

Is God Trying  
to Save the  
World Now?



Is God Trying  
to Save the  
World Now?

**This booklet is not to be sold.** It is  
a free educational service in the  
public interest, published by the  
Worldwide Church of God.

Part One: Text by Roderick C. Meredith  
© 1986 Worldwide Church of God

Part Two: Original text by Herbert W. Armstrong (1892-1986)  
© 1957, 1973 Worldwide Church of God

*All Rights Reserved*

Printed in U.S.A.

ISBN 1-55825-119-7

*Let's be honest! Christianity is not and has NEVER been the religion of most of the earth's population. So what will be the fate of the thousands of millions of "un-saved" human beings?*



# IS GOD TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD NOW?

**D**OES traditional Christianity have any realistic hope of ever “saving” the world?

The population of China now comprises nearly one fourth of the earth’s population—over one billion human beings.

Yet far less than one percent of them believe in ANY form of Christianity. India’s population now totals nearly one seventh of the earth’s population. Yet fewer than 30 million are nominally Christians. The situation is similar in Japan, with a population of more than 120 million; and Indonesia with 175 million.

Then there is the Arab world and Black Africa. These areas have a combined population of well over 600 million, but only 215 million are nominal Christians.

Get the point?

The vast majority of human beings have NEVER belonged to ANY form of Christianity. It remains that way to this very day. But, according to Christian teachings, humans are made in the image of God. All human beings should be treated fairly and given an equal opportunity for eternal life.

The Bible itself says, “For there is no respect of persons with God” (Rom. 2:11).

Again, when the apostle Peter was sent for the first time



to convert the gentiles, he said, “Of a truth I perceive that God is *no respecter of persons*: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (Acts 10:34-35).

### Is There “Another Way”?

If God is fair, and if he is *no respecter of persons*, then WHY are the vast majority of humans seemingly *cut off* from God, from the Bible, from any form of Christianity whatsoever. Make no mistake! This is a *vital* issue!

Yet this issue is not understood or even addressed by organized Christianity today. The obvious question is being ignored or glossed over by theologians and scholars.

It’s time you knew the TRUTH of this fundamental issue involving the very basis of what true religion IS—and what it is NOT!

First of all, some will try to talk their way out of this predicament by claiming, in effect, that “any sincere belief in any good teaching or religious principle will be accepted by an all-wise, all-merciful God.”

Sounds good, doesn’t it?

But that is NOT the wisdom or the purpose of the Creator God—the great Author of the Holy Bible. And in this matter, we are dealing with God—*not man*, or man’s various arguments, opinions and human reasonings.

What, then, does God say?

Jesus, the Son of God, made it very clear, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber . . . I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers . . .” (John 10:1, 7-8).

Speaking of Jesus, the inspired Peter said, “Neither is there salvation in ANY other: for there is *none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12; emphasis ours throughout booklet).

How clear!

The Bible admits of *no other way* to gain eternal life except through Jesus Christ *and his true teachings*. As Jesus himself said, “WHY call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). And again: “Not every one



that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21).

### God Sets the Standards

Certainly, according to human standards, you may have “good” neighbors or relatives or friends, generally “nice” people in your eyes. Humanly, they may exhibit many good character traits, and may have pleasant personalities. But for those who are to be literally “born of God” and LIVE FOREVER, God demands certain *very specific things*. Primary among these is the heart-felt acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and *belief* in his message—the true gospel (Mark 1:14-15).

The pleasant free-thinker, atheist, agnostic or non-Christian does NOT believe in Christ *or* in his gospel! Therefore, this unconverted individual—personally pleasant though he may be in most situations—cannot and *will not* feel an eternal debt of gratitude and loyalty to Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, High Priest and living Head. He cannot and *will not* feel a profound need to *surrender* his will to “*live by every word of God*” (Matt. 4:4). Obviously, then, he will not be prepared or willing to live God’s WAY throughout *all eternity*.

Just as obviously, therefore, the God of your Bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will NOT “save” such an individual and grant him eternal life in the kingdom of God!

So what happens?

Do all non-Christians, free-thinkers or agnostics burn in “hell,” remain forever in some “outer darkness” or *what?*

Think about it. What kind of “religion” is it that consigns thousands of millions of human beings to darkness or eternal punishing simply because they happened to be born in China, India, Black Africa, the Soviet Union or some other place where they were *not able* to hear the full message of Christianity, where they may NEVER have even heard the name of Jesus Christ mentioned in a positive way?

What kind of loving religion is this? What kind of a wise, merciful God is THIS?

And, speaking frankly, what about the millions of people



in our Western “Christian” world who have never heard the real MESSAGE of the Bible explained? Many of these people have been turned off by the sentimental wheedling and whining of preachers begging for money and appealing only to emotion, or by high church ritualism that seems to have NOTHING to do with their daily lives.

*Make no mistake!* Traditional Christianity makes *no provision whatsoever* for these countless people. Yet the *only answer* that makes sense is clearly proved in the Bible. Why has it been so long overlooked?

### The ANSWER

God is NOT *trying* to “save” all humanity at this time!

Jesus Christ said, “*No man CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day*” (John 6:44). Again, the Son of God said, “*No man can come to me, except it were given unto him of my Father*” (verse 65).

No matter what you have been told, *why* did Jesus really speak in parables? Let’s allow *him* to explain. He explained when he was alone with just the twelve disciples: “*Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them*” (Mark 4:11-12).

Notice! It was *Jesus’ specific intention* that the general public *not UNDERSTAND* his message. And the Bible describes how God since has *allowed* the entire world to be DECEIVED: “*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him*” (Rev. 12:9).

WHY?

What’s going on here? Is God *unable* to save the world?

*Of course not!* For his name is *El Shaddai*—Almighty God (Gen. 17:1). He has all the POWER in the entire universe! And all the WISDOM, as well.

In his wisdom God has decreed that man be allowed



6,000 years to experiment with *human* ideas, *human* religions, educational, political and social systems. The Creator is allowing man to go his *own* way—though under the subtle influence of Satan the devil, the “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4). God is allowing man to BURN his fingers through human reasoning so that when God finally does “call” all humans to be saved, they will deeply realize that *their* ideas, *their* ways, *their* superstitions and religions only led to frustration, suffering and death. Then they will be able to sincerely appreciate and act on what God reveals when finally it’s *his time* to save the whole world.

### God’s Loving Concern

The *answer* is that a just God is going to give *every human being who has ever lived* a GENUINE opportunity to know and *understand* the full truth about Jesus Christ and his message!

We are not talking about some “second chance.”

No indeed!

We are talking about a genuine *first* opportunity to really understand not only Christ’s name, but his *message* and the great PURPOSE that God is working out here below. As we have clearly demonstrated, the vast majority of humanity has *never* had any such genuine chance to have understanding and salvation!

Some religious groups try to prove that it will soon be “too late” for God to call people to his truth. They warn that “probation”—an idea, incidentally, which they themselves have concocted—will soon be “closed,” and it will soon be *too late* for God to save people. A primary scripture they use for this purpose is II Corinthians 6:2: “For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in *the* day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is *the* day of salvation.”

The truth is that virtually all Greek scholars know and acknowledge that the text should be translated “*a* day of salvation” in both instances, not “*the* day”—as though God’s time was limited. Paul is *directly* quoting from Isaiah 49:8 where both the original Hebrew and the English translations read “*a* day of salvation”!

So although a very *few*—the “little flock” Jesus describes



(Luke 12:32)—are being called today, the vast majority will have their opportunity to truly understand God and his plan later on. Paul was inspired to state that God “will have ALL men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge [Greek: *overview* or understanding] of the truth” (I Tim. 2:4).

Again, note the apostle Peter’s revelation of *how God takes his time* in working out his purpose: “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Pet. 3:8-9).

Notice! Peter said God wills that *all* come to repentance immediately *after* he had just said that one day is as a thousand years in working out his plan!

### **God’s Master Plan**

The Creator gave man six days each week to do his work and his pleasure. On the seventh day man was commanded to rest (Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:9-11). So God’s spiritual timetable works out the *same way*. Man has been allotted 6,000 years (or “millennial days”) to go his *own way*—the way of SIN. During this first 6,000 years—as is easily proved to any thinking person—the vast majority of humanity has ended up under the sway of Satan—deceived, confused, “having NO HOPE, and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12).

At the end of these 6,000 years, soon now, in our time, Christ will return to bring world peace and to rule the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords for 1,000 years—the millennial “Sabbath” (Rev. 19:11-16). Immediately, Satan is banished so “that he should *deceive the nations no more*, till the *thousand years* should be fulfilled” (Rev. 20:3).

At this point, with Satan and his deceptions cast away, hundreds of millions of human beings will have the blindness stripped from their eyes and minds and will understand: “For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of *deep sleep*, and hath closed your eyes. . . . And in that day [when Christ returns] shall the deaf hear the words of the book [the Bible], and the eyes of the BLIND shall see out of obscurity, and out



of darkness” (Isa. 29:10-18). Again, “for the earth shall be FULL of the *knowledge of the Lord*” (Isa. 11:9).

But what about all the other thousands of millions of people who have died not ever having really heard about the true Christ and his gospel? Remember, God says it is his will that *all* come to understanding or overview of the truth. Remember also, that God is *no respecter of persons!*

Amazingly, Jesus Christ himself makes this issue very plain. He said to those self-righteous Jews of his day, “But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you” (Matt. 11:22). In other words, Jesus is clearly indicating a coming time of judgment when PAGAN city-states like Tyre and Sidon may be saved.

Again, Jesus told the men of nearby Capernaum that even the depraved inhabitants of Sodom *would have repented* IF they had heard the truth he was now preaching! (verses 23-24.) Clearly, speaking in the person of his own Son, GOD is explicitly *acknowledging* that all these people of past generations were *blinded*—and that they *never heard the truth!*

Additionally, Jesus indicated a coming “day of judgment” when a fair and just God will open the minds of previously blinded people and they will be offered salvation.

### **A “Judgment” the Bible Describes**

Some think the term “judgment” has only to do with the pronouncing of a sentence or verdict. This is not true.

In the original biblical languages, the term “judgment” often refers to a period of trial and testing. A period of “testing” would normally come PRIOR to the pronouncing of a sentence or verdict or granting of awards. A specific scriptural example of this is found in I Peter 4:17: “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”

In the above, God is speaking of the period of trying and testing—the “judgment” process all Christians go through. For God is preparing true Christians to be members of his ruling family to govern this earth in the world tomorrow—if they overcome their own lusts, the pulls of this world and of



Satan the Devil. “He that OVERCOMETH and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron” (Rev. 2:26-27).

Such a period of “judgment”—which, as Jesus indicated, would involve even the ancient Sodomites as well as other pagan nations—is spoken of in Revelation 20:11-12. Notice that the time setting is *after* the millennium. For Satan has now been loosed briefly at this point, then put into the lake of fire (verse 7) and it’s shortly *before* the “new heaven and new earth” spoken of in Revelation 21.

Remember also that the Old Testament saints and New Testament Christians of this age are promised to be resurrected *at Christ’s coming*—BEFORE the millennium begins (I Cor. 15:22-23). Those who live *during* the millennium will be given full understanding of the truth and an opportunity to enter God’s kingdom *at that* (as yet future) *time*.

But here, in Revelation 20:11-12, is a period during which all the *other* dead people of past ages are resurrected and “stand before God” (verse 12). “The books” are opened. In the original Greek, this term “books” is the *very* term used to describe the Bible! In other words, these people finally have their minds and hearts truly “opened” to *understand* the Bible. Then another “book was opened which is the book of life.” This “book of life” is specifically the *record book* of those who receive eternal life (Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5).

How clear!

Here is the time when all those who have *never really understood* are resurrected, the “books” of the Bible are *opened to their understanding*, and during this probable 100-year period (see Isaiah 65:17-25, especially verse 20) they are tried, tested and “judged” as to whether and how deeply they will surrender to God’s Word and to his will in their lives.

### **First Genuine Opportunity for Salvation**

This will NOT be a “*second* chance”! This will be the *first* GENUINE opportunity for these previously spiritually blinded people to *understand* and fulfill their Creator’s will.

In Ezekiel 37, we find the famous prophecy of the “dry bones.” What is here described has seemed amusing to some



people, and has even been set to music in a light vein.

But Ezekiel 37:1-14 is an *awesome* prophecy. The “whole house of Israel” (verse 11) spoken of here includes the modern Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples of the British Commonwealth, the United States and the peace-loving, democratic peoples of northwest Europe—plus, of course, the Jewish people (write for our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, which explains who today are the descendants of all twelve tribes of ancient Israel).

All these people will be brought back to *physical life* again and then given physical flesh and bones (verses 5-10). Then, God will bring them into the “land of Israel,” put *his* spirit in them and they shall finally “know” GOD (verses 11-14). Then they will have a *genuine opportunity*—in this “day of judgment”—to be tried and tested to determine whether they will truly *surrender* to God and Christ now that they UNDERSTAND. The Bible indicates that the *vast majority* will finally accept the true Christ and obey their Creator.

God’s Word says, “To the Jew *first*, and also to the gentile: for there is *no respect of persons with God*” (Rom. 2:10-11). Therefore, God must and WILL resurrect and offer salvation to the thousands of millions of gentiles most of whom have *never been called by God to true spiritual understanding*.

Again, we read: “For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!” (Rom. 11:32-33).

In his mercy and supreme wisdom, God has allowed virtually *all* men to be blinded—to go their *own way*, to write the lessons of human experience in suffering and death. Later, in the “Great White Throne Judgment Period,” described in Revelation 20:11-12, they will be resurrected and begin to *learn* and *understand* those lessons. Then, and only then, will they truly repent of *their* ways and truly APPRECIATE *God’s* way.

What an *awesome* and MAGNIFICENT purpose our Creator is working out here below!



# PREDESTINATION: DOES THE BIBLE TEACH IT?

**T**HE very fact of wartime casualties and accidental deaths has caused a great deal of added sorrow and grief that is entirely unnecessary—if we understand! Many have grieved in the belief that loved ones died eternally “lost”—when, if they understood the truth, these probably were not lost at all.

## The Common Conception

Several years ago, a man, quite worried over the subject of predestination, went to a certain minister.

“Do you believe in predestination?” he asked.

“The Bible teaches it, brother,” was the minister’s reply.

The minister tried hard to explain. “But that doesn’t really mean,” he said, “that *you* have nothing to do with your own salvation. It doesn’t mean that it is all set—your decision and eternal fate all determined *for* you in advance. You are to make your own decision. But God knows all things, even in advance. And so he knows beforehand how you are going to decide.”

This didn’t satisfy the troubled man at all.

“If God knows beforehand how I am going to decide,” he



reasoned, “then it is all predetermined. If he knows in advance I am to be LOST, then that’s the way I’ll have to decide in the end. And since I’ll lose out anyway, why try? On the other hand, if he knows now I’m going to repent and accept Christ and be saved, I’ll have to do it in the end anyway, whether I try or not. Then my ultimate fate *is* predetermined. Isn’t that what predestination *means*—that the ultimate fate of each one is PREdestined—destined, or determined, in advance? And if that’s so, then we simply are not free moral agents, and we have nothing to say about it.”

The poor man was more discouraged than ever.

And no wonder. Neither could convince the other, because both were arguing from a false premise—that predestination has to do with whether each individual shall be lost, or saved.

Does the Bible teach that your ultimate fate is already predestinated?

Neither the preacher nor his perplexed questioner had read carefully what the Bible does say.

What confusion we are in today—what Babylon! Let’s understand this!

### **All Unsaved Not Finally Lost**

But all this perplexity and worry has arisen from *another* general assumption—one of the greatest errors of this time, yet almost universally taken for granted without so much as a thought to inquire into it.

That is the assumption that there are only two classes, living or dead—the saved and the lost. How many sermons have you heard based on the theory “there is no middle ground. Either you are this minute saved, or you’re a lost soul!” This teaching has led to untold suffering and unnecessary grief.

Thousands are grieving over departed loved ones who had never made a profession of Christ. Perhaps over one who really lived wickedly; perhaps over one who lived a “good” life in the worldly sense, but still had never accepted Christ or been converted. Still others grieve because of a doubt—they are not sure whether some loved one died saved.



If this booklet does no more than dispel some of this needless grief and sorrow, and bring a little enlightenment and comfort to some of our readers, it will have been worthwhile.

So listen! Notice carefully. It's important that you understand.

Supposing this universal assumption were true. See where it leads us.

This teaching comes from the supposition, also generally taken for granted without question, that *this* is the one and only age and time when God is trying desperately to save the world—that the mission of the Church is to save the world—that this is the only day of salvation, and it is now about over. "Probation" is about to close. Soon it will be too late.

### **What of the Ignorant Heathen?**

We know, of course, the Bible plainly says there is but one name given under heaven among men whereby we may be saved—the name of Jesus Christ.

Over in China, India, Japan, other parts of Asia and Africa and many islands, are hundreds of millions of people who, in spite of the comparatively few missionaries sent to heathen lands, have never so much as *heard* that *only* name! Think of it. The majority of human beings have never *heard* of Christ! They simply do not know about salvation from sin—God's plan for eternal life—have never heard the true *gospel*.

They cannot be saved! And now let us ask, can we believe that a God of love brought these individuals into the world without their knowledge or consent, permitted them to live and die without ever having heard the precious gospel—that God has simply consigned them to eternal punishment because they never had a chance?

Or, do we believe that in some manner God saves them, if they live up to the best they know, without having known and accepted Christ—without having been converted? Is there, then, some other name—some other way to salvation and life eternal, than through Jesus Christ our Lord? Certainly we can find no such teaching in the Bible.

Then what is the truth?



### Not the Only Day of Salvation

The amazing, startling truth is that this is *not* the age in which God is trying to save all the world! It is not the *only* day of salvation.

Rather, we are nearing, now, the end of the six *working days* of the millennial week allotted to Satan.

Scripture plainly reveals Satan as the god of this world—this age; the prince of the power of the air; the actual spirit ruler of this present world. He is in power! He offered to turn over this power to Jesus, if he would only worship Satan. Jesus actually won the right to that power—to dethrone and replace Satan in power—by resisting him in that temptation. When Christ comes to rule, Satan shall be dethroned and utterly shorn of power. But he has power, now!

### Satan's Millennial Week

Satan retains that power only by God's express permission. God has, for all practical purposes, turned over six days of one week—an approximate millennial week, each "day" an actual thousand years—to Satan. A day is *as* a thousand years with God, and a thousand years *as* a day. It forms an overall period of time (II Pet. 3:8).

God's principles never change. Applied to this millennial "week," God has said to Satan, in effect: "Six 'days' shalt thou labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work."

Satan's work is a labor of deception—of deceiving mankind upon earth—of turning God's truth upside down—causing honest sincere people to accept a counterfeit for the genuine—deceiving the people into sin. And how successfully he has worked at his occupation for 6,000 long years!

We are nearing, now, the end of the first six days of Satan's "week." And the coming seventh millennial day shall be the Sabbath of the Lord our God. The first six days God has turned over to Satan, and given him free reign to influence and to deceive. But the coming seventh millennium is God's Day—it shall belong to him. In it, Satan shall not do any work—he shall be chained, restrained, thrown into the



symbolic “bottomless pit” (Rev. 20:1-4)—he shall not deceive a single soul. That day shall not belong to him, thank God—it shall belong to God, who shall rule through Christ!

Jesus plainly said he is “Lord of the Sabbath.” And as this millennial Sabbath dawns, Jesus shall return to earth in person—as King of kings not only, but Lord of lords. He is coming not only to reign and to rule, as King of kings. But as Lord of lords, he is coming as High Priest to SAVE!

The fact we must now see—the astounding fact, almost unbelievable in the light of erroneous traditions, yet true—is that we have been living in the age of Satan’s dominion—while Satan, with God’s express permission, has been ruling—and *not* in the age when God has set his hand to save the world!

### **Not Given to Many to Understand**

Notice carefully, now. Shocking as this truth may seem to many, yet it is the plain truth. During this time while Satan has been permitted to reign, it is simply not given to all to understand God’s truth!

For instance, most people suppose Jesus spoke in parables in order to make his meaning clearer. But he didn’t. He spoke in parables to *hide* his real meaning—to cover it so they could *not* understand. After Jesus had spoken the parable of the sower and the seed, notice: Mark 4:10-12; Matthew 13:10-13.

Notice, Jesus plainly said that except to his disciples whom he had called, “it is not given” to even *know* of the kingdom—even to them who actually *saw* Jesus and heard him speak in person. They were not permitted to understand!

That’s astonishing! But there it is, in your own Bible—read it!

### **Not All Called Now**

But there is no injustice with God. He denies no one an opportunity of salvation. These many are simply not called *now*—at this time—in this, Satan’s age. This is simply not the time when God is trying to save everyone.

If he were—and of course we know Satan is trying to



deceive people into loss of salvation—then Satan surely would be getting the better of the contest. But it is *not* a contest between God and Satan, at all. God alone rules in high heaven, and what Satan does he does not do in competition or in spite of God, or contrary to God's will—he does it only by God's express permission—and God gives that permission for an express and wise purpose. Some day we shall fully understand!

But God denies no one a chance. There is no injustice with God. Everyone is to have his full chance. But God does things his way and in his time, and in his plan all are not being called *now*. Millions who have died *without a chance* shall be resurrected and given their full chance—and without a devil to tempt them.

Notice I Corinthians 1:24-26: "But unto them *which are called*, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see *your calling*, brethren, how that *not many* wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*."

Notice, "unto them which are called." Some are called. All are not called, at this time—during this age of Satan's dominion. "For ye see *your calling, brethren*"—Paul is speaking only to those he calls "brethren"—those who had been called—"how that *not many*"—notice it—"not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble"—not many of these in the world are called!

### **Gospel Preached for a Witness**

Did Jesus say the gospel was to be preached to CONVERT all nations? No, only as a news announcement for a WITNESS! "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world *for a witness* unto all nations; and then shall the end come"—the end of the age! (Matt. 24:14.) Then follows the new age when the reign of Christ shall replace that of Satan.

While, during the present age, many in number are called, yet it is a few comparatively. And those who are called are called to a calling, and what is it? First, a calling to a changed life—a life of overcoming sin and self. And notice what Jesus said of those now called, who do grow in grace and



in knowledge, who endure unto the end, and who overcome. Notice their ultimate calling.

Revelation 2:26-27: “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron. . . .”

When Jesus was here on earth it was his custom, as recorded in Luke 4:16, to preach the gospel every Sabbath day. And when this great millennial Sabbath dawns Satan will be imprisoned, and Christ will come not only to rule—he shall also preach! The Pharisees thought it wrong for him to heal on the Sabbath—and the religionists of this day, mostly, seem to believe it would be wrong for him to heal sin-sick people during the millennial Sabbath! But he shall do it, just the same.

### **When Most of Israel Shall Be Saved**

One of the most wonderful chapters in the Bible is the 11th of Romans. Few seem to understand it—yet it’s plain. Some, today, say God has rejected and utterly cast away the Jewish people. They suppose the Jews are Israel, whereas actually they are of the House of Judah, which separated from the House of Israel in the days of kings Rehoboam and Jeroboam. Nevertheless, Romans 11 speaks undoubtedly of *all* the tribes of Israel.

This marvelous chapter says God has not cast away his people Israel. But it reveals that only a small portion of Israel (our English-speaking peoples are the birthright tribes of Israel) are of the election of GRACE at *this time*.

The rest are *blinded* spiritually, and GOD blinded them—deliberately and for a purpose—not permanently, but until the “fulness of the Gentiles be come in”—and then what?

Then, we read in Romans 11:26, “. . . *all Israel shall be saved*: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer”—Jesus Christ, at his Second Coming—“and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.” Israel is spiritually blinded, now. God blinded them. They are not now being called to salvation. They are not being given any chance, now, at all! The wonderful opportunity that shall come to them after the fullness of the gentiles has come in—after the Deliverer comes, and they are no longer blinded—shall not be



a second chance—they have never yet had *any* chance.

And, if we can but understand, this chapter dealing with national fleshly Israel refers to the American and British peoples and the democracies of northwestern Europe, as well as to the Jewish people. (For proof, write for our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.) It includes, undoubtedly, most of these departed loved ones who died without having accepted Christ and becoming converted. They may have *heard* the name of Christ, but they did not understand. God never *called* them, during their lifetime in this age. Of course they did not die automatically saved—but, on the other hand, neither did they die lost!

That's the comforting truth. The overwhelming majority of people, today, are *neither* saved nor lost—they simply have not, yet, been called.

### **The Purpose of the Christian Calling**

But if God is not trying to save the whole world now—if most are not now called, or given opportunity for salvation—why does God call *any* during this age? What's the purpose of calling some now?

That great purpose is to be trained to rule with Christ, and to teach, under him, when he comes in his kingdom—when all Israel shall be saved. We are being trained, prepared, fitted, through trial and test, through hardship, through persecution, through tribulation, with continual Bible study and prayer, growing in grace and in knowledge, to be able, then, to fill the high office of a king or a priest—either to rule in the civil sense, or to preach God's truth when the time comes that all may be privileged to understand, and to be called. What a glorious mission is the true Christian life!

So don't grieve over departed ones you have felt were lost. The chances are they were simply not then called—it was not given to them to understand—their chance had not yet come. But they shall be resurrected, their spiritual blindness removed, and, if you are one of the called and if you are faithful and finally chosen, you may be used then to minister to them, and to lead them into salvation and life eternal.

Oh, what a glorious hope! What truly good news, is the true gospel of Jesus Christ, which most people today simply



# II CORINTHIANS

## 6:2

Is this the one and only age and time when God is trying desperately to save the world? Some have been confused by II Corinthians 6:2 which seems to say that now is the *only* day of salvation.

This verse reads: "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in *the* day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is *the* accepted time; behold, now is *the* day of salvation."

But the word "the" in the *King James Version* is actually misleading, because *it is absent in both the Hebrew and the Greek.*

Actually, II Corinthians 6:2 was quoted by Paul from the Old Testament. Paul is quoting Isaiah 49:8: "Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee. . . ." The Hebrew text of Isaiah 49:8 does not have a definite article. Neither does the Greek text of II Corinthians 6:2. The first part of the verse is more correctly rendered as follows: "I have answered thy prayer, he says, in a [not the only] time of pardon, I have brought thee help in a [not the only] day of salvation" (Knox translation).

Certainly, this is the day of salvation for those who have been called and whose minds have been opened to his truth by God. *Now* is their chance—their opportunity to qualify for his Kingdom. This is *the* day of salvation for them. But it is *not* the day of salvation for the vast majority. They will receive their chance—their *first* and *only* chance—at a later time. It is a day of salvation, but *not* the *only* day of salvation.

Consider also that if it were the *only* day of salvation in Paul's time—then it is closed to us today. But Paul was quoting a scripture hundreds of years old. Was that time—in the days of Isaiah—the only day of salvation? Obviously not. Today, as in the time of Paul, it was only one of several times of salvation.



have never heard. They are hearing a *false* gospel today!

But Paul in Romans 11 shows that salvation has come to the few, the elect in Israel, and to some of the gentiles. And why? He explains it in verse 31. They are blinded, now, that through our mercy who are now called, they may obtain mercy and salvation then—when Jesus comes as the great Deliverer. How plain and how wonderful!

### **The Great Future Harvest**

But now, how about the hundreds of millions who have never heard?

Will they have a chance of salvation after Christ returns—after the kingdom is set up to rule over all nations?

Flesh and blood, remember, cannot inherit the kingdom. Only those finally born again—born of the Spirit—those who shall have become Spirit, and no longer flesh and blood (John 3:1-8) shall be in the kingdom.

And they are the saints of this time, now called, changed, then, to immortality. (See I Cor. 15:50-54). They are those called during this dispensation who have endured unto the end, and proved overcomers. And they shall rule, and teach, the nations (Rev. 2:27; 3:21; Dan. 7:18, 22, 27). They shall reign on the earth, not up in heaven (Rev. 5:10). They shall rule the nations—ordinary mortals of all races, on earth (Rev. 2:26-27). They shall thus rule, and teach, for one thousand years—Christ's millennial "Sabbath" (Rev. 20:4, 6).

Those now called, during this time, are called to a life of training—spiritual character training—to fit them for positions of high responsibility in the kingdom. The one, for example, who multiplies 10 times over in spiritual character what God gives him at conversion shall be qualified to rule 10 cities. The one who overcomes, and grows in grace and knowledge only five times shall be qualified to rule over five cities. The one who thinks he "got saved" merely by "accepting Christ" and, deceived by the "no works" teaching, did not grow or develop in his Christian life at all, will have taken from him even the salvation he thought he had. See the parable of the "pounds," Luke 19.

But whom shall these converted immortals reign *over*?

One glimpse into this millennial rule is found in Isaiah 11.



It portrays Christ ruling the world in righteousness. It is a time when wild animals are tamed. Babies are being born and nursing babes and weaned babies shall be playing with wild animals and deadly snakes—now tamed and harmless. Now notice:

Isaiah 11:10-11: “And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse [Christ], which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it [the Root—Christ] *shall the Gentiles seek* . . . and it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people [Israel]. . . .”

To Christ, then ruling, shall the gentiles seek! And then, as the returned Deliverer, shall he set his hand again the second time to recover Israel and Judah—the time when the spiritual blindness is removed!

Notice again Micah 4:2: “And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob [the kingdom of God]; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. . . .”

And now what of those gentiles who never heard?

Notice! Isaiah 66:15, 19: “For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury [last plagues] . . . And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud [gentile nations] . . . and Javan, to the isles afar off, *that have not heard my fame, neither seen my glory: and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.*”

### **The Great Fall Harvest**

When Jesus, the Great Deliverer shall come, the dead in Christ (those who have been called, and who have accepted the call and been finally saved) shall be resurrected out of their graves immortal (I Cor. 15:50-53); and together they shall be caught up into the air to meet the coming King, with whom they shall reign.

Thus they shall be *separated* from all earth's mortals—mark that! The separation between mortal and immortal is made before Christ ever touches this earth.



They meet the King Eternal up in the clouds. Where do they go from there? The first four verses of Zechariah 14 reveal that *in that same day*—not 1,000 years afterward—Christ's feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives, from whence he ascended.

Then, upon this earth he shall take over his throne—the throne of his father David (Luke 1:32). That, then, is the throne on which the saints made immortal shall sit with him (Rev. 3:21). And then what shall happen, during the thousand-year reign from then on?

Matthew 25:31-34, 41: “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered *all nations* [gentiles and Israelites]: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you. . . . Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire. . . .”

Notice, all those called and saved *prior* to Christ's second appearing on earth had been separated from the unsaved before Christ stood upon earth—while still in the clouds of the air—before he sat upon the throne of his glory.

The separation going on *after* he sits upon that throne ruling over the nations, therefore, is a different and a succeeding separation.

Here are earth's nations—earth's mortals—*all* nations. And now begins a process of separation. It is according to the decisions they make and the actions they take. Those who turn to a life of righteousness are set on the right hand. They are converted—given immortality—because Christ says to them: “*Inherit* the kingdom”—and mortal flesh and blood *cannot* inherit that kingdom! (I Cor. 15:50.)

Those who do evil then receive the full penalty of the law—death! They are sentenced to depart into the lake of fire.

Certainly this passage pictures nothing but a process of salvation going on, *after* Christ's return, during his millennial “Sabbath Day.”



That is the great “fall harvest of souls”!

The astonishing fact is that the present human harvest corresponds to the early spring grain harvest of Palestine. It is so pictured in the annual round of festivals God gave to Israel to keep his people continually in the understanding of his plan. This is the preliminary harvest of humans. This is the time of Satan’s dominion. And out of it God is calling a people for his name, that through *our* mercy who now are called, the great majority not now called may, then, obtain mercy. Those now called to salvation are merely the “*first-fruits*” of God’s salvation (Jas. 1:18). They are called, now, to prepare for the office of “king” or “priest,” to become the instrumentality through which Christ will really save the world, when *his* time comes. What a glorious plan and gospel!

### Not a Second Chance

But, some will say, is not this the doctrine of a second chance?

Absolutely not!

One text ought to make that plain. Hebrews 10:26-27: “If we sin wilfully *after that we have received the knowledge of the truth*, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation. . . .”

Those to whom it has not been given to understand—those not now called—have not received the knowledge of the truth.

Most do not really grasp it—they do not really understand. Because the truth is spiritual knowledge and spiritual knowledge cannot be transmitted naturally to a mortal human mind. Spiritual truth is *revealed!* None receive it, though their ears hear the words, or their eyes read them, except as God opens their understanding, and by his Spirit reveals to them the truth.

But, if one has been truly *called* of God, convicted by God’s Spirit, his mind opened to the precious spiritual knowledge of the truth, *then* if that man sins wilfully, deliberately, intentionally, without resistance—that man is through! He has *had* his chance. He shall have no other during the coming millennium. Those who shall then be saved are those who



have not, until then, been *called*. They are those who never had a previous chance.

In God's own time, according to his plan, *all* shall have their chance. But each in his order. Those who were born and lived first receive theirs last. And those born last come in first. The illustration of the "valley of dry bones" in Ezekiel 37 shows the whole House of Israel—those spiritually blinded who lived and died without a chance—resurrected in mortal bodies to mortal life, as before. It shows their understanding being opened—the knowledge coming to them for the first time. Then God puts his Holy Spirit within them and they are saved!

### **Those Who Died Unsaved**

And so it follows, now, that most of our loved ones who have died unsaved in all probability did not die lost. In all probability they were not called during this age. But their call is coming later. They shall be resurrected back to life and given their fair chance. And *you*, if you are called—if God reveals this wonderful truth to your mind—are having your one and only chance *now*—your chance to prepare and fit yourself to be used of Christ in the loving labor of helping to save them, *then!*

Oh, what great *meaning* we begin to see in the Christian life! What glorious purpose! What grave responsibility! Will you make *your* calling and election SURE?

And now, in the light of this wonderful revelation of truth, we should be able to understand this matter of "predestination."

### **What "Predestination" Is Not**

Very few understand what "predestination" is. First, consider what it is *not*. There is no teaching in the Bible that says the *decision* you are to make—your final fate of becoming either saved or lost—is already pre-determined and that you are *destined* finally to arrive at that fate. Absolutely no text anywhere in the Bible says anyone is predestinated to be lost.

But then doesn't the Bible say anything about predestination? Certainly. But it does not say what people seem to think. People seem to *think* it says we are predestinated to



be either saved or lost. Some to be saved—others to be lost.

Let us read the only texts in the Bible speaking about “predestination.” And see if you can find anything in any of them about anyone being predestinated to be *lost*. The difficulty is that people have assumed and taken for granted what is not true.

There are just four places where the word “predestinated” occurs in the *Authorized Version*.

Romans 8:28-30: “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did *predestinate* to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did *predestinate*, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”

Ephesians 1:4-5, 11-12: “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: having *predestinated* us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will . . . in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being *predestinated* according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: that we should be to the praise of his glory, who *first* trusted in Christ.”

Notice, none of the places in the Bible where predestination is mentioned says anything about anyone being predestinated to be LOST—predestinated to reject Christ. No one is predestinated to make a certain decision—to accept or reject Christ—to be saved or lost. But some have been predestinated to be called to salvation, *now!*

### **When We Were Called**

Of those called now, in this age, notice *when* we were called!

II Timothy 1:9: “God, who hath saved us, and *called us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus *before the world began*.”

And, as in Ephesians 1, quoted above, notice carefully what it says:



God chose us in him, *when?* “Before the foundation of the world”!

“Having predestinated us”—what for? To be lost? No, “unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ.”

“Being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.” Were any predestinated, then, to be lost? Is it God’s will that *any* be lost? He says it is not! Then can’t we see that “predestination” has nothing to do with *whether* we shall be lost or saved—with our decision—with our ultimate fate?

Notice carefully, now!

“Being predestinated . . . that we should be to the praise of his glory, who *first* trusted in Christ.” Those predestinated are the first to trust in Christ—merely the first preliminary soul harvest.

And now do you begin to see the glorious truth—that predestination has nothing to do with your making a decision or your fate—it has only to do with the *time* of your calling—whether you are called now, in this age, or later.

Notice it in the passage in Romans 8:28-30:

“For whom he did foreknow. . . .” How great is God! If you are one now called, God “foreknew” you. And “whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate”—to be lost? No, “to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did *predestinate*, them he also *called*. . . .” Not *will* call in the future—called, now, in this age.

There it is. Note it.

“Whom he did predestinate, them he also *called*.”

Predestination has to do with being called. Not with being saved or lost. Those now being called, in this age, were foreknown, and PRE-destinated to be called now—to be the first to put their hope in Christ. All others have their call later.

God does not decide for you, in advance, whether you shall be saved or lost. He *did* decide far in advance which ones he would call in this *first* calling, to be a priest or a king in his kingdom—to have part in the saving of others.

How wonderful are God’s ways, when he opens our understanding to reveal them to us.



Let us make our calling and final election sure. Let us not grieve over departed loved ones who probably were not called in this life. God is able to raise them up again. They will come up in the Great White Throne Judgment. And in that judgment, the book of life shall be opened, and many shall then find life. Judgment, now, is upon the true Church of God—those now called (I Pet. 4:17). And we are later to judge the world!

The overwhelming majority on earth today are neither saved nor lost. Their chance has not yet come. This is not their time. But it is coming as certainly as God's Word is true.

This is *not* the age when Christ is desperately contesting Satan as to whether all humanity shall be saved or lost. If it were, as most seem to believe, a controversy for souls now, between Christ and Satan, then Satan surely is winning the contest, and a one-sided contest it is.

But Satan is not more powerful than God. We near, now, the close of the sixth working day of Satan's week. Soon will come "the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." Satan shall be chained, Christ shall rule—and preach, and save!