

# LIVING WATERS NEWSLETTER

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## DOES GOD EVER GIVE UP ON MAN

Another way of saying this title is: "Can a man sin until there is no remedy?" Billy Graham in his newspaper column *"My Answer"* on August 8, 2015, was asked "Does God ever give up on sinners?" His answer: "No one is absolutely hopeless in God's eyes." However the Apostle Paul speaks of "the rest who have no hope" (I Thess. 4:13) and Proverbs 29:1 states: "A man who hardens his neck and after much reproof will suddenly be broken and there is no remedy." Before the Genesis flood "The Lord said, I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, for I am sorry I have made them... thus He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the land, from man to animals and every creeping things and to the birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left together with those with him in the ark" (Gen. 6:7, 7:23).

One of the great saints of Scripture was Noah, and awe-inspiring man. The Scriptures speak of Noah as "a just and upright man" (Gen. 6:9), "a preacher of righteousness" (II Peter 2:5), a man who was in covenant with God (Gen.6:18), and that he was "moved with fear" to faithfulness, whereby he "became heir of the righteousness which is by faith (Heb. 11:7). These early days of history of man were tyrannical, degenerate, and unbelieving, but the times are spoken of in I Peter 3:20 as "the days of Noah," not the days of unprecedented evil. Scottish writer, George Matheson, in his book *Representative Men of The Bible* first writes of Abel and Enoch then says of Noah, "The old conditions are there, the old struggle is there, but the result is different, it is now to be solved by the translation of the world. Hitherto, the only sequel has been the removal of the man from his environment, there is now introduced a new solution—the renewal of the environment to suit the man." Now to the point. When Noah set out to build the ark in obedience to God's command, he did not waste his time on the obvious. He did not document the corruption around him, whine and moan because of the world's condition or complain about how unjust the system was. He did not complain because God's only remedy was to destroy the world. In fact he didn't set out to change the system. He built the ark.

Another interesting story found in Genesis 18 & 19: Sodom and Gomorrah, God, Abraham, and Lot: God was about to destroy these cities because "their outcry has become so great before the Lord that He has sent us (two angels) to destroy it" (Gen. 19:13). Abraham then proposed that if he found fifty righteous in the cities would God spare them? The proposals continued and God told Abraham if he found ten righteous, He would not destroy the cities on account of the ten (Genesis 18:24-32). Verse 33 states: "As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the Lord departed and *Abraham returned to his place.*" In spite of God's offers, Abraham knew there was no remedy for the sins of the cities. *So Abraham returned to his place.*

If you believe God never gives up on man, then read the books of Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy again and note the following passages: Exodus 14:11,12: "Then they said to Moses, 'Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us

out of Egypt? ...Is not this the word we spoke to you in Egypt saying, 'leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians,' for it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than to die in the wilderness.'" Numbers 14:35,29, 32,33: "Your corpses shall fall in the wilderness, even "I the Lord have spoken, surely this is all I will do to this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me, *In the wilderness they shall be destroyed, and there shall they die!*"..."*your corpses will fall in the wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me*"...*But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness!*"...*Your sons shall be servants in the wilderness for forty years, in the wilderness, and they will suffer for your unfaithfulness, until your corpses lie in the wilderness.*" Psalm 106:26; "Therefore He swore to them, that He would cast them down in the wilderness." Hebrews 3:17: "And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?"

Even Moses had no immunity from punishment for sins committed in the wilderness. Deuteronomy 32:48-52; 34:5: "The Lord spoke unto Moses, saying, 'Go up to Mt Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, opposite Jericho, and look at the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the sons of Israel for a possession, then die on the mountain where you ascend, and be gathered to your people because you broke faith with Me in the midst of the sons of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, because you did not treat Me as holy in the midst of the sons of Israel. For you shall see the land at a distance. But you shall not go there, into the land I am giving to the sons of Israel'..." "So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. And He buried him in the valley of the land of Moab, but no man knows his burial place to this day." To quote George Matheson again: "The final scene is painted with dramatic boldness; Moses is buried in an unknown sepulcher by the hand of God alone. What is symbolized in the burial by the hand of God we need not inquire."

The Scripture concerning the fact of there being no remedy relative to the sin of the nation of Israel is the heart rendering words chronicling the captivity by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, recorded in II Chronicles 36:15-21. We quote some of these verses: "The Lord God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place; but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His word and scoffed at His prophets. Until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, *until there was no remedy.* Therefore He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old men or infirm; He gave them all into his hand. Those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, (Jer.29:10)

until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.”

At this point we will quote two passages that explains the reason for God’s dealing with Israel in wrath—Psalm 81:11,12: “But My people did not listen to My voice, and Israel did not obey Me. So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart, to walk in their own devices.” and Acts 7:39-42: Stephen speaking: “Our fathers were unwilling to be obedient to him, (Moses) but repudiated him and their hearts turned back to Egypt, saying to Aaron, ‘Make us gods who will go before us; for Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.’ At that time they made a calf and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and were rejoicing in the works of their hands, but God turned and delivered them up to serve the host of heaven: as it is written in the book of the prophets, ‘It was not to Me you offered victims and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness, was it O house of Israel.’”

This brings us to the New Testament. Matthew 15; 12-14: “Then the disciples came and said to him, ‘Do you not know the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement? But he answered and said, ‘Every plant which my heavenly Father did not plant will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind, and if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into the pit.’” Today’s religious world is characteristically being led by Pharisaical blind leaders. Jesus said to “*let them alone.*” This is an example of “God giving them over.” To “give them over” means God gave up on them and let them do what they wanted to do...no restraint. In Romans 1:18-32 the Apostle Paul, in describing unbelief and its consequences, three times states: “God gave them over.” Due to the fact many church members never read their Bibles we quote these verses without comment: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen being understood through what has been made, so they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks but became futile in their speculations and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise they became fools and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore *God gave them over* to the lust of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator. Who is blessed forever, Amen. For this reason *God gave them over* to degrading passions; for the women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to honor God any longer, *God gave them over* to a depraved mind to do the things not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 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.

II Thessalonians 2:10-12 is the last Passage we will consider: “And with all deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a *deluding influence* so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in wickedness.” The context of this statement is the revealing of the “*Man of Sin.*” We are not interested in discussing “*The Man of Sin*” here (We wrote an article entitled “*What About the Man of Sin*” in the April 2015 issue of *Living Waters Newsletter*). We quote it now because Paul uses the term “*deluding influence,*” and states: “because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved, for this reason God will send upon them a *deluding influence* so they will believe what is false, in order that they might be condemned, but took pleasure in wickedness.” *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon* defines the word “deluding” as “a wandering, a straying about, whereby, one led from the right way, roams hither and thither. In the N.T. mental straying, i.e. error.” The word is used seven times in the New Testament.

On this passage we quote Matt Slick in the October 7<sup>th</sup> issue of his newsletter *CARM*: “Why would God send a deluding influence on people so they would believe what is false? Paul is telling us that God is sending a deluding influence upon people who are already rejecting the truth (v. 10) so they would believe what is false regarding the coming ‘man of sin.’ God is not sending it upon those who believe the truth, but upon those who reject it. This is not wrong since they are already believing what is false. Their judgment is right because they did not believe the truth but had pleasure in wickedness (v.12). It is like God is saying, ‘You want to follow lies and wickedness? Okay, believe your lies.’” The same thing can be said concerning Romans 1:20-32). God has the right to execute judgment upon all who would believe lies and seek wickedness.

The scripture gives further reasons for this type of behavior we have been discussing. “Being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart, they have become callus, having given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.” (Eph. 4:18, 19). “They even sacrificed their sons and daughters to the demons, and shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, when they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was polluted with blood, (a description of today’s abortion industry). Thus they became unclean in their practices and played the harlot in their deeds. Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against His people, and He abhorred His inheritance. Then He gave them over to the hand of the nations, and those who hated them ruled over them” (Psalm 106:37-40). “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, he shall also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption. But the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life” (Galatians 6:7,8).

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## NOTICE

**Due to illness in our family we will not be printing *the Living Waters Newsletter* for the next few months. Thanks for your support.**  
Harry