

# Chapter 3

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## **Second Opportunity, Not By Chance**

Before moving on to specific scripture supporting the all of God, it is needful to address a few issues first, one is the matter of a *second chance*, and the other is the matter of *free will*, which is covered in the next chapter.

It is not uncommon to hear it said that mankind has only one chance to believe on Jesus and that once one dies it is all over; there is no second chance to be saved. It is almost as if the old saying "You made your bed now lie in it" applies.

### **That No One May Boast**

Listening to Christian testimonies, it seems as if many believe they saved themselves by a work of faith, as if they figured out salvation on their own and therefore deserve to be saved. Consequently, those who do not do it their way in this life deserve to be cast into a place of torture called *hell* forever and ever and ever. I think Paul would have a major problem with many believers in our day who think like this. Consider what he had to say about his, as well as everyone's, salvation experience.

**(8) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; (9) not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.** (Ephesians 2:8-9 NASB)

Often overlooked is the fact that faith is included in the gift of God. It is grace through faith! Our faith did not save us; the grace and the faith of the Lord Jesus saves. If we have any boast in our salvation experience, then it is a result of our own work.

**(12) I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, (13) even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; (14) and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus.** (1 Timothy 1:12-14 NASB)

The *New Living Translation* seems to best capture the heart of verse 14.

**Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.** (1 Timothy 1:14 NLT)

In other words, we cannot manufacture faith and love on our own; it comes from Jesus Himself. It is the faith *of* the Son of God, not faith *in* the Son (this is true after our eyes are opened to Jesus). He gives us His faith so that we can believe, then His faith becomes our faith, and we can claim that we believe. Consider two more verses from Paul.

**I am crucified with Christ, and no longer live, I, but Christ lives in me; but in that I now live in flesh, I live by faith, the faith of the Son of God, who has loved me and given himself for me.** (Galatians 2:20 DNT)

**(15) But when God, who set me apart even from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, (16) was pleased to reveal his Son in me....** (Galatians 1:15-16 DNT)

Paul claimed no personal credit whatsoever for his calling and the revelation of Christ within him. It was all of God. But God!

### **Nothing By Chance**

Now, consider the matter of *no* second chance for an unbeliever. It is commonly taught from the pulpits that when one dies in unbelief, there is no second chance to be saved. As the teaching goes, there are only two choices for mankind, heaven or hell. "Make up your mind in this life or toast in hell in an afterlife." Simply, when one dies, it is all over.

But is this true? Does scripture support such thinking? Does the history of the Lord's people and the nations support such thinking? Perhaps not. God has left nothing to chance, for everything is being worked out according to His plan to achieve His ultimate purpose of *All*. The fact of the matter is that scripture, as well as history, reveals a mighty and loving God who continually reaches out to His people and to all humanity, for He loves the world.

A verse that is often quoted in support of *no second chance* is Hebrews 9:27: **And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this [comes] judgment.** However, one must read into this that there is no second chance for salvation, for it says nothing about how many chances one might have. When one dies, judgment follows. It doesn't say when judgment occurs but that it occurs sometime after death. [Perhaps there is an alternative understanding that has nothing to do with physical death but speaks to whenever we die to our self-life. Just a thought. Keep in mind that judgment simply means a determination that could be good or bad for the person.]

### **Second Passover**

The old testament is filled with types and shadows of God's plan, and there is one type in scripture that makes it quite clear that God reaches out to mankind more than once; it is the Passover experience of justification by faith. Consider the sons of Israel and the keeping of Passover.

**(9) Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (10) "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'If any one of you or of your generations becomes unclean because of a dead person, or is on a distant journey, he may, however, observe the Passover to the LORD. (11) 'In the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight, they shall observe it; they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.** (Numbers 9:9-11 NASB)

There were two things that might have kept an Israelite from keeping Passover, touching a dead body and being away on a long journey. In these cases, they were allowed to keep it in the second month. In other words, they had a second opportunity, not so much a second chance.

We see the same opportunity applying to mankind. In Adam, we all occupy mortal bodies or bodies of death (Romans 7:24). Essentially, we are like the dead person in verse 10. Mankind is unclean in this condition. Consequently, unbelievers remain unclean in their dead bodies; that is, they touch death. On the other hand, when we believe on Jesus, we pass out of death into life (1 John 3:14), and the word of God cleanses us (John 15:3). We will still die physically, but Jesus' blood cleanses us from all sin.

**Passover** is the first step in a believer's journey with the Lord, for it speaks of **justification by faith** as Jesus' blood is applied to the door of our heart. Thus, according to Numbers, in type, we see that one is afforded another opportunity to apply the blood of Jesus to his heart. It even states that in the second month, the Passover can be observed—a second opportunity.

The other reason for a second opportunity is seen through an Israelite who was on a long journey and could not return in time for Passover. He also could keep Passover in the second month. This is like the prodigal son who wandered from his father's house and was given a second opportunity to be part of his father's house (Luke 15:11-32). Thus, men might wander their whole lives, but a day will come when they will be invited into the Father's house to keep the Passover, that is, to be justified by faith.

### **All Israel Saved**

Consider the ancient nation of Israel, especially those who demanded to have a king and rejected God as king or those who later rejected Yeshua-Jesus, the Messiah of Israel, will they not receive a second opportunity? Will they be excluded from being part of *spiritual* Israel; the very thing into which believers since Calvary have been called? Without delving into the erroneous thinking of Christian Zionism and dualism that tramples underfoot the Son of God, Paul would tell us that God has not cast them out forever. Of course, keep in mind that God has always been after a **heart pool**, not a **gene pool**. See John 1:12-13.

**For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?** (Romans 11:15 NASB)

**(25) For I do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, of this secret—that ye may not be wise in your own conceits—that hardness in part to Israel hath happened till the fulness of the nations may come in; (26) and so all Israel shall be saved, according as it hath been written, `There shall come forth out of Sion he who is delivering, and he shall turn away impiety from Jacob, (27) and this to them is the covenant from Me, when I may take away their sins.'** (Romans 11:25-27 YLT)

Studying the history of ancient Israel reveals one glaring fact: They do not deserve to be saved or given another opportunity to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. And yet, Paul declares that they will be given this second opportunity through what He calls the fullness of the nations. For more on this, see my article titled *Fullness of the Nations*.

Isn't it rather odd that so many Christians expect all Israel, as well as all creation, to be saved and yet reject any notion that all mankind, created to be imagers of Elohim, will be saved?

**And creating is the Elohim humanity in His image. In the image [lit. imaging] of the Elohim He creates it. Male and female He creates them.** (Genesis 1:27 CLV [added])

Ancient Israel sacrificed their children to false gods and broke their covenant with God to the point that God divorced Himself from them and scattered them to the nations. If God can and will save this rebellious lot, do you not think He can and will save the rest of the rebellious lot of mankind? Logic demands it; scripture proves it!

### "Re" Words

Now, another facet of the question of more than one opportunity can be seen in words that begin with the prefix *re*, which signifies "back, again, anew, over again" to whatever follows the prefix.

Within the Christian community, many *re* words are used, some of which are straight from scripture. These include ***repentance, redemption, reconciliation, reconstitution, recovery, reformation, restoration, restitution, and revival.***

*Re* words imply a return to some former state or condition, but in God's economy it is much more than this, for His plan calls for going far beyond the former to something far greater. Of course, the far greater is the last Adam, the second man Jesus.

I submit that God's *re* words are all part of His plan to establish His second order and, as such, are His way of bringing this order into being by, through, and in His Son. However, and this is a big however, the Father is not interested in reinstating an old or former order. He is only interested in making all things new—new in character. This is based on His law of the second order. **He takes away the first in order to establish the second** (Hebrews 10:9b). In other words, God's plan worked out in His Son calls for going on to a second or new order, not a return to the first order that has been made obsolete, no matter how good (or: bad) it might have been. Another way of stating this is that the *re* concepts found in scripture are part of God's **strategy** that drive God's plan to achieve His ultimate purpose of all in all new and in love.

The second order is and will be forever joyous music to our ears. How do we know? In music, *re* is "a syllable representing the second tone of the diatonic scale." Thus, *re* is of the second order, and built in the second order is a second opportunity for all.

[\*The Ultimate Purpose of God \(complete book\)\*](#)