

Jack Michael Outreach Ministries

A Ministry of the Watchman on the Walls, preparing God's People for the End Times
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Answering a Question from the Bible

Can a believer in Jesus Christ, later become an unbeliever ?

It's a question that has been heatedly argued within the Church of Jesus Christ. On the one hand, we have Christians who believe in Eternal Security; also known as *"Once Saved, Always Saved."* They cite Scriptures such as John 10:27-29, where Jesus said:

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand." (NKJV).

Christians who do not believe in Eternal Security might counter with 1 Timothy 4:1-2, which Scriptures I used several months ago in the teaching on Apostasy as a Sign of the End Times:

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron." (NKJV).

I could cite other Scriptures, some of which seem to confirm Eternal Security, and some of which seem to confirm the opposite view (for examples, see Ephesians 1:13-14, and compare with Hebrews 3:6 & 3:14).

So, which is the truth? Actually, both are the truth. Why? Because, both are the Word of God, and **ALL SCRIPTURE IS TRUTH**. So, with that in mind, before we come to any conclusions on these matters, there are two important biblical principles that we must apply...

PRINCIPLE #1 – If you want to know Bible truth, you cannot select Scriptures you like, and disregard the ones you do not like. If you want to discover truth, you must consider all Scriptures on a given subject.

PRINCIPLE #2 – You cannot **"PLAY"** one portion of Scripture against another portion of Scripture. Let me say it another way: You cannot use one portion of Scripture to disprove another portion of Scripture.

Now, with the understanding that **ALL SCRIPTURE IS TRUTH**, and all Scripture must be considered to discover the truth, listen carefully...

Our relationship with God is based upon a **COVENANT**, wrought through Jesus Christ, and his shed blood. A covenant remains intact as long as both parties maintain the agreements of the covenant.

God is not a covenant-breaker. His covenant with us through Jesus Christ provides us with Eternal Security. However, man – because we retain our **FREE WILL**, even after accepting Christ – could later become a covenant-breaker.

Now, let me make something abundantly clear, and this is a matter of semantics. A Christian cannot **LOSE** their salvation. The word, **LOSE**, can imply that an accident has occurred. You cannot accidentally misplace your salvation. However, because we retain our **FREE WILL** after we are saved, someone could unwisely reverse the decision they previously made when they accepted Christ.

As previously stated from John 10:27-29 (on the reverse ◀), no one can snatch us out of God's hands. No other person can cleverly steal away our salvation. However, each of us, individually, are responsible for our own choices, and we are individually accountable to God.

Here is the truth. In order to become a Christian, one must **RECEIVE** Jesus Christ (see John 1:12). In order for a believer to later become an unbeliever, one must **REJECT** the Savior they once received.

Let me say it another way: In order to become a Christian, one must **ACCEPT** Christ. In order for a believer to later become an unbeliever, one must **DENY** the Savior they once accepted.

We are not talking about just regular, everyday sins (my explanation), which sins we simply need to confess to our Heavenly Father, and receive his forgiveness, and move on with our Christian life. In this teaching, we are talking about a specific sin: The sin of **REJECTING** Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, I encourage you: **STAY WITH JESUS**. As the writer of the book of Hebrews also encouragingly writes:

"But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation..." (from Hebrews 6:9 NKJV).

Signs of the End Times

THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

Many Prophetic Teachers, and Bible Scholars, believe the End Times Restoration of Israel is the greatest Sign of the End Times, leading up to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

You see, many signs of the End Times are negative, because they reveal the deterioration of the world due to the curse of sin. However, the Restoration of Israel is a positive sign, because it reveals the enduring faithfulness of our Heavenly Father. Indeed, the Restoration of Israel has been called God's last great work of **REDEMPTION** in the earth.

I do not have the space in this Teaching Letter to fully explore Israel's Restoration, but briefly, it consists of the following four events...

Event #1 - Re-gathering God's original Chosen People, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (the Jewish People) from the ends of the earth, and bringing them back to the land of Israel (see Isaiah 11:10-12, also Jeremiah 23:5-8). One source says Jews have returned to Israel from 133 nations.

Event #2 - Restoring the land of Israel, which God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to their descendants forever (see Psalm 105:8-11).

Event #3 - Turning the barren land into a fruitful field; turning Israel once again into a land flowing with milk and honey (see Amos 9:14-15).

Event #4 - Spiritually reviving God's Chosen People, bringing them into an understanding of the New Covenant, and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel (see Hosea 3:4-5).

Yet, there are some within the body of Christ, who do not believe in an End Times Restoration of Israel. Because the Jews originally rejected Jesus, and called for him to be crucified, they believe God is finished with Israel, and The Church has now replaced Israel.

One such minister argued with me that there were no Jews today. He insisted that when the Jews were scattered throughout the world, after they rejected Jesus, they repeatedly intermarried with other races, to the extent that there are no genuine descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in today's world. Furthermore, he insisted, many Jews became Muslims.

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Such reasoning is not consistent with the biblical record. Listen to these strong points that verify the Restoration of Israel...

POINT #1 - When Jesus returns, **HE WILL RETURN TO ISRAEL**. Many years before the birth of Jesus, Zechariah had prophesied about his Second Coming:

*"Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the **MOUNT OF OLIVES**, which faces Jerusalem on the east..."* (from Zechariah 14:3-4).

If there was no Restoration of Israel, why would Jesus return there? How could he fight against those nations that come against Israel, if there was no Israel? If there was no Restoration of Israel, Jesus may as well return to New York City!

POINT #2 - By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Ezekiel prophesied that the Lord would bring back his scattered Chosen People to Israel, for the purpose of **REDEEMING** them (please read Ezekiel 36:24-28).

In Romans, chapter 11, from verses 25-27, the Apostle Paul confirms this End Times revival:

*"...blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. **AND SO ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED**, as it is written: The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them (the New Covenant), when I take away their sins."* (NKJV).

POINT #3 - After Israel rejected Jesus, he declared to the Jews - **especially the Jewish Religious Leaders** - that they would not see him again until they summoned him, or called upon him to return:

*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, **YOU WILL NOT SEE ME AGAIN** until you say: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."* (Matthew 23:37-39 NIV).

This declaration from Jesus makes Israel's Restoration a necessity. If there were no Jews today, who would say: *"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"* when Jesus returns?