

Forsaken By God, Or Not?

We've all rehearsed the Scriptural citation that God said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you," but IS that actually true in all cases?

This is what Scripture says about that subject – and I am referring mainly from the perspective of the New Testament/New Covenant, not merely the Old Testament, although I do mostly cite the Old Testament in this message.

The reason I cite the Old Testament for New Testament theology is because of this verse, spoken by the prophet Malachi:

Malachi 3:6

(6) For **I *am* the LORD, I change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Does that mean that His Covenant doesn't change either? Certainly not! But, does God's HEART change towards His creation, and towards all men? Certainly not, either!

God's heart is expressed by Peter in this verse:

2Peter 3:9

(9) **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.**

God does not desire to send ANYONE to hell, nor is He a giant foot in the sky waiting to stomp on someone for violating His Law! On the contrary, this is even what His Law – the Torah – says about God:

Exodus 34:6-7

(6) And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, **The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,**

(7) **Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,** and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

But we need to see the other side of the coin, so to speak, and see what God's heart is toward disobedience and willful transgression, in that Old Testament Law, from within the same citation:

Exodus 34:6-7

(6) And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, **The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,**

(7) **Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and *that* will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.**

Many have stated that this means that God is ordaining a generational curse on the people who sin, that the curse is passed on to their progeny; this is simply not the case, as is revealed in this verse, which further explains that same statement by God:

Deuteronomy 5:9-10

- (9) Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for **I the LORD thy God** *am* a jealous God, **visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,**
(10) **And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.**

So, you see, there is a CONDITION to that seeming generational curse – which is not a curse at all, but rather a repercussion to one’s own willful transgression of God’s commandments.

Now, in THAT we can say that God’s Covenant HAS changed, in that a willful transgression of the Law brought immediate repercussions that required sacrifices and offerings to be made; which, in Jesus Christ, those sacrifices and offerings, required under the Mosaic Law (i.e., the Law of Moses), were done away with.

But what about God’s HEART about that same willful, disobedient transgression of His will?

Here are some Old Testament AND NEW Testament citations that should make you think twice about being rebellious and turning a deaf ear to God’s commandments – in the New Testament, those Commandments are two, which satisfy the entire Law and the Prophets, according to Jesus:

Matthew 22:36-40

- (36) Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law?
(37) Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**
(38) **This is the first and great commandment.**
(39) **And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.**
(40) **On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

If we are to obey those two Commandments, Jesus said we will fulfill the entire will of God – which will is written in the Mosaic Law, discounting the sacrifices and offerings required under it!

God’s HEART was in His Law, as it was His intent that the keepers of that Law would learn to obey Him and to be instructed in righteous living! The transgression thereof, however, under that Law, brought condemnation, and thus required sacrifices to be made – with the shedding of blood being the primary required result!

Hebrews 9:22

- (22) And almost **all things are by the law purged with blood;** and **without shedding of blood is no remission.** [“remission” means “forgiveness and removal” of the penalty(-ies) of sin(s)]

The writer of Hebrews, presumed to be the Apostle Paul, penned these words, citing the Old Testament:

Hebrews 13:5

(5) *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: **for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

This is what God said throughout the Old Testament to His people who followed after Him and were obedient to do, and to keep, the Law and its Commandments.

But, is there more to see in all of that than just saying, "I will never leave you nor forsake you," to anyone who confesses that they believe in the Lord's existence and in His death, burial, and resurrection?

Follow the Lord's heart and mind in these verses of the Old Testament, remembering the words of Malachi, that the Lord God said, "I CHANGE NOT," thereby:

Deuteronomy 4:31

(31) (For **the LORD thy God is a merciful God;**) ***he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them.***

Read verses 32-36 in between these two citations, and see that Moses is speaking of God's doings TO HIS OWN PEOPLE:

Deuteronomy 4:37

(37) ***And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt;***

Here's some more of God's perspective, according to Moses:

Deuteronomy 31:6-8

(6) Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: **for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.**

(7) And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go ***with this people*** unto the land which the LORD hath sworn ***unto their fathers to give them;*** and thou shalt cause ***them*** to inherit it.

(8) And the LORD, he *it is* that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, **neither forsake thee** [JOSHUA]: fear not, neither be dismayed.

So, you see, God WOULD NOT FORSAKE HIS OWN PEOPLE, EVEN IN THE OLD COVENANT!

Here's what He said to Joshua, as well:

Joshua 1:1,5

(1) Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that **the LORD spoke unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister,** saying,

(5) There shall not any man be able to stand ***before thee*** all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, ***so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.***

So, God promised to be with His leadership, also; but why in Joshua's instance?

We can learn from the Torah what the Lord God had to say about Joshua's heart toward Himself:

Numbers 27:15-20

(15) And Moses spoke unto the LORD, saying,

(16) Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, ***set a man over the congregation,***

(17) Which may go out ***before them***, and which may go in ***before them***, and which may ***lead them out***, and which may ***bring them in; that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd.***

(18) And ***the LORD said*** unto Moses, ***Take thee Joshua*** the son of Nun, ***a man in whom is the spirit,*** and lay thine hand upon him;

(19) And ***set him*** before Eleazar the priest, and ***before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight.***

(20) And thou shalt put *some* of thine honor upon him, ***that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.***

So, Joshua was made to be a man of the Lord's heart: to be a SPIRIT-OF-GOD-FILLED (verse 18) SHEPHERD (verse 17) to the people of God; and it was his responsibility to see to it that THE PEOPLE WERE OBEDIENT TO GOD (verse 20)!!!

"I CHANGE NOT," He said; and here, we see that same heart expressed by the writer of Hebrews:

Hebrews 13:17

(17) ***Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.***

Going back to Joshua:

Numbers 13:16

(16) These *are* the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And ***Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Joshua.***

Numbers 13:17-20

(17) And ***Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan***, and said unto them, Get you up this *way* southward, and go up into the mountain:

(18) And see the land, what it *is*; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they *be* strong or weak, few or many;

(19) And what the land *is* that they dwell in whether it *be* good or bad; and what cities *they be* that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strongholds;

(20) And what the land *is*, whether it *be* fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time *was* the time of the firstripe grapes.

Numbers 13:25-26

- (25) And **they returned from searching of the land after forty days.**
- (26) And **they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation** of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; **and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation,** and showed them the fruit of the land.

Numbers 13:28-33

- (28) **Nevertheless the people *be* strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.**
- (29) The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.
- (30) And **Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.**
- (31) **But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.**
- (32) And **they brought up an evil report of the land** which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature.
- (33) And **there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.**

Numbers 14:6-12

- (6) And **Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:**
- (7) And **they spoke unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.**
- (8) **If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us;** a land which floweth with milk and honey.
- (9) **Only rebel not ye against the LORD,** neither fear ye the people of the land; for they *are* bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us: fear them not.
- (10) **But all the congregation bade stone them with stones.** And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.
- (11) **And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me?** and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have showed among them?
- (12) **I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them,** and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

Numbers 14:17-24

- (17) And now, I [MOSES] beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying,

- (18) The LORD *is* longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation*.
- (19) **Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy**, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.
- (20) And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:
- (21) ***But*** *as truly as I live*, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.
- (22) ***Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles***, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and ***have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice***;
- (23) ***Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it***;
- (24) ***But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land*** whereinto he went; and ***his seed shall possess it***.

Numbers 14:26-33

- (26) And the LORD spoke unto Moses and unto Aaron saying,
- (27) ***How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me?*** I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.
- (28) **Say unto them**, *As truly as I live*, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:
- (29) ***Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness***; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,
- (30) ***Doubtless ye shall not come into the land***, *concerning* which I swore to make you dwell therein, ***save*** [means EXCEPT] ***Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun***.
- (31) ***But your little ones***, which ye said should be a prey, ***them will I bring in***, and they shall know the land ***which ye have despised***.
- (32) ***But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness***.
- (33) And ***your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness***.

Numbers 14:35-39

- (35) I the LORD have said, I will surely do it ***unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me***: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and ***there they shall die***.
- (36) And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, **and made all the congregation to murmur against him**, by bringing up a slander upon the land,
- (37) ***Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD***.
- (38) **But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh**, *which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still*.
- (39) And Moses told these sayings unto all the children of Israel: **and the people mourned greatly**. [BUT NOTICE THAT THEY DIDN'T REPENT – THEY MERELY MOURNED!!!]

DOES THAT SOUND LIKE GOD WON'T FORSAKE HIS PEOPLE?!!

It was NOT His people that followed after him “FULLY,” as Caleb and Joshua did, but the EVIL congregation that DESPISED THE LAND GOD WAS GIVING THEM, AND THAT MURMURED AGAINST MOSES TOO!!!

And here is what the Torah says otherwise about Joshua and Caleb:

Numbers 26:64-65

- (64) But among these **there was not a man of them whom Moses and Aaron the priest numbered**, when they numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai.
- (65) **For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.**

Numbers 32:11-15

- (11) **Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt**, from twenty years old and upward, **shall see the land** which I swore unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; **because they have not wholly followed me:**
- (12) **Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD.**
- (13) And the LORD's anger was kindled against Israel, and **he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation**, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, **was consumed.**
- (14) And, behold, **ye are risen up in your fathers' stead, an increase of sinful men, to augment yet the fierce anger of the LORD toward Israel.**
- (15) **For if ye turn away from after him, he will yet again leave them in the wilderness; and ye shall destroy all this people.**

So, you see, God forsook the people THAT FORSOOK HIM!

But He saved and spared the two that followed Him WHOLLY!!! Caleb and Joshua were not only given the right to enter into the land, but their children were promised to inherit it after them – but, that also would prove to be contingent on whether or not THEY, THEMSELVES would LIVE WHOLLY UNTO THE LORD!!!

Let's go on to what else the Old Testament says about this same concept:

Joshua 24:19-20

- (19) And **Joshua said unto the people**, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he *is* a holy God; he *is* a jealous God; **he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.**
- (20) **If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.**

So, THAT was the Old Testament Law's Covenant with God, you might say; that is not unreasonable to consider...but is it ACCURATE within the NEW Testament??

Let's first see what else the Old Covenant has to say about the subject (and I'm only giving you SOME of the more evident citations of Scripture, but there are many other more elusive accounts written in the Old Testament):

1Samuel 12:20-25

- (20) And **Samuel said unto the people**, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet **turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart**;
- (21) **And turn ye not aside**: for *then should ye go after vain things*, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they *are* vain.
- (22) **For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.**
- (23) Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:
- (24) **Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart**: for consider how great *things* he hath done for you.
- (25) **But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.**

1Kings 6:11-13

- (11) And **the word of the LORD came to Solomon**, saying,
- (12) *Concerning* this house which thou art in building, **if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then** will I perform my word with thee, which I spoke unto David thy father:
- (13) And ***I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.***

So, as King of Israel, Solomon had a covenant with God that, IF he followed God fully, THEN God would not forsake the people Solomon led! That is a VERY heavy yoke of responsibility!

1Chronicles 28:9

- (9) And ***thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off forever.***

GOD IS TELLING SOLOMON THAT HE, GOD, WOULD FORSAKE SOLOMON IF HE FORSOOK THE LORD!!!

He hath said, "I CHANGE NOT!!!"

2Chronicles 7:12,17-22

- (12) And **the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him**, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for a house of sacrifice.

- (17) And ***as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;***
- (18) ***Then will I establish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father,*** saying, There shall not fail thee a man *to be* ruler in Israel.
- (19) ***But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;***
- (20) ***Then will I pluck them*** [THE PEOPLE IN SOLOMON'S KINGDOM] ***up by the roots out of my land which I have given them;*** and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it *to be* a proverb and a byword among all nations.
- (21) And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say, ***Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land,*** and unto this house?
- (22) And it shall be answered, ***Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers,*** which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: ***therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them.***

“I, THE LORD, CHANGE NOT!!!”

2Chronicles 15:1-2

- (1) And ***the Spirit of God came upon Azariah*** the son of Oded:
- (2) And ***he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him,*** Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; ***The LORD is with you, while ye be with him;*** and ***if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.***

Let's continue to look at what the Old Testament says about this concept of “being forsaken for forsaking God” in the following:

Ezra 8:22

- (22) For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, ***The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.***

Nehemiah 9:24-31

- (24) ***So the children*** [OF ISRAEL] ***went in and possessed the land,*** and thou subduedst before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gavest them into their hands, with their kings, and the people of the land, that they might do with them as they would.
- (25) And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.
- (26) ***Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations.***

- (27) ***Therefore thou deliveredst them into the hand of their enemies, who vexed them:*** and in the time of their trouble, when they cried unto thee, thou heardest ***them*** from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies thou gavest them saviors, who saved them out of the hand of their enemies.
- (28) ***But after they had rest, they did evil again before thee: therefore leftest thou them in the hand of their enemies, so that they had the dominion over them:*** yet when they returned, and cried unto thee, thou heardest ***them*** from heaven; and ***many times didst thou deliver them*** according to thy mercies;
- (29) ***And testifiedst against them, that thou mightest bring them again unto thy law: yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thy judgments,*** (which if a man do, he shall live in them;) and withdrew the shoulder, ***and hardened their neck, and would not hear.***
- (30) ***Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.***
- (31) ***Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God.***

So, God was constantly dealing with His people, ATTEMPTING TO CAUSE THEM TO TURN TO HIM WITH A TRUE HEART, AND TO FOLLOW HIS COMMANDS!! AND, WHEN THEY WOULD NOT, HE TURNED THEM OVER TO THEIR ENEMIES... ***YET, GOD WOULD NOT FORSAKE THEM, AS A PEOPLE, UTTERLY!!!***

In that same heart, the Psalmist stated:

Psalm 94:14

- (14) For ***the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.***

That is the same as what the writer of Hebrews quoted from out of the Old Covenant!

But, notice that He will not forsake HIS INHERITANCE; THAT INHERITANCE IS THE PEOPLE THAT WILL SERVE HIM AND FOLLOW HIM TO DO HIS WILL!!!

Isaiah also puts it this way, concerning what will come in the future:

Isaiah 1:28

- (28) And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners *shall be* together, and ***they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed.***

Isaiah 55:6-7

- (6) ***Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:***
- (7) ***Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.***

Jeremiah has this to say of God:

Jeremiah 23:39-40

(39) Therefore, behold, I, even I, **will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and cast you out of my presence:**

(40) And **I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.**

OLD TESTAMENT...NEW TESTAMENT TOO?

Romans 1:28

(28) And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind,** to do those things which are not convenient;

The word “reprobate” means the following, according to Strong’s Concordance/Dictionary:

[^ieɔ im

ad-ok'-ee-mos

unapproved, that is, rejected; by implication **worthless (literally or morally)**

Words that are also used in the King James Version that employ the same Greek word, and mean the same thing, are:

castaway, rejected, reprobate.

Here are the verses that speak of being a **reprobate** or a **castaway**:

2Timothy 3:1-8

(1) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

(2) For **men shall be** lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

(3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

(4) Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;**

(5) **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**

(6) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

(7) **Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

(8) Now **as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.**

He is speaking of those who are turned to God, seemingly, yet whose hearts are not unto God, apparently, because they’d prefer to live unto their carnality and fleshly pleasures rather than live unto God in holiness and righteousness...”reprobate [i.e., unapproved; rejected] concerning the faith” (which “Faith” IS the Gospel of Jesus Christ).

Titus 1:15-16

- (15) Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but ***unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.***
- (16) ***They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.***

Here is the key verse that speaks of whether or not we can be forsaken under the New Covenant:

2Timothy 2:11-13 (KING JAMES VERSION)

- (11) *It is* a faithful saying: For ***if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:***
- (12) ***If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*** [READ THAT AGAIN!!!]
- (13) ***If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.***

Note that the word “deny,” in the Greek, literally means “to disavow” and to “reject” (us), And that will be the result IF we “disavow” and/or “reject” HIM!

To “disavow” means the following, according to Noah Webster’s Dictionary:
DISAVOW, v.t. [dis and avow. See Vow.]

1. **To deny; to disown;** to deny to be true, as a fact or charge respecting ones self; as, he was charged with embezzlement, but he disavows the fact. A man may disavow his name or signature; he may disavow a knowledge of a fact, or his concern in a transaction. Opposed to own or acknowledge.

2. **To deny; to disown; to reject.**

3. To dissent from; not to admit as true or justifiable; not to vindicate.

Here is that same verse in another translation:

2Timothy 2:11-13 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

- (11) Here is a trustworthy saying: ***If we died with Him, we will also live with Him;***
- (12) ***if we endure,*** we will also reign with Him.
If we disown Him, He will also disown us; [READ THAT AGAIN!!!]
- (13) If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot disown Himself.

Now, if all of that is not sufficient evidence to you that YOU MUST LIVE UNTO GOD FULLY AND WHOLLY TO BE SAVED AND, THUS, TO NOT BE FORSAKEN – OR DISOWNED, as the NIV states – THEN CONSIDER THIS ONE FINAL SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE, WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLE PAUL (WHO, I MIGHT ADD, PENNED ABOUT A THIRD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT):

1Corinthians 9:20-27

- (20) And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;
- (21) To them that are without law, as without law, **(being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,)** that I might gain them that are without law.
- (22) To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.
- (23) And **this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.**
- (24) **Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.**
- (25) And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.
- (26) **I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:**
- (27) **But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

You will take note that the word "CASTAWAY" that Paul used is the same Greek word, "adokimos," that means REPROBATE, UNAPPROVED, REJECTED, and WORTHLESS!!!

THIS SAME PAUL, THE APOSTLE, wrote THIS admonition unto us NEW COVENANT BELIEVERS – WITH REGARD TO WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN THE TORAH ABOUT GOD AND THE ISRAELITES:

1Corinthians 10:1-12

- (1) Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
- (2) And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
- (3) And did all eat the same spiritual meat;
- (4) And did all drink the same spiritual drink: **for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.**
- (5) **But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.**
- (6) **Now these things were our examples, [DID YOU GET THAT?] to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.**
- (7) **Neither be ye idolaters,** as *were* some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.
- (8) **Neither let us commit fornication,** as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.
- (9) **Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.**
- (10) **Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.**
- (11) **Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, [DID YOU GET THAT?!] upon whom the ends of the world are come.**
- (12) **Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.**

I leave you with these final thoughts:

The Apostle John gave this prophecy in the Book of Revelation concerning those who were regarded to be “saints,” which means “holy” or “pure” ones:

Revelation 14:12

(12) Here is the patience of **the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**

That is also expressed in Revelation, Chapter 22, at the end of the Book, and at the end of the Bible; here is “the end of the matter,” according to Jesus and to John:

Revelation 22:12-14

(12) **And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

(13) **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.**

(14) **Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life,** and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Remember: The Commandments WE, NEW COVENANT BELIEVERS are to keep are:

(1) to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, and minds; and (2) to love our neighbors as ourselves! THESE TWO FULFILL THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW, LESS THE ANIMAL AND OTHER SACRIFICES!!!

James, the brother of Jesus, said this to all of the early believers, and this is passed down to us also:

James 4:4-10

(4) Ye adulterers and adulteresses, **know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.** [THIS IS NOT A CALL TO BE THE ENEMY OF THE NATURAL, PHYSICAL WORLD, NOR AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, BUT RATHER, AN ENEMY OF THE THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO THE LUSTS AND LIFESTYLES OF WORLDLY-MINDED PEOPLE!!!]

(5) Do ye think that the Scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

(6) But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, **God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.**

(7) **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil,** and he will flee from you.

(8) **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.** Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

(9) **Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.**

(10) **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**

Lastly, there is this OLD TESTAMENT admonition that even we, ourselves can receive, specifically now, in NEW TESTAMENT times:

Jeremiah 29:13

(13) And **ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**

That same perspective is found in the Torah, in the Mosaic Law, with these lasting words of God to those who would be His people:

Deuteronomy 4:29-31

(29) But **if** from thence **thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.**

(30) **When thou art in tribulation,** and all these things are come upon thee, **even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;**

(31) (For the LORD thy God *is* a merciful God;) **he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them.**

“I,” saith The Lord, “CHANGE NOT!!!”

Blessings2u!!

~Roger Funk, II

Completed and Proofread by 5-12-2024, 12:37 a.m.

The Lord just asked me to add one more verse to the Message previously written, and you will do well to consider what it says as a lasting comment to speak to your heart and mind:

2Corinthians 6:1-2

(1) We then, as workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye **receive not the grace of God in vain.**

(2) (**For he saith,** I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, **now is the accepted time;** behold, **now is the day of salvation.**)

Salvation comes whenever NOW IS!!!

Added to on 6-18-2024, 4:20 p.m.

Blessings2u!!

~Roger Funk, II