

## **BEYOND HOPE**

**Gen.6:1-13**

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Yes, there are Bible passages which prove beyond doubt that some people, created in God's image, and the object of God's desire to save them from the damning guilt of their sins, may reach the point in their attitude and practice that they are beyond hope of salvation by the grace of God.
2. Yes, indeed, even God's saving grace is limited as to how far it will extend in dealing with sinful rebellion against his will.
3. Note with me some examples of those who reached the point they were beyond hope of the saving grace of God, and how they serve as a warning to us.

### **II. DISCUSSION**

#### **A. THE ANTEDILUVIAN WORLD AT THE TIME OF NOAH, Gen.6:1-13.**

1. As this record reveals, humanity, with the exception of one family, became so sinful, violent and corrupt that God in his righteous wrath destroyed them in their entirety except the one family.
2. This record reveals why and how it happened.
  - a. When men began to multiply on the face of the earth, the sons of God (the righteous) took wives of the sons of men (the wicked), Vv.1,2.
  - b. Influenced by such unholy choices in marriage they were eventually led into complete rebellion to God—to the point “that every imagination of the thoughts of the heart was only evil continually,” V.5.
    - (1) Marg.: “the whole imagination, with the purposes and desires of the heart”
    - (2) Think of Solomon and his choice of heathen, idolatrous wives.
  - c. “All flesh,” except Noah and his family, “had corrupted his way upon the earth,” V.12.

- d. And the earth was “filled with violence through (because) of them,” V.13.
- e. Thus they had reached the point they were beyond hope of salvation. “And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth...,”V.7.
- f. “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord,” V.8.
- g. The Antediluvian world as a whole reached the point, due to its long-practiced wickedness of such magnitude and attitude or hardness of heart, that God’s grace could not reach them – they were beyond hope of salvation by the grace of God and were destroyed by God’s righteous wrath!

**B. A SIMILAR CASE IS THAT OF ISRAEL WHO HAD REBELLED FOR SO LONG AND TO SUCH AN EXTENT “TILL THERE WAS NO REMEDY,” OR NO “HEALING” (marg.), 2Chr.36:14-16.**

- 1. When God delivered Israel from the Egyptian bondage, he promised and delivered into their possession the land that flowed “with milk and honey,” Exo.3:7,8,17; 13:5; Jer.11:1-5; 32:21,22; Josh.21:43-45; 24:13.
- 2. Their continued blessing of possessing and retaining possession of that land was conditional, Deut.11:26; Jer.25:8-11.
- 3. According to 2Cor.36:14-16, they continued to ignore God’s warning and pleadings till their rebellion led them to the point “till there was no remedy,” till the grace of God reached its limits, his wrath rose up against them, removing them from their cherished possession of the land that flowed “with milk and honey” and bringing them into 70 years of Babylonian captivity.

**C. ANOTHER CASE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING THE POINT OF BEING BEYOND HOPE IS THAT WHERE PAUL WARNS THE EPHESIANS IN Eph.4:17-19.**

- 1. He cautions them against walking or living as other Gentiles live, or as the heathen usually do. He says:
  - a. They walk or live in the vanity (futility, frivolity) of their minds, V.17.

- b. Having their understanding darkened, or their minds deprived of spiritual light; to be covered with darkness, V.18a.
  - c. Being alienated from the life of God through (because of) the ignorance that is (exists) in (among) them, V.18b.
  - d. Because of the blindness (stubbornness, of a dull spiritual perception, or a hardening ) of their heart, V.18c.
    - (1) Pharaoh is an example of one hardening his heart and being beyond hope as a result, Exo.5:2; 8:32; 10:28,29.
  - e. Who being past feeling, V.19a (“to be callous”; insensible to honor or shame). Cf. 1Tim.4:2, “seared”; “branded”
  - f. Giving themselves over unto (“have abandoned themselves to sensuality which leads to excessive practices of all sorts of immorality,” Williams), V.19b.
3. Cf. Heb.6:4-6; 10:26-31.

**D. THE SADDEST OF ALL PERHAPS IS THE CASE OF THOSE WHO MAY DIE WITHOUT HOPE THOUGH NEVER HAVING REACHED THE POINT IN THIS LIFE THAT THEY WERE BEYOND HOPE, AS WERE THOSE IN OUR PREVIOUS EXAMPLES, 1Th.4:13.**

- 1. The atheist dies without hope because he does not believe God is, Heb.11:6; Psa.14:1; 10:4: (Marg. “All his thoughts are, There is no God.”)
- 2. The infidel dies without hope because he does not believe Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, Jno.8:24.
  - a. Many of these are vain worshippers of God. See 1Jno.2:22,23; 4:2,3; 2Jno.3,9.
- 3. There are those, though professing the Lord as their Master and claiming to have acted in his name, or by his authority, who will die without hope, because they were in fact “workers of iniquity” or “lawless ones,” Mt.7:21-23.
  - a. This, no doubt, will include some members of the church, those who have obeyed the gospel, but are practicing sinners ignoring the Lord’s will in various areas without repenting of their sins.
  - b. Such as:

- (1) Divorcing their spouse without scriptural cause.
  - (2) Divorcing without scriptural cause and marrying another.
  - (3) Forsaking the assembling of the saints.
  - (4) Failing to give as prospered.
  - (5) Dressing immodestly.
  - (6) Compromising the truth.
  - (7) Remaining babes in Christ after sufficient time for spiritual growth to maturity.
  - (8) Reverting to the practices of the “old man”.
  - (9) Indifference, lukewarmness, and spiritual neglect.
  - (10) False religionists who profess Christ, but do not believe and obey his word.
4. Many will die without hope having never obeyed the gospel because of procrastination – knowing but not doing, 2Th.1:6-10; Cf. Ac.24:24,25; 26:28,29; Jno.13:17.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

1. We have cited two categories of those who die and have no hope of salvation beyond death.
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup>, those who, because of their own attitude of heart and practices in life, had reached the point that they were beyond hope of the saving grace of God being able to reach them even before they died.
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup>, those who die without hope of future salvation in spite of the fact that they never reached the point during their life time that they were beyond hope.
2. The sad fact however is that the end result in eternity is the same for those in each category; their eternal fate is the same; they are eternally lost; eternal destruction awaits all those in each category; they are eternally separated from God; they will be cast into a devil’s hell with him and his angels!