

It's All About Repentance

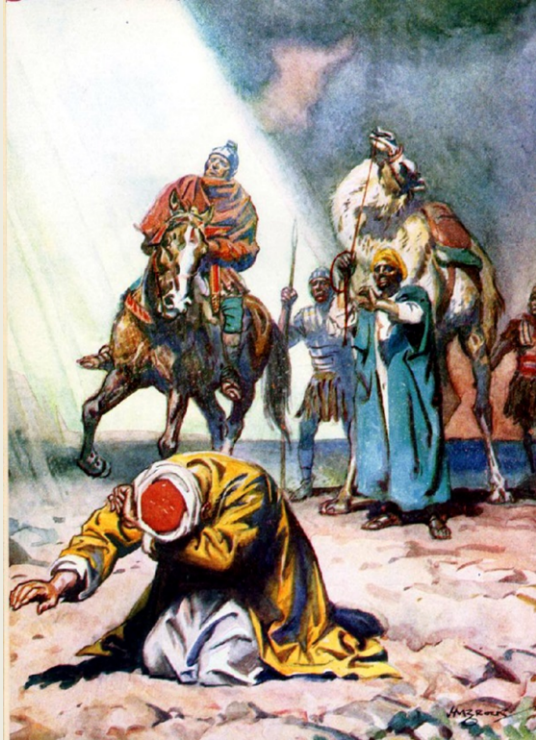
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Additional Scripture: Mark 1:14-15; Mark 2:17; Luke 10:9-16; Luke 13:1-5; Luke 18:9-14; Luke 24:44-45; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:13-19, 20-26

- 1) The Pharisee Saul was blinded for 3 days and then healed. Why? To bring him to repentance.**

Acts 9:1 - 18 (NKJV) ¹Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him



from heaven. ⁴Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” ⁵And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It *is* hard for you to kick against the goads.” ⁶So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord *said* to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

⁷And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. ⁸Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought *him* into

Damascus. ⁹And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹So the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the



house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. ¹²And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting *his* hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." ¹³Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." ¹⁷And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

What about us? What has God done in our lives to bring us to repentance? Who of us would be here today if God had not brought us to our knees in humility and to a point where we were willing to repent and be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit? We have our own story of how God brought about events in our lives to bring us to repentance and baptism, but the story doesn't end there does it. It didn't for Paul and it didn't for us either.

- 2) It is the same for nations as well. Israel and Judah are to go through the time of Jacob's trouble, a time worse than any other, which means a time worse than the holocaust. Why? To bring them to repentance.

Jeremiah 30:4 - 11 (NKJV) ⁴Now these *are* the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah. ⁵"For thus says the Lord: 'We have heard a voice of trembling, Of fear, and not of peace. ⁶Ask now, and see, Whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man *with* his hands on his loins Like a woman in labor, And all faces turned pale? ⁷Alas! For that day *is* great, So that none *is* like it; And it *is* the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it. ⁸'For it shall come to pass in that day,' Says the Lord of hosts, '*That* I will break his yoke from your neck, And will burst your bonds; Foreigners shall no more enslave them. ⁹But they shall serve the Lord their God, And David their king, Whom I will raise up for them. ¹⁰'Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,' says the Lord, 'Nor be dismayed, O Israel; For behold, I will save you from afar, And your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, And no one shall make *him* afraid. ¹¹For I *am* with you,' says the Lord, 'to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.'

Ezekiel 5:1 - 4 (NKJV) ¹“And you, son of man, take a sharp sword, take it as a barber’s razor, and pass *it* over your head and your beard; then take scales to weigh and divide the hair. ²You shall burn with fire one-third in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are finished; then you shall take one-third and strike around *it* with the sword, and one-third you shall scatter in the wind: I will draw out a sword after them. ³You shall also take a small number of them and bind them in the edge of your *garment*. ⁴Then take some of them again and throw them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire. From there a fire will go out into all the house of Israel.

Does God succeed in bringing Israel and Judah to repentance?

Isaiah 51:4 - 11 (NKJV) ⁴“Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest As a light of the peoples. ⁵My righteousness *is* near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me, And on My arm they will trust. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished. ⁷“Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, You people in whose heart *is* My law: Do not fear the reproach of men, Nor be afraid of their insults. ⁸For the moth will eat them up like a garment, And the worm will eat them like wool; But My righteousness will be forever, And My salvation from generation to generation.” ⁹Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord! Awake as in the ancient days, In the generations of old. *Are You not the arm* that cut Rahab apart, *And* wounded the serpent? ¹⁰*Are You not the One* who dried up the sea, The waters of the great deep; That made the depths of the sea a road For the

redeemed to cross over? ¹¹So the ransomed of the Lord shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; Sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

- 3) The gentile nations go through the 7 last trumpets and the 7 last plagues. Why? To bring them to repentance. But is that enough to bring them to repentance?

Revelation 9:20 - 21 (NKJV) ²⁰But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. ²¹And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

It takes more to bring the Gentile nations to repentance. Christ must return, remove Satan and defeat the Nation's armies before they finally repent.

Zechariah 14:1-4 NKJV Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. (2) For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. (3) Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. (4) And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

Zechariah 14:16 NKJV And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against

Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Finally, the Nations repent and begin to worship God.

- 4) What about King Saul and King David? Both Kings started out so well, both were given the Holy Spirit and yet both did some really bad things and had bad things happen to them. Why? To bring them to repentance.

Psalms 51:1 - 19 (NKJV) ¹Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. ³For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin *is* always before me. ⁴Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, *And* blameless when You judge. ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. ⁶Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom. ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸Make me hear joy and gladness, *That* the bones You have broken may rejoice. ⁹Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit. ¹³*Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You. ¹⁴Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, *And* my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise. ¹⁶For You do not desire sacrifice, or

else I would give *it*; You do not delight in burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise. ¹⁸Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

How many realize that God took his Holy Spirit away from King Saul?

1 Samuel 16:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him.

What was the difference between King Saul and King David? Both committed terrible sins while they had the Holy Spirit, but King David truly repented and King Saul refused to repent and hence the Holy Spirit was taken from him.

5) Moses, after all that he did and accomplished was denied access to the Promised Land. Why? To bring him to repentance.

Numbers 20:10 - 12 (NKJV) ¹⁰And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” ¹¹Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. ¹²Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”

You may be thinking, well that's a minor sin, why would God punish Moses so harshly for that? I think God was trying to make it clear to Moses and to us, there is NO minor sin with God. Now there are sins worse than others because some sins affect more people than others, but NO sin is acceptable to God. God punished Moses for this sin to bring him to repentance. Just as he does us.

6) Job was called blameless and upright by God himself and yet suffered terribly. Why? To bring him to repentance.

Job 2:3 - 10 (NKJV) ³Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.” ⁴So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” ⁶And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he *is* in your hand, but spare his life.” ⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. ⁹Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!” ¹⁰But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

We as Christians can think we are blameless and upright, but there are no doubt areas in our lives where we need to repent and Job needed to repent. Did God bring Job around to repentance?

Job 42:1 - 6 (NKJV) ¹Then Job answered the Lord and said:
²“I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of
Yours can be withheld from You. ³You asked, ‘Who is this
who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have
uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for
me, which I did not know. ⁴Listen, please, and let me speak;
You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ “I
have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye
sees You. ⁶Therefore I abhor *myself*, And repent in dust and
ashes.”

*That’s what these Days of Unleavened Bread are all about.
To remind us, even as Christians, we need to repent.*

7) The Church in the latter days is going to suffer greatly at
the hand of Satan. Why? To bring them to repentance.

Revelation 13:5 - 8 (NKJV) ⁵And he was given a mouth
speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given
authority to ^εcontinue for forty-two months. ⁶Then he
opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme
His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷It
was granted to him to make war with the saints and to
overcome them. And authority was given him over
every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸All who dwell on the earth
will worship him, whose names have not been written in the
Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the
world.

Why would God allow such a thing against his people?

Revelation 3:14 - 19 (NKJV) ¹⁴“And to the angel of the
church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the
Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the
creation of God: ¹⁵“I know your works, that you are neither

cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

8) Satan and his demons are bound for 1,000 years and then release. Why? To show us, they refuse to repent.

Revelation 20:1 - 3 (NKJV) ¹Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ²He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

Revelation 20:7 - 10 (NKJV) ⁷Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. ⁹They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false

prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

I believe Satan and his demons could repent and be forgiven if they wanted to, but they absolutely refuse to repent, even if it means being thrown into Hell for eternity. Sad.

9) The Great White throne judgement, people are resurrected. Why? To bring them to repentance.

Revelation 20:11 - 15 (NKJV) ¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

We believe as the Bible teaches that people do not go straight to heaven or hell at death, because people are not judged at death. No, those who were not called to be firstfruits are not judged until the Great White Throne judgment and will be given an opportunity as we are today to repent of their sins and be forgiven. That is such a precious Truth God has given to his Church and no other.

10) What about us? Compared to our former lives before we took that plunge of baptism, we might even seem blameless and upright like Job, but we still have sin in our

lives, don't we? That's what the days of Unleavened Bread are all about isn't it? It's not a time for looking at others and finding their sins, but looking in the mirror and into God's word and finding our own faults and trying with the help of God to convert to righteousness. When God removes our filthy rags of sin at Passover, do we replace them with white garments of righteousness or do we go around naked?

Zechariah 3:3 - 7 (NKJV) ³Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. ⁴Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes." ⁵And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by. ⁶Then the Angel of the Lord admonished Joshua, saying, ⁷"Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'If you will walk in My ways, And if you will keep My command, Then you shall also judge My house, And likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk Among these who stand here.

Revelation 19:6 - 8 (NKJV) ⁶And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

We know that our righteous acts do not save us, although we are accused of believing that because we believe as scripture teaches that Christians are expected to be

converting their evil acts to righteous acts with the Holy Spirit.

Do you know what you create when you make someone believe Grace covers all their sins and they have not need to ever repent? You create a monster, that will sin with no remorse, believing all their evil actions are forever covered by Christ. They don't know scripture.

Hebrews 10:26 - 31 (NKJV) ²⁶For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know Him who said, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord. And again, "*The Lord will judge His people.*" ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

We as Christians must continue the struggle and defeat of sin in our lives with the help of God's Holy Spirit. The Days of Unleavened Bread are all about repentance. He who has ears to hear let the hear.

Appendix:

- 1. Today traditional Christianity does not really teach repentance. Just say a little prayer and continue living a sinful life. The Bible does not teach this.***

Ezekiel 13:22 NKJV "Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NKJV (9) Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, (10) nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Notice and such WERE some of you. It's not that you can't have a sinful past, it's that you must repent and turn from evil to be a part of God's Kingdom.