

Who Can Be Saved After the Rapture?

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A question that is often asked when studying Bible prophecy pertains to those who can be saved during the Tribulation Period. Will unsaved people have the opportunity to be saved after the Rapture if they have heard and rejected the Gospel before the Rapture. In other words, can those people who have already heard the Gospel prior to the Rapture be saved during the Tribulation Period? Will people who reject the gospel and miss the Rapture have another opportunity to be saved during the Tribulation?

There are many respected students of Bible prophecy who conclude that anyone who openly rejects the gospel and is left behind at the Rapture will be prevented by God from being saved during the Tribulation. They hold that these people have made their choice and now they must live with it. They say that God will send a strong deception upon those who heard the truth and rejected God's offer of mercy before the Rapture.

I have heard various trustworthy and respectable Bible teachers and evangelists through the years (those whom I respect) conclude that it is impossible to be saved during the Tribulation Period if you have heard the Gospel preached prior to the Rapture. They also make the claim that only those people who have *never heard the Gospel* will have the opportunity to be saved after the Rapture. On the other hand, many Bible instructors, who are equally worthy prophetic voices of the Scriptures, teach that this is not necessarily the case. They cannot find any strong evidence supporting the teaching that those who have heard the Gospel prior to the Rapture will have no opportunity to be saved during the Tribulation Period. This difference of opinion causes us to look at the subject in greater detail so we can arrive at a Biblical conclusion on this matter.

Can those people who have already heard the Gospel prior to the Rapture and reject it be saved during the Tribulation Period? Many claim that the Bible text of 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 teaches the truth that no person can be saved during the Tribulation Period who has previously heard the Gospel

and rejected it prior to the Rapture. However, when reexamining the text, it seems to be teaching something else.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

“And then (during the Tribulation Period) shall that Wicked be revealed (the Antichrist), whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth (breath), and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming (the Second Coming which follows the Tribulation Period): “Even him (the Antichrist), whose coming is after the working of Satan (the Antichrist is Satan’s instrument that he uses during the Tribulation Period) with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish (they ‘are perishing’ because of a deception that comes from the Devil causing people to believe that Antichrist is God); because they received not the love of the truth (while living during the Tribulation Period they refuse to accept or adhere to the truth from their heart – John 1:12), that they might be saved (contextually, this rejection of the truth occurs during the first three-and-one-half years of the Tribulation Period). And for this cause (‘this reason’ - their rejection of the Gospel light of truth and salvation for three-and-one-half years) God shall send them strong (powerful) delusion (a judicial judgment that comes from God, confirms them in their deception and unbelief, and seals their fate), that they should believe a (the) lie (during the second half of the Tribulation Period they will believe the lie that the Antichrist is God). That they all might be damned who believed not the truth (while living during the Tribulation Period they refused to believe on Christ and are confirmed to judgment), but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (delight in wickedness).

You will notice that there are two forms of blindness given to these people – a devilish and divine blindness. First, the Devil himself deceived these people into thinking that the Antichrist is God through the many miracles that the man of sin performs through the Devil’s power. The devilish deception that these people experience is called “lying wonders” (vs. 9) and “deceivableness” (vs. 10). The Antichrist is going to be telling a lot of Pinocchio’s or lies! Part of these amazing lies is when Antichrist makes the bold claim that he is God and proves it by the miracles he performs. As a result, people will be deceived and believe what he says about himself.

Second, God then confirms these people in their choice to believe this lie by bringing about a form of delusion in their minds, conforming them in a state of unbelief and sealing their fate forever. This is said to be “strong delusion” (2 Thess. 2:11) which basically confirms the great masses of lost people in their state of devilish blindness. God does this by sending His own delusion upon their minds, reassuring that these people will never be released from their state of spiritual blindness and that they will be confirmed in their choice to worship Antichrist and be forever condemned in the Lake of Fire. This seems to be a special judgment from God that will occur at this one time in history.

So, in these verses we see a DEVLISH delusion (blindness) and a DIVINE delusion (blindness). The devilish delusion results in people rejecting the true Christ for the false Christ. As a result, these same people will receive a divine delusion sent from God which ultimately keeps them in a state of unbelief and seals their fate. In other words, as soon as people living during the Tribulation Period are deceived by the Devil (2 Thess. 2:9-10) and believe Antichrist’s lie of self-deification, that he is the true God, it’s then that God immediately steps in and confirms them in their choice of unbelief which results in a divine and judicial blindness coming upon them (“that they should believe the lie” - 2 Thess. 2:11) and God’s sentence of judgment passing upon them (“that all might be damned who believed not the truth” - 2 Thess. 2:12). So, the Devil’s deception results in God’s permanent delusion being sent upon the minds of millions of people living during the End Times (Tribulation Period). They will believe that Antichrist is God, receive his mark, and worship him.

We know that God desires that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). But when people utterly refuse to embrace the truth, He lets them pursue and experience the consequences of their own falsehood (Rom. 1:18–25). You will notice the expression of man’s free will - “because they received not the love of the truth” (2 Thess. 2:10) and “believed not the truth” (2 Thess. 2:12). With their own choice they embraced the lie of Antichrist which results in the God sent delusion upon their minds. In other words, since these people choose to believe the lie God sends them the delusion that is inherent in their choice. This powerful judgment from God is justified because of the unbelievers’ decision to

reject the truth. “The lie” that is believed is the claim that the man of lawlessness is God. Sadly, but justly, these people will be dealt a mental blow by God for He will send a type of delusion upon them which keeps them in a state of unbelief and therefore they become unsavable.

We are reminded of the old phrase: “Light rejected is light denied.” Because the great masses of people will reject the light of revelation, concerning Christ and the Gospel during the Tribulation Period, they will be confirmed in their choice and no longer be able to be freed or rescued from their state of blindness because of this divine sent delusion placed upon them. In one sense, the Devil will blind these unsaved people by getting them to believe that Antichrist is God, but God permanently blinds them by sending His own delusion upon their minds, which means He confirms them in their unbelief, making them unsavable and doomed for judgment.

In essence, the Bible teaches that on a worldwide basis God will send a delusion into the minds of people who have rejected His offer of salvation, so that they will be confirmed in their unbelief of Christ and their belief in the lie of Antichrist, which is his blasphemous claim to be God (2 Thess. 2:4). The word “delusion” (*planēs*) means to wander or stray from orthodoxy. Because of the hardness of the hearts of people toward the Gospel, God Himself will send a mental delusion upon them. In one sense, there will be a double blindness inflicted upon these people that is both devilish and divine in nature.

This delusion only occurs at the middle of the Tribulation Period when the Antichrist rises to world dictatorship and power. By the middle of the Tribulation Period God steps in and judicially blinds the great masses of people living on earth because of their repeated rejection of the truth and hardness of heart. Again, this judicial blindness confirms them in their belief that the Antichrist is God and their unbelief in Christ which places them in an unsavable position. Their fate is sealed, and they are assured of damnation forever (“That they all might be damned who believed not the truth” – 2 Thess. 2:12).

Of course, we must remember at this point that not every unsaved person will be fooled by the Antichrist’s lie. How do I know this? It’s because a

remnant of orthodox Jews will reject Antichrist worship and they will be saved in conjunction with the Christ's Second Coming (Zech. 13:1, 8-9). Also, there will be many Gentiles who are saved during the second half of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 7). Those who are not martyred for their faith will assist the Jewish people during the Great Tribulation (second 3.5 years) and they will be allowed entrance into the Messianic Kingdom or Millennium (Matt. 25:31-46). The Bible teaches that only those who receive the mark of the beast are confirmed in their unbelief and judgment (Rev. 14:9-10).

So, this devilish and divine blindness will not overtake all unsaved people but the vast majority of people living during the Tribulation Period will be blinded and pass through this special judicial judgment of God. God is not willing that anyone should perish (2 Pet. 3:9) but there some a point during the Tribulation Period when God says, "Enough is enough!" And He will send a "strong delusion" upon the vast majority of unbelievers living throughout the earth who after repeated, worldwide, evangelistic attempts have willingly believed the lie of the Antichrist and rejected the true Christ.

Many suggest the past tense expression "received not the love of the truth" (2 Thess. 2:10) and "believed not the truth" (2 Thess. 2:12) looks back to the days prior to the Rapture and means people who have previously heard the Gospel before the Rapture cannot be saved after the Rapture occurs. But this simply is not the case. The point of no return happens after the Rapture has occurred (not before the Rapture), during the Tribulation Period, the time when people accept the lie of the Antichrist's self-proclaimed deity and submit themselves to the worship of him by means of taking the mark of the beast.

Revelation 14:9-10

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb."

Here is the point of no return. When a person takes the mark of the beast during the Tribulation Period, it's only then that their doom and fate is sealed. Up to this point they still can be saved.

It should be noted that the time period being presented in this section of Scripture is not referring to the days prior to the Rapture but to the "day of the Lord" (2 Thess. 2:2). The context is referring to "then" (2 Thess. 2:8), the Tribulation Period, not the Church Age in which we live today. Even more specific, it's pointing the middle of the Tribulation Period when the Antichrist takes up his position as God (2 Thess. 2:4 – "so that he as God sitteth in the temple, showing himself that he is God"). It's at this time (the middle of the Tribulation Period) when people will believe the lie of the Antichrist God (2 Thess. 2:11 – "that they should believe a lie"). This means that there will be millions of people, who for three-and-one-half-years have listened to the 144,000 Jewish evangelists preach the Gospel (Rev. 7), but who have rejected their message.

The timing of "they received not the love of the truth" (2 Thess. 2:10) and "believed not the truth" (2 Thess. 2:12) looks back to the first three-and-one-half-years of the Tribulation Period – not the days prior to the Rapture of the Church. I think it is incorrect to equate the Tribulation days with the days prior to the Rapture. Contextually, Paul is teaching that great multitudes of untold millions of people will reject the Gospel witness about Jesus Christ during the Tribulation Period but receive the counterfeit claim of Antichrist that he is God. Their bold rejection of Christ, explained as receiving not or believing not the truth during this specific time, will result in their judicial blindness and damnation.

Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum concurs with this:

"These verses have often been interpreted as teaching that if one hears the gospel before the Rapture and rejects it, he will not have any opportunity to be saved after the Rapture. But this is not the teaching of this passage. The point of no return is the acceptance of the big lie of the Antichrist's self proclaimed deity and the submission to the worship of him by means of taking the mark of the beast. It is only then that the point of no return is actually reached. The option of taking the mark of the beast only begins in the middle of the tribulation."

This is a good reminder. The point of no return happens during the middle of the Tribulation Period with receiving the mark of the beast. It does not happen because of a prior hearing of the Gospel or rejection of Christ before the Rapture.

Fruchtenbaum continues:

“Even the context of this passage shows that it speaks of events that occur in the middle of the tribulation. Worshippers of the Antichrist do so because they are deceived by the Antichrist’s power of miracles. They are deceived because they received not the love of the truth. The rejection of the gospel was not what they may have heard before the Rapture but rather the preaching of the 144,000 Jews and the Two Witnesses.”

I agree with Dr. Fruchtenbaum’s conclusions. The people of earth will have had the opportunity to receive Christ through the preaching of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists for the first three-and-one-half-years of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 7:1-4). But their rejection of the Gospel at the middle of the Tribulation Period, along with taking the mark of the beast, will result in certain judgment.

We must link the prophetic passage of 2 Thessalonians chapter 2:8-12 with the middle of the Tribulation. The passage lines up with the events described in Revelation 12-14 which occur at the midway point and during second half of the Tribulation Period. It is not speaking of something that occurs before the Rapture.

Mark Hitchcock agrees with this conclusion when commenting about the context of this passage and the opportunity of people to be saved after the rapture: “While this verse could be used to support this position (that those who have heard the Gospel before the Rapture cannot be saved), to me it does not seem to be referring to people who reject the truth before the Rapture, but rather those who reject the truth and receive the Antichrist after the Rapture. The entire passage is describing what happens during the tribulation period when Antichrist is present. It refers to those who witness the deception of the Antichrist, believe his message, and reject the truth. This passage says that those who do this will be condemned by God.”

George Zeller, responding to the teaching that there can be no salvation of people during the Tribulation Period who have heard the Gospel prior to the Rapture, says something similar. "This is not really what these verses mean. These verses in 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 are not talking about people who reject truth before the rapture. These verses are talking about people who reject the truth during the time of tribulation. These are people who willfully decide to follow the devil's man (2 Thess. 2:3-9). These are people who reject the truth and accept the lie (the LIE that this man should be worshipped!). These are people who deliberately choose to take the mark of the beast and worship this man ... During the time of the tribulation those who willfully identify with the devil's man are DOOMED and DAMNED (2 Thess. 2:12). These verses are talking about people who reject the truth in a day when the issue will be very clear: MEN MAY WORSHIP GOD (Revelation 14:6-7) or MEN MAY WORSHIP THE DEVIL'S MAN (Revelation 14:9-11)."

We must be careful not to allow the context of 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 to say more than it is teaching. The point is this, because the vast majority of people living during the first three-and-one-half-years of the Tribulation Period would not believe on the true Christ, they could not believe because of the hardness of heart and judicial blindness sent from God. They became past feeling and therefore God blinded them in their unbelief confirming them in their choice of rejection (2 Thess. 2:10).

Romans 1:24 teaches something similar regarding homosexuality:
"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves."

God does not give up on people, but people give up on God! God gives people up to their own lust, sin, and unbelief so that they get exactly what they want. The only way a person can be delivered from their sinful state is through the truth which can liberate them from sin's bondage and blindness (John 8:32). The Corinthians were delivered from this type of sinful bondage and depravity and so can homosexuals today (1 Cor. 6:9-11). However, during the Tribulation Period untold millions of people will be judicially blinded by God and receive the mark of the beast which will seal their fate and judgment. At this point, when being under this special

judgment of God, they cannot be delivered from their sinfully depraved state for God has confirmed them in their state of callousness, their willful unbelief, and sin.

There may be a sense where this is true even today. God may at one point confirm a person in their willful rejection of Him and His ways over their life. As a result, He may leave them in the state of their own choosing, a state of blindness and unbelief.

A man in the grocery store told me a true story of a religious man of some sect who did not want his daughter to go to evangelistic meetings. But she went anyway and was convicted of her sin and need of salvation. But she wanted to honor her father's wishes and therefore did not become a Christian. This happened on several occasions at the meetings. But she repeatedly rejected the offer of salvation. After a while she said to God, "Go away from me. I don't want you." A while later she was diagnosed with cancer and died. The father must have realized what he did do his daughter and he literally went out of his mind. What a terribly sad story!

Although God does not bring delusion upon the minds of unbelievers today He can choose to confirm them in their rejection of Him, wickedness, and unbelief. There is a couplet that states:

"There is a time, we know not when;
There is a place, we know not where
That seals the destiny of men
For glory or despair."

This is what will happen to many people living during the Tribulation Period who for the first three-and-one-half-years have continually rejected God's revelation to them. They will have heard the witness of the Scriptures through the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Rev. 7), the witness of other people who are saved during this time period (Rev. 12:11), and even the universal proclamation of the Gospel given by an angel (Rev. 14:6). But their hearts remain hardened and therefore God Himself sends strong delusion (2 Thess. 2:11) and gives them over to Antichrist worship and judgment.

What is going to happen in the future reminds me of the words of an old hymn:

“There’s a line that is drawn by rejecting our Lord,
Where the call of His Spirit is lost.
And you hurry along with the pleasure-mad throng.
Have you counted the cost?”

It’s likely that billions of people will be given over to God’s judicial blindness and judgment. Nevertheless, despite the great masses of people who will be deceived and damned for their unbelief, the Bible reveals that untold millions of people will be saved during the Tribulation Period (Rev. 6:9; 7:9-14; 20:4). It’s interesting that the Scriptures do not give us any definitive statements that these are only people who have never heard the Gospel. Where do we read this in the Bible? It’s only assumed but not actually taught in the Bible. I believe every person will have opportunity to be saved during the Tribulation Period and they can be saved if their heart is not hardened to the point of no return and whose eyes the Lord has not judicially blinded.

Revelation 7:9-14 records these remarkable words about salvation during the Tribulation Period: “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

These great throngs of people are those who have responded to the Jewish witnessing throughout the seven-year Tribulation Period and who have

come to Christ. They will be martyred during the second half of the Tribulation Period. Apparently God will use the horror of the Tribulation Period and faithful witness of the 144,000 Jews to bring many people to faith in Christ. It seems to be a stretch of the imagination to assume that only those heathen people in far off distant lands, who have never heard the Gospel before the Rapture, will be the ones included in this great multitude that are saved. Nothing in the text reveals this or even implies this. The text actually states they will be people “of all nations” (ethnos) which speaks of non-Jewish groups of people (Rev. 7:9). This will include the United States and other countries where the Gospel is clearly presented and preached to people.

When looking at the Bible references of people who will be saved during the Tribulation Period, there is no information given that they are referring to only those people which have never heard the Gospel prior the Rapture. It would be unrealistic to say that only heathen tribes who have never been reached by the Gospel are included in this vast throng of people who come to Christ.

Quite frankly many of these heathen people are so heathen today with their earthly animal worship and pagan beliefs that one must wonder how they will respond to the Gospel even in the future Tribulation. Romans 1:22-24 are the same kind of people that God gives up to their own sin and which will end up being blinded by God during the Tribulation Period because of their sinful depravity and deception.

It can be confirmed from Scripture that great multitudes of people will respond to the Gospel proclamation throughout the entire world. But there is no hard scriptural evidence that concludes these millions of saved people during the Tribulation are only those who have never heard the Gospel before the Rapture. The Bible teaches that many people will believe and receive the Gospel message and become Tribulation saints and there is no prequalification attached to their belief which says, “They are the ones who never heard the Gospel before the Rapture.”

The prophecy of Joel 2:32 makes this statement of Israel’s salvation during the Tribulation Period: “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call

on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.”

Paul uses this verse as a salvation text in Romans 10:13:

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

This prophetic reference refers to Israel’s deliverance at the Second Coming. It will be both a physical and spiritual deliverance that occurs in conjunction with the Second Coming of Christ to earth (Zech. 12:10).

Zechariah 13:1 prophetically declares:

“In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.”

You will notice in Joel 2:32 that there are no qualifications placed upon the Jewish people regarding hearing the Gospel prior to the Rapture. All are welcome to come the fountain that will be opened to Israel in this coming day. The Bible declares that “whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered” (saved) which means that all Jews can be saved who respond to the offer of Messiah’s salvation. It is not “whosoever” heard the Gospel before the Rapture but whosoever will may come and be saved. There are not restrictions or qualifications placed upon the Jews. Their faith in the Messiah is not contingent upon whether they heard the Gospel through the Friends of Israel ministry or some other Jewish ministries prior to the Rapture. It is based upon their response to the Gospel message during the Tribulation Period.

What is true regarding Israel will also be true for the entire population of humanity living during the Tribulation. The offer of salvation will extend to all people throughout the Tribulation Period as it will be extended to the Jewish people at Christ’s Second Coming. There will be a “whosoever will” proclamation of the Gospel throughout all the nations during the Tribulation Period.

Jesus taught in Matthew 24:14:

“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.”

During these years, the good news (“gospel”) concerning the coming of the messianic kingdom will reach the ears of virtually everyone on earth so earth dwellers can be saved. The Gospel of the Kingdom is the same good news that John the Baptist, Jesus, and the disciples had preached, namely, that the messianic kingdom was imminent (Matt. 3:2; 4:17). This gospel message will be one that says: “Repent and believe in Jesus Christ, the coming King, and be spiritually prepared to enter the Messianic Kingdom or else be judged by the returning King.”

Barbieri makes this comment about the Gospel of the Kingdom: “This is not exactly the same message the church is proclaiming today. The message preached today in the Church Age and the message proclaimed in the Tribulation period calls for turning to the Savior for salvation. However, in the Tribulation the message will stress the coming kingdom, and those who then turn to the Savior for salvation will be allowed entrance into the kingdom.”

The point is that the entire world will have opportunity to hear the Gospel by the faithful witnessing of the 144,000 Jews.

We must also remember that the angelic messenger preaches the “everlasting gospel” to the entire world during the midway crisis point of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 14:6) giving all mankind the opportunity to be saved. It’s reasonable to assume that the entire world will have heard the Gospel at the midway point of the Tribulation, and they will still have opportunity to respond prior to the marking system of the Antichrist (Rev. 14:9-11). This might be viewed as the last invitation to unsaved earth dwellers to be saved before God sends them the strong delusion (2 Thess. 2:11).

Of course, some suggest that if we teach people can be saved during the Tribulation Period, who have previously heard the Gospel, that this means people are given a second chance. My response to this reasoning is this. Yes, they are given a second chance while they are still breathing and living. In fact, God gives people many chances to be saved while they are still alive. The false doctrine regarding a second chance has to do with having an

opportunity to be saved after a person dies and enters the next life. No man can be saved after he dies.

Hebrews 9:27

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

There is no such thing as a second chance to be saved after you die. But there is a second, third, fourth and multitudes of chances to be saved before you die. As long as people are still breathing God can grant them many chances to be saved (2 Pet. 3:9). A person might fall off the Empire State Building and get saved between floors 102 and floor 1. But it would be wise to start praying the “sinner’s prayer” before you get to floor number one!

Here is the point. There is still opportunity to be saved if one has not become calloused to the Gospel truth of Jesus Christ and the way of salvation. But during the Tribulation Period, and like today, a person’s judgment can be sealed because of the hardness of his own heart and refusal to believe!

John 5:40

“And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”

Like the Pharisees, many hearts of people living during the Tribulation Period will be hardened and far from God. Jesus said in Matthew 15:8: “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.” The question of salvation after the Rapture is not a *hearing* issue but rather a *hardening* issue. It is not a question of *when* a person has heard the Gospel but *what* their heart is like in the years following the Rapture.

The hardness of a person’s heart during the Tribulation Period will determine their response to the Gospel presentation. If a person’s heart has been hardened or calloused to the Gospel message God will judicially blind them and they will be damned.

Some people think they will wait until after the Church is raptured and then decide to get saved. But there is no guarantee that you will be saved after

the Rapture. You might never get saved following the Rapture if your heart is calloused against God today.

John Walvoord suggests:

“It is unlikely that a person who rejects Christ in this day of grace will turn to Him in that awful period of tribulation. But the usual principle of Scripture is that while there is life there is hope. It is possible, though very improbable, that a person who has heard the gospel in this present age of grace will come to Christ after the rapture.”

Revelation 22:11 remarks: “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still...” Sadly, this reminds us that many unsaved people who do not participate in the event of the Rapture and pass into the coming Tribulation will continue to walk on the same path of rebellion against God because of their love for sin (John 3:19) and their failure to receive truth (2 Thess. 2:10; Rev. 16:9). However, at the same time, many hearts will also be softened during the End Times of the Tribulation Period.

Daniel 12:10 also prophetically speaks of the Tribulation Period and says: “Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.”

So here is the conclusion. Many people who are wicked will continue to be wicked during the Tribulation Period, but “many” will be “purified” in the merits of Christ’s blood and own righteousness during this terrible time. These are the multitudes of people who have not allowed their hearts to be completely hardened prior to the Rapture and during this future time period of judgment. They will give consideration to the Lamb (Jesus Christ) and His saving program for their lives during the Tribulation Period and through faith become a Tribulation saint during the End Times.

In summary, by the middle of the Tribulation Period, when the Antichrist makes his bold and blasphemous claim to be God (2 Thess. 2:4), those who have consistently hardened their hearts and resisted the truth of the Gospel for nearly three-and-one-half years will suffer God’s delusion and

believe the lie of the Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:10-11). They will refuse to believe despite the previous testimony of martyred saints (Rev. 6:9-11; 13:7), the 144,000 Jewish witnesses (Rev. 7), the angelic preacher (Rev. 14:6-7), and the message of the two witnesses which begins at the middle of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 11:1-6).

These same unsaved people will receive the mark of the beast and pass the point of no return (Rev. 14:9-11). Prior to this time, they will have had the opportunity to be saved like the millions of others who are martyred during the first half of the Tribulation (Rev. 6:9). They will have opportunity to be saved like millions of others who refuse to take the mark and come to faith in Christ during the second half of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 6:9; 7:14).

There is a lesson we can learn from this study. Repeatedly ignoring God's saving call and gracious message upon the heart can result in a calloused heart. An unsaved individual can become "past feeling" (Eph. 4:19) at any given point of time which means he can become numb to his sinful condition and his conscious is no longer bothered by sin (Acts 2:37). It does not matter whether a person is living prior to the Rapture (1 Tim. 4:2) or after the Rapture (2 Thess. 2:10-11). The question regarding the salvation of those who do not take part in the Rapture and who enter the Tribulation Period boils down to the hardness of their individual hearts toward the Gospel message that is being presented to them during the Tribulation.

The final verses in this study remind us of the importance of responding to the message of the Gospel while it is being impressed upon our hearts.

Jesus taught in John 12:36:

"While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light."

In other words, while the light or revelation of Christ and His salvation is being impressed upon your heart, believe it, receive it, and become a born-again Christian!

"Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee;
Sweetly the light has dawned upon me;
Once I was blind, but now I can see:
The Light of the world is Jesus!"

Isaiah 55:6 confirms this same truth:

“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.”

“Someday you’ll hear God’s Final Call to you
To take his offer of salvation true-
This could be it my friend if you but knew-
God’s Final Call, God’s Final Call.
If you reject God’s Final Call of grace,
You’ll have no chance your footsteps to retrace
All hope will then be gone and doom you’ll face.
God’s final call, O hear His call.”