course J.R.R. Tolkien and CS Lewis. He likes microwave popcorn, hiking, watercolor, musical techno toys, strong coffee, and basketball. He has a B.S. and has done graduate studies in Geological Sciences at the University of Tennessee. For more than 20 years he's been traveling the U.S. ministering the gospel of Jesus using an electric guitar. He's done music for Wrigley's, Kellogg's, the Billy

Graham Children's Crusade, and Dr. Seuss, won 3 Telly awards, and has tons of CDs and DVDs and books for kids, families and tweens available at **www.alanroot.com**.

He even drew the pictures for this book all by himself.

"Salvificology", copyright 2009 by Alan Root Robertson and Toolbox Books, all rights reserved, Illustrations copyright Alan Root Robertson. For questions, copies, or to book an event visit **www.alanroot.com**. Scriptural quotes taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked [NLT] are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers Inc., Wheaton IL 60189. All rights reserved. Now quit reading this and get to the rest of the book!

TITLE PAGE (TYE-tull-payj)

SALVIFICOLOGY!

written especially for tweens by the
perspicacious, loquacious, and ubiquitous ALAN ROOT

sal•vi•fi•co•lo•gy

[sal-VIH-fuh-KALL-uh-GEE]

noun

- 1. It's much more than going to heaven when you die.*
- 2. The panoramic sweep of God's grand design for the cosmos has a theme, a movie score... Salvation.*
- 3. A word your friends don't know and you do.*

We'll use the Scriptures extensively in our study. Why? Here's why: the Bible is the measuring stick of truth. Next to Jesus Christ himself, it's the most trustworthy and clearest revelation of truth we have. The Apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16,

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Note to teachers!!! **how to use this book.**

This book is perfect for small groups; for reading out loud with discussion sessions. **Schedule:** 1 week for the intro and 2 weeks for each of the 5 chapters equals 11 weeks. The last week can be a party with a special guest testimony, cake and ice cream. **Daily Readings:** Get a book for each student. Have them write their name in the book and bring it each week. Strongly encourage them to read a couple of pages a day at breakfast, writing questions and notes in the wide margins. Give them highlighters. Give them bookmarks you've made to remind them of things the Lord impresses on your heart concerning this material. Designate a "designated designator" each week to choose readers. Each chapter has: **Black Boxes:** Brain starters. **Q&A:** Have your kids pencil in their own answers. Then check the first appendix for what I thought the answers were. This is great stuff for weekly review. And **PRAYER:** To let the kids "own" the transformational ideas they just studied. In the appendix: **How to be saved** along with a written prayer of salvation. **Kinetic chapter activities:** Suggestions for full-contact kinetic learning. **Digging Deeper:** Some kids will be sufficiently challenged by what's in the chapters, but some will want to dig deeper. Send those kids to Appendix 4 and ask them to report back to the whole class.

Other terrific books for tweens in the toolbox books series:

1. **Designamentals** (*creation, absolutes, authority*)
2. **Cryptoleganomics** (*why Jesus is the ONLY way*)
3. **Salvificology** (*more than going to heaven when you die*)
4. **Disciplification** (*practical tips on living the Christian life*)
5. **Bibliotectonics** (*the world's most earthshaking book*)
6. **Orthodoxtrines** (*what all Christians everywhere believe*)
7. **Alienpilgrimometry** (*your faith slams into your daily life*)

TABLE OF CONTENTS (KAHN-tense)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

introduction: SALVIFI-what?!!!	7
1 Salvation is what God pledges to do, in advance, in writing	11
THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PROMISE	
2 Salvation is a threshold that divides our past from our future	23
THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PORTAL	
3 Salvation is daily growing into what God already says we are	35
THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PROCESS	
4 Salvation is the terrifying wonder of God's end-game strategy	47
THE PRINCIPLE OF APOCALYPSE	
5 Salvation begins and ends with no one else but Jesus Christ	59
THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PERSON	
APPENDICES	
(not "appendixes," that's an internal organ)	.
1 Q&A: what I thought the answers were	71
2 How to be saved, including a prayer	76
3 Activities for kinetic learners	89
4 Digging deeper for curious brains	91

PSSSST! HEY YOU (hay-YUE)

PSSSST! HEY YOU

If you're sure you've surrendered your life to Jesus, skip this page. But if you're NOT so sure, I suggest you read this page very carefully. It's a matter of life and death.

*EVER HAD TO LEAVE SOMEONE'S HOUSE
BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T PART OF THEIR
FAMILY? THE PROBLEM'S NOT THAT THEY
DON'T LIKE YOU - IT'S JUST THAT YOU
DIDN'T BELONG THERE. BYE BYE.*

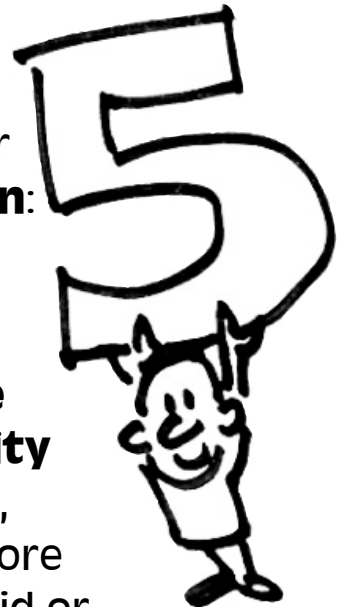
How do you "belong" in this world? Easy. You were **born**. How will you "belong" in the Kingdom of God? You'll have to be **born again**. And it has to happen now. Today's the day. Obey the command of Jesus to follow him and be born again. Head for **page 76** where you'll find stuff that will help you to be born again. Alright?

INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

INTRODUCTION: Salvation is the theme, the movie score of God's Master Plan.

Salvation is a hard working word. It means: (1) God's **promise** to rescue us, (2) the **event** in our own timeline dividing our past from our future, (3) the daily **habits** we develop to grow and mature in Christ, (4) the cataclysmic **triumph** of God over this rebel planet, and (5) a unique **person**: Christ Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Revelation 12:10: "**Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ!**" At the end of everything, everyone who's ever lived will stand before Jesus Christ and account for why they did or did not choose to do God's will. Sin and death and the devil will be wiped out forever. The heavens and the earth will be rolled up and burned. Judgment Day. But really good news: God keeps on offering us his **salvation!**



SALVIFICOLOGY (sal-VIH-fuh-KALL-uh-GEE)

Revelation 20:11-12 **“I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and I saw the dead, standing before the throne, and books were opened...”** Jesus Christ alone can **save** us on Judgment Day.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD AN EXPERIENCE YOU ALMOST COULDN'T PUT INTO WORDS? IT'S HARD TO DESCRIBE GOD'S SALVATION.

I began to write this book about our personal salvation. But as I studied the scriptures, I began to see **the panoramic landscape** of God's salvation. He'll save us from eternal death, and from lack of purpose, from our best intentions, and from our fears. Teach us holy habits to be prepared to live in heaven. Save people from every nation and language, especially Israel, in a pyrotechnic display that will rock the cosmos! I said salvation was big.

INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

Salvificology is the study of God's brain-boggling work of salvation. Salvation is what God pledges to do, in advance, in writing. It's a threshold that divides our past from our future. It's daily growing into what God already says we are. It's the terrifying wonder of God's end-game strategy. And it begins and ends with no one else but Jesus Christ. It's a miracle found throughout all of history because **Salvation is part of God's very nature**: he's the one who rescues us time and time and time again. It's the movie score of who he is and what he's all about.

Revelation 7:10 "**Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.**" Salvation actually is the property of God. It's an essential part of God's God-ness. Salvation BELONGS to our God! And he graciously shares it with us.

9



SALVIFICOLOGY (sal-VIH-fuh-KALL-uh-GEE)

What's this book about? Listen up...

Lord Jesus, I would like to know about your master plan of salvation for me and my friends and also for the whole world. Will you please teach me?

CHAPTER ONE

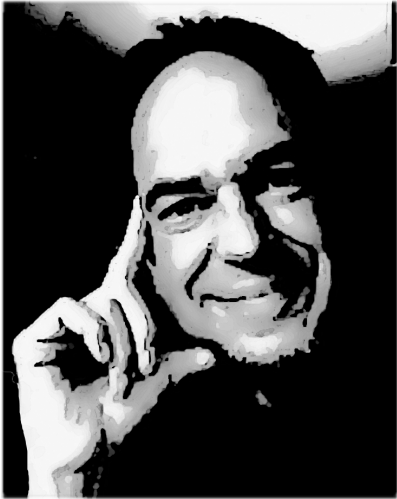
Salvation is what God pledges to do, in advance, in writing

Isaiah 33:6 **"The LORD will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge."** Do you desperately need help? Yearn to know what's best? Long for answers to your biggest questions? In other words, do you need salvation, wisdom and knowledge? God promises to share these with us from his rich treasure store. He promises to be the support we need. To teach us how to know what to do and how to live. To fully equip us to share his victory over this dark world.

And did you catch the words, **"for your times?"** That means God knows just what we're going through, and **promises to walk with us through it all.** I like God.



SALVIFICOLOGY (sal-VIH-fuh-KALL-uh-GEE)



GOD IS SO WONDERFUL! ONE REASON? HE TELLS US WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO BEFORE HE EVER DOES IT. SOME PEOPLE BRAG ABOUT PREDICTING THE CARBON DIOXIDE LEVELS IN THE ATMOSPHERE 50 YEARS FROM NOW, BUT THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'S GOING TO RAIN THIS AFTERNOON! WHAT IF THE WEATHER ITSELF TOLD YOU IN ADVANCE WHAT IT WAS GOING

TO DO? WELL. GOD DOES. AND HE PUTS IT IN WRITING AND SAYS WE CAN COUNT ON IT. WE CAN'T PREDICT WHAT GOD'S GOING TO DO THIS AFTERNOON, BUT WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT ONE DAY HE'S GOING TO SAVE EACH OF US WHO PUT OUR FAITH IN HIM, AND JUST AS SURELY WE KNOW HE'LL RETURN ONE DAY TO BRING US THAT VERY SALVATION.

GOD MAKES US PROMISES AND THEN FOLLOWS THROUGH ON 'EM. EVERY TIME.

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF **THE PROMISE**

1 Peter 1:9-11 **“Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently to find out the time and circumstances...”** God announces his next move so we'll know. Is he just showing off?

HAVE YOU EVER SAID, WATCH ME THROW THIS ROCK AND HIT THAT TREE? GOD SAYS, WATCH ME SAVE THE WORLD.

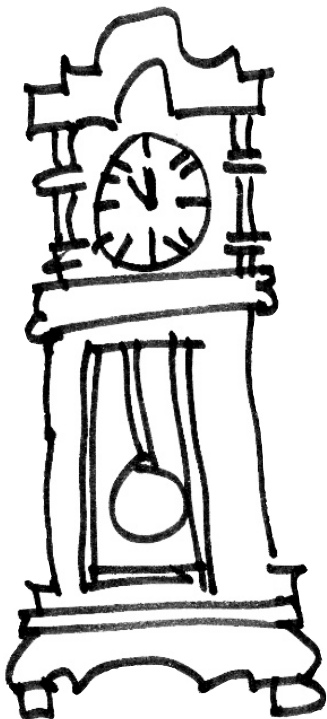
God had his prophets zeroed in on the plan of salvation. They searched diligently and wrote down what they found about **the coming Messiah**; his suffering and glory. Daniel (9:25) told us exactly when he'd come. Zechariah (11:12-13) specified what Judas was paid. Isaiah (53:9) knew with whom he would die and with whom he would be buried. In Psalm 16:10, David knew he'd rise, and in Psalm 2, rule the earth. Boy howdy.

SALVIFICOLOGY (sal-VIH-fuh-KALL-uh-GEE)

"God has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven for you... until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter

1:3-5. Did you know you can lose every penny you have in the bank? A fire can destroy your house? A car accident can rob

you of your friends? Anything you have might be taken away, except what God has in his keeping. No wonder he's called the "sure foundation for our times" as we learned earlier. 100% dependable.



This verse says there's a salvation coming in the "last time." When will that time be? I don't know, and neither do you, but God does. We just know **he promised it. In writing.**

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PROMISE

2 Peter 1:3-4 **"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises."**

DO YOU KNOW WHAT A PAST TENSE VERB INDICATES? IT'S ALREADY HAPPENED. CHECK THE VERSE ABOVE FOR PAST TENSE VERBS. MEANS IT'S ALREADY DONE.

God's promises to us are as dependable as if they'd already happened. His promises are the window through which we see him working in our lives. We put our faith in God, not in his promises, but we **exercise our faith muscles** on those promises by boldly and patiently trusting. His "great and precious promises" are found in the Bible. Maybe we should read it? I'm just sayin'.

SALVIFICOLOGY (sal-VIH-fuh-KALL-uh-GEE)

When you make a promise, you put your reputation on the line. When you break a promise, you tell everyone that they can't count on you. God's not like us. His promises are **unbreakable** because he's the one backing them up. He's the one with the spotless rep. He's the one with the cred. He's the one who is faithful, in fact, when Jesus comes back on a white horse, his name is... "Faithful and True." That says it all.

So God makes people who can **choose** to love him back, or **choose** to rebel against him. We choose door #2. Anyone else would wipe out the rebels, but God begins making promises and writing them down in the Bible. He promises to send the rebels a Rescuer, he tells them what to look for, he tells them how it will all take place. He promises that the mission will be successful and even promises to give them an amazing **gift** if they will come back... **his own Holy Spirit.**

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PROMISE

"God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, 'The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said, "What shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, for all whom the Lord our God will call."

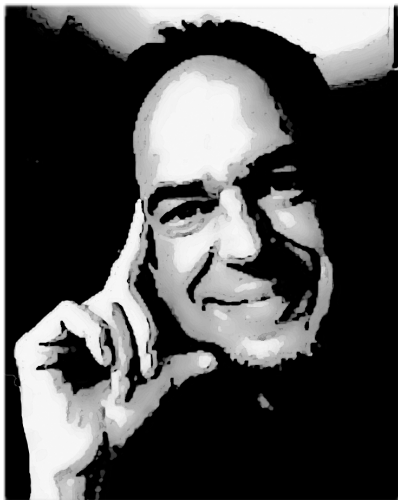
Excerpts from Acts 2:32-39

SALVIFICOLOGY (sal-VIH-fuh-KALL-uh-GEE)

Isaiah 62:1 **“For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.”** God has already decided he'll save the nation of Israel, in spite of their rebellion against God. It's not unjust, remember: the Gentiles rebelled every bit as much or more! We are all saved by **grace**, and not by **merit**. God doesn't do anything half way. He decided long ago that he would do these things, and nobody can stop him.

Look at the end of this salvation prayer:
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 **“May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.”** In other words, may you be saved completely. Every part of you. Blameless and ready to meet your Maker. God is the one who's reliable, and he promised. He'll do it.

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PROMISE



GOD DELIGHTS IN MAKING AND KEEPING PROMISES. WE'RE REALLY BAD AT THIS. WE HAVE "COMMITMENT" PROBLEMS. WE DON'T WANT TO BE TIED TO SOMETHING WE SAID WE'D DO. WE'D RATHER BE FREE TO MAKE UP OUR MINDS ON THE SPOT, HOWEVER WE FEEL AT THE MOMENT. IF WE EVER DO ACTUALLY MAKE A PROMISE,

WE CAN THINK OF A MILLION REASONS WHY IT'S OK TO BREAK IT. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE'LL TRY TO TELL OURSELVES THAT IT'S REALLY BEST FOR EVERYONE THAT WE BREAK THE PROMISE. NOT SO WITH GOD. HE JOYFULLY COMMITS HIMSELF, PUTS IT IN WRITING, REMINDS US OF IT LATER, AND THEN FOLLOWS THROUGH LIKE CLOCKWORK.

THROUGH THE AGES, HE'S NEVER GONE BACK ON HIS WORD TO US. NEVER.

SALVIFICOLOGY (sal-VIH-fuh-KALL-uh-GEE)

Here's a blank check from God: Romans 8:32
“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” God has already given us his only Son. How could we think he'd withhold anything at all after he's already promised his dearest treasure? He's totally committed.

HAVE YOU EVER JUMPED IN A SWIMMING POOL WITH ALL YOUR CLOTHES ON? HOW IS THAT A PICTURE OF TOTAL COMMITMENT? GOD JUMPS INTO THE PROMISE POOL.

The salvation God promises us has cost him everything. We can't know the cost, because we can't imagine what it's like to be God, but what we CAN know that he made an amazing sacrifice to bring us his salvation. And all we can conclude from that is that **he must really love us**. A whole, whole, whole, lot.

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF **THE PROMISE**

Q&A 1

Q What does God mean that he'll be "A sure foundation for our times, a rich storehouse of salvation and wisdom and knowledge?"

Q Where can we find every promise of God in one convenient place? How do we take possession of those promises?

Q How do we know that God will bring us salvation? How can we trust him?

SALVIFICOLOGY (sal-VIH-fuh-KALL-uh-GEE)

PRAYER (feel free say this your own way...)

Lord Jesus, I really believe that you've promised me your salvation. I know you'll keep that promise because... well, that's just the way you are.

If you like this book, you might like more of what Alan's done for older kids and their families:

AVAILABLE AT ALAN'S WEBSITE

www.alanroot.com

CDs

Popcorn and PJs

Beyond the Farthest Star

At the Rescue of Me

We're Not in Kansas Anymore

Lift Him Up

Fortunate Recipient

The Maker and the Master

DVD

Saturday Morning All Week Long

BOOKS

The Toolbox Books series (see page 4)!

**DON'T FORGET JESUS LOVES YOU,
FOR REAL AND FOR KEEPS.**