

Deliverance

Answer: *Deliverance* is defined as “a rescue from bondage or danger.” Deliverance in the Bible is the acts of God whereby He rescues His people from peril.

In the Old Testament, deliverance is focused primarily on God’s removal of those who are in the midst of trouble or danger. He rescues His people from their enemies ([1 Samuel 17:37](#); [2 Kings 20:6](#)), and from the hand of the wicked ([Psalm 7:2](#); [17:13](#); [18:16-19](#); [59:2](#)).

He preserves them from famine ([Psalm 33:19](#)), death ([Psalm 22:19-21](#)), and the grave ([Psalm 56:13](#); [86:13](#); [Hosea 13:14](#)). The most striking example of deliverance is the exodus from Egypt ([Exodus 3:8](#); [6:6](#); [8:10](#)).

Here is God defined as the Deliverer of Israel who rescues His people, not because they deserve to be rescued, but as an expression of His mercy and love ([Psalm 51:1](#); [71:2](#); [86:13](#)).

In the New Testament, God is always the subject—and His people are always the object—of deliverance. The descriptions of temporal deliverance in the Old Testament serve as symbolic representations of the spiritual deliverance from sin which is available only through Christ. He offers deliverance from mankind’s greatest peril—sin, evil, death and judgment.

By God’s power, believers are delivered from this present evil age ([Galatians 1:4](#)) and from the power of Satan’s reign ([Colossians 1:13](#)). All aspects of deliverance are available only through the person and work of Jesus Christ, who was Himself delivered up for us ([Romans 4:25](#)) so that we would be delivered from eternal punishment for sin. Only Jesus rescues us from the “wrath to come” ([1 Thessalonians 1:10](#)).

Another aspect of deliverance concerns the temporal. While believers are delivered once for all time from eternal punishment, we are also delivered from the trials of this life ([2 Peter 2:9](#)).

Sometimes that deliverance is God simply walking through the trials by our side, comforting and encouraging us through them as He uses them to mature us in the faith. Paul assured the Corinthian believers that “no temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.

But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it” ([1 Corinthians 10:13](#)). In these cases, rescue is not immediate, but in due time, after patience has had its perfect work ([James 1:2-4](#), [12](#)). God makes the way of escape simultaneously with the temptation which, in His perfect will and timing, He permissively arranges or allows for His people.

Deliverance is often sought from evil spirits or the spirit of lust, jealousy, etc. It’s important to understand that, as believers, we already have eternal victory over Satan and demons. But we can be delivered from their influence in our lives by using two weapons God has given us

as part of our spiritual armor with which we battle “against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” ([Ephesians 6:12-17](#)). The believer defends himself with the shield of faith and uses the offensive weapon of the Word of God. Against these two, no spirit can prevail.

By holding up the shield of faith, we extinguish the flaming spiritual arrows they send against us, arrows of lust, doubt, guilt, jealousy, evil speech, and all manner of temptations. With the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, we overcome the evil one by proving his temptations to be lies because he is the father of lies ([John 8:44](#)).

John’s second letter commends the young Christians whose spiritual strength came from the Word of God living in them. By the offensive weapon of the Truth, we overcome the evil one ([1 John 2:14](#)).

Deliverance from sin, rescue from trials, and escape from the influence of a world in the control of the evil one come only through Christ, the Son of God who has come and “has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life” ([1 John 5:19-20](#)).