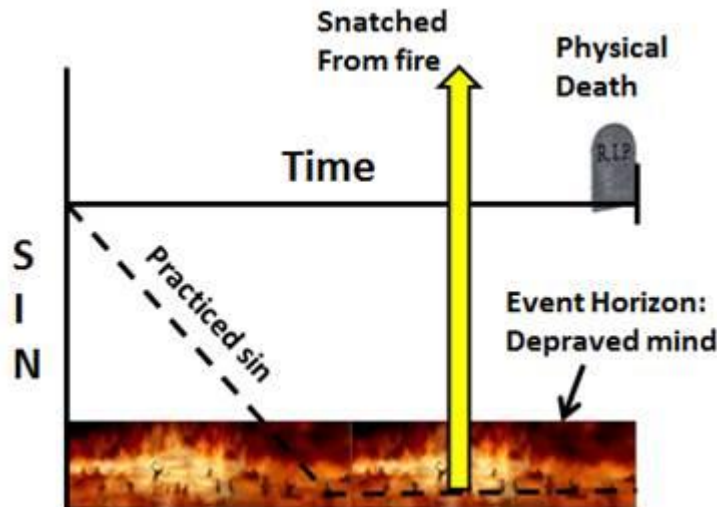


Pulled out of the Fire – March 7, 2017

Question: can a person who has lived their life in total sin steeped in the occult be saved right at the very end?

Answer: maybe for a few but the exception is not for the masses.

The below Sin versus Time chart shows one's (or a nation's) descent down to the lake of fire. People chose the descent because there is enjoyment of the "passing pleasure of sin" Heb11:25. The Time line is the length of a person's (nation's) life until the person or nation dies. Jesus has given a person/nation "time to repent" Rev2:21 and "to seek the Lord while he may be found" Is55:6 because "It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes the judgment" Heb9:27



The sin that causes the descent is "The lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life" 1Jn2:16. Jesus is sending his "servants the prophets" Jer35:15 While those persons/nations are going down the drain in the pleasure pit of sin. The prophets are "telling the people 'turn now every man from his evil way and amend your deeds'" "...but you [the people/nation] have not inclined your [their] ear or listened to me." Jer35:15

The people pass a threshold, the event horizon, of the black hole of sin. The point of no return by self to pull out of the cess pole by their own power. The people get what they desire "therefore God gave them over in the lust of their hearts to impurity" Rm1:24, "God gave them over to degrading passions" Rm1:26, "God gave them over to a depraved mind" Rm1:28 and "over to the stubbornness of their heart" Ps81:12 "to practice deeds of wickedness." Ps141:4

"Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death" Jm1:15 "and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same but also give hearty approval to those who practice them" Rm1:32

Jesus "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" 1Tim2:4 "not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." 2Pt3:9 That is why 2Tim2:25-26 stresses "if perhaps" in "if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will."

A Christian's duty is to try and prevent the person's/nation's ker-plunk into the flames by prayers and petitions *"If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death"* 1Jn5:16 [if they are doing sin leading to death then prayers and petitions are forbidden. An example of such sin is blaspheming the Holy Spirit Mk3:29].

Logic and reason doesn't work when the people/nation are in the state of sin because they are of a depraved mind. This is why prayers and petitions are needed to awaken them so that Jesus *"may give to you[them] a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him"* Eph1:17. Knowledge will lead to their confession of their sins *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins"* 1Jn1:9 because *"we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ"* 1Jn2:1. The person/nation once awoken and turned from sin will save that soul from death [*"he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death"* Jm5:20] thus *"snatching them out of the fire"* Jude1:23. If they were snatched out of the fire then they must have been roasting in it. A person is snatched from the fire, the person doesn't walk out by themselves.

"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it." Mt7:13. The on ramp back to the narrow road is not for the masses but it is possible for some that share one characteristic – someone prayed for them. The 3 to look at are Peter, Nebuchadnezzar and Israel.

1) **Peter.** The Apostle Peter was sifted by Satan, *"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat"* Lk22:31 and then later that night Peter denied Jesus 3 times. This was a big deal. It appears that Jesus cut Peter off of being a disciple when the angel said in Mk16:7 *"but go tell His disciples and Peter"*. Peter was separated from the body of Christ even though he was physically part of the group – spiritually – he was cut off. Jesus prayed for Peter's faith not to fail in Lk22:32 said *"I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."* You can only turn back if you first have turned away. Jesus led Peter back into the body by having Peter cancel those 3 denials with 3 affirmations that Peter loved Jesus in Jn21:15-17. Peter was snatched from the fire.

2) **Nebuchadnezzar.** Nebuchadnezzar was sifted by God. Nebuchadnezzar's pride caused his downfall. The Lord gave him over to a depraved mind and he became a beast in the field for 7 years.

Dan4:31-32 *'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, 32and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'*

Daniel and his companions prayed for Nebuchadnezzar because the prophet Jeremiah commanded it to be so in Jer29:7 *"seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf"* [this is backed up by 1Tim2:1-2 *"I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."*]. Nebuchadnezzar came to his senses and worshiped and praised the Lord in Dan4:34-35. Nebuchadnezzar was snatched from the fire.

3) **Israel.** The Israelite people coming out of Egypt *"were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;"* 1Cor10:2 but they fell into the flames of idolatry worship and the Lord gave the 10 tribes *"a writ of*

divorce” Jer3:8. Jesus snatched Israel out of the fire because “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law” Gal3:13 by his death on the cross.

When a person/nation is in the flames due to sin not leading to death then prayers and petitions for that person/nation “may” awaken them (maybe after a period of hardship and slavery).

Judas was “*a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it*” Jn12:6. Judas was a God robber because he stole the free will offerings of others (Mal3:8 “*Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed Thee?’ In tithes and offerings.*”). 2 other God robbers, Ananias and Sapphira, robbed God and lied to the Holy Spirit and they were killed – Acts5:3-5,9. Judas had already committed to betraying Jesus during the Passover meal – Jn13:2. Jesus gave Judas some bread after the meal and “*Satan then entered into him [Judas]*” Jn13:27.

1Cor11:27 and 29 shows the ramifications of eating the communion in an unworthy manner – guilty is sentenced over the person. Jesus called Judas “friend” Lk22:48 but Jesus couldn’t pray for Judas because Judas had already condemned himself. Judas was a man without a prayer and no protection and was thrown into a depression and grief that he killed himself (or was compelled by demons to kill himself).

1Cor11:27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

1Cor11:29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly.

Don’t stray from the narrow road, few ever find their way back.

Regards,

Called/Chosen + Hear + Believe + Repent + Confess + Baptize + Abide = Salvation -> Proclaim
Mt22:14 + Lk11:28 + Jn3:16 + Mk6:12 + Rm10:9 + Acts2:38 + Heb10:26 = 1 Pt 3:21 -> Mt28:19-20