

TOO LATE TO BE SAVED

Text: Jeremiah 8:20

INTRO: Some of the saddest words in the Bible. The prophet is permitted to foresee the captivity of Judah from which the Jews expect to be exempt simply because they are Jews. As the time approaches, they will be sorely & sadly disappointed.

The disappointment of the Jews was brought about by their own disobedience to the will of God, & their refusal to repent & turn to God. The same principle is at work today as it was in the long ago.

I. IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO BE SAVED WHEN CHRIST RETURNS.

READ MATTHEW 24:45-51; 25:1-13

READ 2 THESS. 1:6-9

John 5:28-29

NOTE: Jesus may return at any hour of any day. Note these references from only one chapter of the book of Matt 24:36, 42, 44, 50

II. IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO BE SAVED AFTER YOU HAVE DIED. Heb. 9:27; Luke 16:19-31

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in his body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor 5:10).

NOTE: Be aware that you could die at any time. Youth & good health does not guarantee you any certain amount of time.

READ JAMES 4:13-17.

III. THE BIBLE ALSO TEACHES THAT A PERSON CAN SO HARDEN HIS HEART THAT REPENTANCE BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE. WHEN THAT OCCURS, A PERSON HAS REACHED A POINT BEYOND WHICH IT IS TOO LATE TO BE SAVED.

READ HEBREWS 6:4-6; 10:26-31; 12:25-29

READ ROMANS 1:20-28; EPHESIANS 4:18-19

There is a time, I know not when;
A place, I know not where,
Which marks the destiny of men
To heaven or despair.
There is a line by us not seen
Which crosses every path;
The hidden boundary between
God's mercy and His wrath.
O, where is that mysterious bourn,
By which each path is crossed
Beyond which God Himself hath sworn
That he who goes is lost?
How long may man go on in sin?
How long will God forebear?
Where does hope end, and where begin
The confines of despair?
The answer from the sky is sent,
"Ye who from God depart,
While it is called today, repent,
And harden not your heart.

CONCLUSION: Christ could come at any moment. You could die at any time. Or, if you are in the process of hardening your heart to resist Christ, you could at any time cross the line of no return. The only way to be sure you do not reach that point, yea to be absolutely sure you have not already reached that point, is to let Jesus into your heart & life today. "While it is said, 'Today if you will hear His

voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion'" (Hebrews 3:15).

Springhill, LA, April 21, 1974

La Porte, TX, April 9, 1978

Exton, PA, February 17, 1985

Exton, PA, August 25, 1991

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 11, 1994

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, May 1, 1994