

**shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

The sun being darkened, and the moon not giving her light, and the stars of heaven falling, as described in Matthew 24:29 and Mark 13:24-25, coincides with the visible return of Christ as the Judge of all the earth at the **Last Day**. Verses that show this connection include Joel 2:1-11; Rev. 6:12-14; Joel 3:14-17; Isaiah 24:17-23; and Isaiah 13:9-13. These verses also speak of a great earthquake and other supernatural phenomena in the heavens. And these events shall **IMMEDIATELY** follow the Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:29).

**None of these post Great Tribulation events occurred in 2011.**

Let's look at two passages that speak about **the door to salvation being shut** and can be shown to identify with **the Resurrection and Rapture at the Last Day**. Luke 13:23-28 speaks about Christ returning and **shutting the door to salvation** in verse 25 and in verses 26-27 those who are shut out are saying Lord, Lord, and demanding to be let in. The key verse is verse 28, **There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.** *When will these events occur? And when will the unsaved see Abraham, Isaac, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-57 teach that the Resurrection and Rapture of all whom God has saved shall occur when Christ returns. And these events will be witnessed by the unsaved (Revelation 11:12).

John 6:39, 40, 44, 54 clearly teach that this **Resurrection is the Last Day**.

Matthew 25:6-12 is the parable of the Ten Virgins. In verse 6 we read: **And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out** [of

spiritual Babylon, the local congregations] **to meet him**. **Midnight** can be shown to identify with God's judgment coming down on the churches in accordance with 1 Peter 4:17 **For the time is come that judgment must begin with the house of God**. This verse signifies the cry that was published throughout the world in the months leading up to May 21, 2011, and that is still being declared today. The key verse is Matt 25:10, **And while they** [foolish virgins] **went to buy, the bridegroom** [Christ] **came; and they that were ready went in with him** [Christ] **to the marriage; and the door was shut**. The marriage union between Christ and the believers, as described in Ephesians 5:30-32, can only come to full fruition at the **Resurrection of the Last Day** when the believers shall have received their resurrected, spiritual bodies that are compatible with Christ's body in every sense of the word, as 1 John 3:2 declares, **...we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is**. Revelation 19:7 picks up on this language and declares: **Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready**. This is called the **marriage supper of the Lamb** in Revelation 19:9 and the **supper of the great God** in Revelation 19:17. The marriage supper consists of the true believers with Christ eating the flesh of all the unsaved (v18), which is figurative language referring to the final judgment that culminates with the beast and the false prophet being cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone, and the remnant being slain with the sword of the Word of God.

**In these two passages, we see that the door to salvation is shut at the time of the Resurrection and Rapture of believers and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. These are simultaneous events occurring at the Last Day.**

Luke 11:5-13 is another passage that speaks about the door to salvation being shut. Like Matthew 25:10, it is in the setting of **midnight**, which refers to this present Great Tribulation when judgment has come down on the churches. The theme of this parable and the verses that follow is established in the first four verses of Luke 11, where we have the **Lord's Prayer**. This prayer at its core is a **prayer for salvation**: forgive us our sins, and, lead us not into temptation (or, trial); but deliver us from evil (the evil of our sins, which leads to death).

Christ then illustrates this prayer with a strange parable in which the question is asked (Luke 11:5,6), **Which of you shall have a friend and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?** The Friend to whom the one making the request for three loaves is coming, represents the Lord Jesus Christ, who in the Bible is called a Friend of publicans and sinners (Matthew 11:19). The request, **"lend me three loaves: for a friend of mine in his journey is come to me"**, is making reference to the need for Christ, who is the bread of life and the author of our salvation. The statement on the part of the one making the request, **"and I have nothing to set before him"**, is telling in that it speaks to the no-more-salvation teaching of our day. It is as though he is saying, **I have no gospel to set before him**. In the absence of the hope of salvation, there are no "glad tidings," only death and the grave. In verse 7, the answer of the Friend from within reflects the current no-more-salvation teaching, as he responds, **"Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee"**. This is precisely what those who are teaching no-more-salvation are saying. **It is as though God set up this parable for the express purpose of countermanding the no-more-salvation teaching of our day**, because in verse 8, we read, **"I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity He will rise and give him as many as he needeth."** The word "importunity" is a compound Greek word conveying the idea of **shameless persistence**. Perhaps the best example of this shameless persistence is blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52, who sat begging in the highway as Jesus passed by, saying, **"Jesus thou Son of David, have mercy on me... that I might receive my sight"**. In that setting, Christ did not rebuke Bartimaeus, but rather gave him his sight, a picture of salvation coming to someone who is spiritually blind. In Luke 11: 9-13, Christ explains the message of the parable, **And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened**. Christ is teaching that as we come to God asking, knocking, seeking, his promise is...we shall

find, we shall receive, it shall be opened unto us. These are promises of God. Elsewhere the Bible teaches, **"thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart."** Christ then uses human examples to show that even as a father will not give a stone to his son who is asking for bread, or a serpent for a fish, or a scorpion for an egg, **"how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit give to them that ask him?"** **The giving of the Holy Spirit is part and parcel with salvation. The giving of the Holy Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession** Eph1:14 Those who teach no-more-salvation would seek to drain Luke 11:5-13 of its true importance by saying that the one who is receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit was already saved at some point prior to May 21, 2011 and was later drawn by the Lord to a knowledge of salvation perhaps years later. Such a teaching of "delayed drawing" is contrary to the very Nature of Salvation declared throughout the Bible which clearly teaches that **when we become saved, we are a new creation in Christ: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new** (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Bible calls this the **first resurrection** in Revelation 20:5-6. **We have been raised together and seated in the heavenlies with Christ** (Ephesians 2:6). We have many examples of salvation including Saul of Tarsus who later became the apostle Paul in Acts 9 and of Cornelius the centurion in Acts 11 to show that **salvation results in a dramatic and immediate change** in one's personality because at the moment of salvation we have received a **new Resurrected Soul so that in our soul, as we read in 1 John 3:9, Whosoever is born of God of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God**. **So we see, brethren, in this very unique parable the teaching that no matter how improbable salvation may seem, we should never cease coming to God seeking His mercy in salvation for ourselves and those for whom we are concerned. And our prayers will assuredly be answered in accordance with His will.**

The entire chapter of Isaiah 60 is a beautiful passage speaking about God's Salvation Program focused on our day. In Isaiah 60:10,11 we read, **...the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister**

unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee. Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night. And in Genesis 8:22, God declares, **While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.** Seedtime and harvest relate directly to salvation, and comparing with Isaiah 60:11, God is effectively teaching, **thy gates (of salvation) shall remain open continually while the earth remaineth.** God reinforces this in Jeremiah 31:35-36 by making reference to the ordinances that govern the sun, the moon, and the stars, God's celestial clock, saying they shall never depart from before me. They are placed by God as timekeepers.

**So is there hope for salvation today? Indeed, there is!**

God gives us a tremendous example in the salvation of Nineveh in Jonah 3 of how God is saving in our day.

**And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.**

Nineveh was completely outside the nation of Israel. There was no religious protocol, no ceremonial law system, no priests, no Word of God as we have it. In that regard Nineveh typifies those today who are completely outside the churches, who have nothing going for them spiritually speaking. They had no religious experience or knowledge of doctrine.

**So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto**

**God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.**

God had prepared their hearts to humble themselves and repent. And they did because God had saved them.

We read in Matthew 12:41 **The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.**

We read in Jonah 4:11, **And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and *also* much cattle?** God did not destroy the city because He still had many left to save...**much cattle.**

In this account of Jonah we see a very striking parallel to the May 21, 2011 declaration of Judgment Day in the salvation of Nineveh, that great city, that wicked city. Jonah was instructed by God to declare to the people of Nineveh that the city would be destroyed in 40 days. Yet He did it not. Was God lying to Jonah? Of course not! It is simply that God chose not to reveal His complete plan to Jonah at that time, which of course is entirely God's prerogative.

Likewise, prior to May 21, 2011 the call went out to the world that Judgment Day would be May 21, 2011. God prepared the hearts of many in the world to repent. And God saved a great many who did repent. And so, like with Nineveh, God did not return to initiate Judgment Day because He still has many remaining to be saved...**much cattle.** That was (and is) God's plan all along. Was God lying when all of the prophecies of the Bible seemed to coalesce on May 21, 2011 as the day Christ would return and salvation would end? No, of course not! God simply chose not to reveal His complete salvation plan to the True Believers at that time. In the Bible, the believers are spoken of as **sheep**, and Christ is the good shepherd. When God speaks of **much cattle**, God is speaking of the salvation of our day. That was God's plan all along, as God continues to reveal new spiritual truth today.

The salvation of Nineveh is a unique and outstanding illustration of the mercy that God is presently showing to those who are outside the churches, whose hearts God is preparing, even as God prepared the hearts of the people of Nineveh. And in this account God is also showing us how we are to approach God, with a broken and contrite heart, in **the very real Hope that He might save us.**

This tract is a condensed version of a much more comprehensive Bible study on this subject available from SearchingHisWord.com and ZionInTravail.com which demonstrates beyond any question that **the door to salvation shall remain open continually, as long as True Believers remain to send forth the True Gospel, until the Last Day, when we shall see Christ coming with ten thousands of his saints to Resurrect and Rapture His Elect, incorruptible, in the sight of their enemies. Only then can the marriage of the Bride and the Lamb come to full fruition; only then can the marriage supper of the Lamb, which is the final judgment, take place.**

The only environment where God is NOT saving today is within the churches, which have come under the judgment of God in accordance with 1 Peter 4:17, and there are no exceptions. The Bible suggests that today, a far *greater* number of people are being saved *outside* the churches than have ever been saved during any other period in history. The declaration of the Bible, **“Behold, there are last which shall be first, and first which shall be last,”** applies directly to our day. The salvation of 120,000 Ninevites is a dramatic illustration of the salvation going on today outside the churches, demonstrating that God requires neither time nor an understanding of doctrine to accomplish salvation. All that is required is the presence of the Holy Spirit to give spiritual ears to hear.

For those concerned for their salvation, God declares in Joel 2:12-14: **Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God? Praise God for so great salvation!**

## Is God Still Saving?

**Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought:** Isaiah 60:11

There exists today a group teaching that Christ returned spiritually on May 21, 2011 and ushered in the Day of Judgment during which God has shut the door to salvation and that salvation is no longer possible. Sadly, in arriving at their no-more-salvation conclusion, this group has violated the fundamental rule of Bible interpretation. That is...**we may never isolate Bible verses, either from their immediate context or from the rest of the Bible, and we must harmonize our conclusions with the whole Bible.** In approaching the Bible with their no-more-salvation premise, they have developed several false teachings that will not harmonize with what the Bible declares about the nature of God's Salvation and Judgment Program, the return of Christ, the Resurrection and Rapture of True Believers, the beginning of the Day of Judgment, and the sequence and timing of these events.

Both Matthew 24 and Mark 13 speak about the same events that characterize a single Great Tribulation period where God's Judgment has fallen upon the local Churches and Congregations (1 Peter 4:17), True Believers are commanded to come out of the churches, and God is preparing the world for final Judgment as wickedness multiplies. Both of these accounts also speak about the events that will signal the end of the Great Tribulation, the beginning of Judgment Day, and the end of salvation. These events are 1) the visible return of Christ, 2) the Rapture of all True Believers, 3) the beginning of Judgment Day, and 4) the physical destruction of this sin-cursed earth. These events are both spiritual and very physical.

In Matthew 24:27 we read about the return of Christ, **For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

Then in verses 29-31, **Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon**