

Too Late For Salvation?

At the moment of writing, the question, 'Too late for Salvation?' can still be reasonably asked. But I and others know that this period of 'grace' that we upon this earth are at the *present time* experiencing, has a definite end. The scriptures indicate of a time, perhaps not that far away now, when men will earnestly seek out God, but will not be able to find Him. Let's then for our first reading go to **Isaiah 55: 6-7**. 'Seek you the Lord while He may yet be found, call you upon Him while He is yet near. Let the wicked foresake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.' And now if we turn to the book of Amos, it foretells of a time perhaps not too distant now because I suspect that all things pertaining to the fulfilment of this scripture are already in place and are just waiting for the God-ordained moment to begin. **Amos 8: 11-12**. 'Behold, the days come, says the Lord, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, and they shall run back and forth to seek the word of the Lord, and they shall not find it.' Doom for the whole world's Satanically inspired and driven Babylonian system of rulership and commerce is prophesied, hundreds of millions upon hundreds of millions will die. I cannot say *exactly* when it will be too late for the Lord to be found, but I know that He can still be found at this very moment and we who know this to be true have a work to do in trying to warn the people of this world just what exactly is in store for them all if they do not earnestly change their ways, *right now!* Let's read **Isaiah 58: 1**. 'Cry aloud, do not hold back, lift up your voice like a trumpet and point out to My people their transgression and the house of Jacob their sins.' Even we who already believe in and try to obey the Lord's commandments, have to work very hard spiritually in order to (if we are still alive and in the flesh) have a chance of being spared either having to undergo the horrific events to come or at the very least of having to witness them. **Zephaniah 2: 3**. 'Seek you the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have carried out His judgment, seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be that you will be spared in the day of the Lord's anger.' These dramatic events are for a time yet to come, but even when they were first prophesied, thousands of years ago, they were considered to be close to happening, so how much closer should we suppose them to be in this day and age? *Now is not the time to be, or to become, complacent!* I should suppose that all who are reading this article know just how suddenly things can change in this world. Remember how everything was seemingly going along so smoothly for most people who had employment when apparently out of nowhere, global recession struck, bringing with it all of the extra misery for the already worse off of trying to eke out even further their already overstretched budgets whilst dealing with mushrooming price increases, fuel poverty and the inevitable rises in taxation. Change can also occur at any time to our very lifespan, one day we can be in the best of health whilst the next we can be diagnosed with a life changing or even fatal illness given only weeks or even days to survive. Some people do not even have the 'luxury' of being told of their impending demise, they may be killed in a road traffic accident or by some other violent means, if this happens and they have not already repented of the sins that they have committed during their lifetime, then obviously it is too late for them to repent. The risk for us as individuals is the continuing 'putting off until tomorrow' that we have all been guilty of doing and continue to be guilty of doing from time to time. But of course the real danger is when we start to do this 'putting off' with our God,

when we delay or even forget to ask Him for forgiveness for our disobedience towards Him.. Jesus, Himself, gives us an example of this `putting off until tomorrow` and of how just an unwise a thing that it can be for us to do, let`s have a read of **Luke 12: 16-21.** `And He spoke a parable to them saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully, And he thought within himself saying, What shall I do for I have no more room in which to store my produce? And he decided this I will do, I shall pull down all of my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all of my produce and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have goods laid up for many years, so now take your ease, eat, drink and be merry. But God said to him, You fool, this very night your soul shall be required of you, then whose shall those things belong to which you have provided for yourself? So is he that stores up treasure for himself and is not rich towards God.` By understanding this plain and simple but often deliberately ignored fact of life, ie, we are all going to die, we can see how pointless it is for a person to keep looking to the future whilst ignoring the present and also ignoring the warnings in scripture about the future, *most of which has now become or is very near to becoming, our present!* We all like to put off the things that we, for whatever reason, do not want to do today. Tomorrow, tomorrow, it`s always going to be done tomorrow. That aching tooth, the dentist, tomorrow, painting that fence, tomorrow, paying that bill, tomorrow. Tomorrow is in fact a time that nobody can do anything in, because it never arrives, and so we have to live our lives in the `today`. Before proceeding any further, let`s get one thing sorted. If anybody is to turn to the Lord God, then obviously first of all they have had to come to the realization that there is a God, but not just *any* God, it has to be *the* God. We should all know that selecting the wrong `god` to worship can *literally* be soul destroying and the scriptures inform us that there are many so-called `gods`. Let`s have a read of **1 Corinthians 8: 5-6.** `For though there be them that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many and lords many) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by Him,` So people have to be careful that they do not choose a `god` that has been fabricated, or indeed promoted, by a satanically driven false religion. We true Christians know that this is an ever increasingly difficult choice for people to make accurately these days because of the constant media bombardment upon the public of Satanic lies such as `evolution`, the so-called `big bang` theory and the manic and obscenely expensive but futile search for `alien` life and/or the origins of human life. (When all that they have to do is read and believe the bible to discover the origins of *all* life!). There are of course more than one or two `strings to Satan`s bow`, take for example the world`s mainstream religions, and all of their sister offshoots, we have all of the eastern religions and the equally Satanic and corrupted, so-called `christian` religions. Satan has put in place all of these spiritual diversions (for that is what they are) to lead people who follow them away from the truth and to encourage them to believe in the `attractive` lie of all of the religious trappings and false and evil man-made ceremonies and `holy` days such as `christmas` and `easter`. Let`s read **Mark 7: 6-9.** `He (Jesus) answered and said to them, Well has Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honour Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. However, in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. For, laying aside the commandments of God, you hold to the traditions of men, such as the washing of pots and cups and such other things that you do.` If only the people of this world would realize that far from bringing them closer to the one great, loving, supreme, all powerful, God Creator, these false religions and their vile false churches and their equally vile clergy are taking people even further away from the Lord, and are setting them on the road to spiritual ruin and for some, ultimate destruction! These false religions have left the

people who follow them even more distant from the Lord God Almighty and His truth and love than those people of this world who have never even heard of Him! But it can be even more serious than that, these worshippers in these false churches and religions are committing crimes worse than non-believers, why? Well it's because they are actively partaking in the works of Satan, after all, if the church that a person is in, is not of the Lord God, because it ignores His commandments and His *true* holy days, then the question must be asked, *whose church is it?* At least the unbeliever has the *chance* in this life of one day `finding` the Lord God and of turning to Him and of keeping *His* commandments because they will then have seen and realised the lie of the false religions and the false churches, whereas those who imagine that they are already in a Christian church or a true God worshipping church but are not, unless something miraculous happens to their lives, they won't be able to break free of the habits of false worship that have been so deeply etched into their very being. After all, if a person thinks that they already possess the truth, then they stop looking for it! I should think that most of our fellow true Christian bretheren know that there is no group more difficult to try and get the truth of the scriptures over to, than those who think that they already know it. For example, it is far easier to write and then have a person repeat back to you the words that you have written on a blank, clean sheet of paper than to write and then have them read back to you off a sheet of paper that had already been written on by somebody else. This being the case, is it any wonder that people in distant lands who have never been indoctrinated with the false teachings of false churches and false religions are far more willing to accept the truth when it is offered to them. This fact also applies to young children, and the likes of the Roman catholic church know this only too well. There is an old saying, `Give me a child until he is seven years of age, and he will be mine for life`. Even so, we who are in the true church of God must never give up trying to be witnesses of the truth to this world, because the Lord knows who are His, and we have a duty to provide a `calling card` as it were, for them. There are people who think that it is already too late for salvation for the deceived men and women of this world, and that they are deceived because the Lord has already decided that they must remain that way, but we should never be so presumptuous. Let's have a read of **Ezekiel 33: 2-7**. `Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man from among them and set him for their watchman: If when he sees the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet and warn the people; then whosoever hears the sound of the trumpet, and takes no warning from it, if the sword come and take him away, then his blood shall be upon his own head, because he heard the sound of the trumpet and took no notice of it, his blood shall be upon his own head. But he that takes heed of the warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman sees the sword come and does not blow a warning on the trumpet, and the people are not warned, if the sword come and kill any person from among them, and he is taken away in his iniquity, then his blood I will require of the watchman's hand. So you, O son of man, I have set you as a watchman to the house of Israel, therefore you shall hear the word at My mouth, and warn them from Me.` Having read those words, we who are of the true church of God know that we must *never* give up trying to be a witness and a warning to the people of this world. There are millions who will scoff at us and say that we are wasting our time trying to warn a disinterested world, well how dare they? How dare they say that we who are constantly striving to do the will of our God are in fact wasting our time. Is then almighty God, wasting His time?, because if He isn't, then it means that salvation is still there for us *all* to attain. Did the Lord God inspire and then give us all of the scriptures so that we should read them and then say, `Right, that's it, I think I've worked out my own salvation, and so to hell with everybody else`? No, no, He did not, for He says in

Matthew 28: 18-20. `And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, All power is given to Me in heaven and in earth. Go you therefore and tell all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son. Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.` There is no point in warning anybody about anything without giving them a reason as to why they are being warned and of the consequences that they will suffer if they ignore the warning, otherwise why should they listen to, let alone believe, that which is being told to them? Throughout the scriptures, God always gives a reason as to why He punishes an individual or a group of people or a nation, and yet there are some even within the true church, who think that no reason (or explanation) is necessary in order for people to more readily accept the danger that they are in if they continue to disobey the commandments of the Lord God. For example the reader might have experience of this sort of curt and arrogant attitude. . . `The scriptures say it because the Lord God says it therefore I say it, and so you better believe it!` We all of us still have time to repent and change our ways, only the Lord knows for definite when it will be too late (if at all) for any given individual, let`s read **Daniel 8: 19.** `And he (the angel Gabriel) said, Behold, I will make known to you what shall happen at the end of the indignation: for at the time appointed, the end shall be.` Let`s follow this with the words of Jesus Christ in **Matthew 24: 6-8.** `And you shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see that you are not troubled, for all of these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these things are the beginning of sorrows.` And then Jesus goes on to say in **verse 42.** `Watch therefore, for you do not know at what hour your Lord will come`. This is very true, we don`t know what hour the Lord will come, because if you or I were to die tomorrow, then we can`t forget about worrying about all of the prophesised doom that is to come, because for us, *our hour would have come already!* And once we are dead, then there is nothing more that we can do to try to ensure our salvation. We who are true Christians of the church of God, have a duty to constantly inform mankind that it is their unrepentant of sins that are spiritually and physically killing them but that if they repent now, today, then our great God is ever merciful and ready to forgive. God has *never* given up on the world, and never will do. (Even though, it must be said, the majority of the world has given up on Him.) The Lord, in the shape and form of Jesus Christ, has paid too big a price for the world in order for Him to just let it slip away into the destructive hands of Satan and his demons. But, and this is a very grave warning for the world, there is coming a time, and who knows how near it already is, when for a while, the Lord God will not be able to be found by those who, too late, (perhaps in dire terror and panic) decide to try to seek Him, as we have already read of in Amos 8: 11. At the moment of writing there is still time to turn to the Lord, let`s have a read of **Deuteronomy 4: 27-31.** `And the Lord shall scatter you among the nations, and you shall be left few in number among the heathen, where the Lord shall lead you. And there you shall serve gods, the work of men`s hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. But, if from there you shall seek the Lord your God, you shall find Him, if you seek him with all your heart and all your soul. When you are in distress, and all of these things are come upon you, even in the time of the latter days, if you turn to the Lord your God, and shall be obedient to His voice, (For the Lord your God is a merciful God) He will not forsake you, neither destroy you, neither forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.` There may be some reading this who think to themselves, `I know people who have been diligently seeking out the Lord God and trying to keep all of His commandments for most of their adult lives, what chance then have I got? I`m just a newcomer to the faith, still a

miserable sinner, I can't expect equal treatment alongside such long serving Christians. Well, that might well be mankind's way of thinking about the order of things, but is it the Lord God's? Just because somebody has been in the Lord's church for one hour and somebody else may have been in it for forty years, does not count for anything in the Lord's eyes as regards His graciousness to forgive that newcomer his or her sins and to welcome them with open arms. There is a scripture, spoken by Jesus Christ, that nicely illustrates this fact. (But as mentioned earlier, best to repent today, and not to try and leave it to the last moment, because 'tomorrow', one day, for all of us, will not exist!) **Matthew 20: 1-16.** 'For the kingdom of heaven is like that to a man who is a householder, who went out early to hire labourers to work in his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers to pay them a penny a day, they went to work in his vineyard. And he went out later on and saw other labourers standing idle in the market place. And he said to them, Go you also into my vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will pay you, and they went there way. Going out later still, he did the same thing. And later on from this he went out again and found others standing idle, and he said to them, why stand here idle all of the day? and they replied to him, Because no man has hired us. So he said to them, Go you also into my vineyard and I shall pay you whatsoever is right. So when the evening was come, the lord of the vineyard said to his steward, Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning from the last hired to the first. And when the last to be hired came and received their wages they received every one of them a penny. But when the first to be hired came to be payed, they supposed that they would receive more, but they also received a penny. And when they had received it they complained against the vineyard owner saying, These men have only worked for one hour and yet you have made them equal to us who have worked through the heat of the whole day. But he answered them and said, Friend, I do you no wrong, did you not agree to work for me for a penny? Take that which is yours and be on your way, I will give to the last even as I have given to you. Is it not lawful for me to do that which I will with that which is mine? Is your eye envious because mine is good? So the last shall be first and the first shall be last, for many be called, but few are chosen.' So, 'talking' of work, while there is still a 'today' then those of us who have repented of our past lives and for those who are reading this and have yet to repent, (for who can repent if they do not believe that they should repent?) there is still time for salvation, but also a warning for the world spoken by the Lord God, Jesus Christ, in **John 9: 4.** 'I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is yet day, for the night comes when no man can work.' Too late for Salvation?, not if you are alive and reading this and then turn to the Lord with all of your heart and all of your might, *He will not say that you have left it too late!*