

Who Are The Lost?

None are lost but those who will **not** trust in what God the Father has done for all humanity through His Only Son, Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 [New King James] *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

It is not unreasonable with such an inspired statement that God will provide an opportunity for every human being who has ever lived to respond to the gospel message that Jesus Christ brought from God the Father.

Since most people die before they hear this good news, it is not unreasonable to conclude that God will also provide such an opportunity for them even after they die.

John 3:17 [New King James] *“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”*

God has demonstrated His will for all humanity by sending Jesus Christ, His will is **not** that the world be condemned, however evil it has been throughout its history. But that it is saved from the deserved penalty of such conduct, [**Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23**].

1 John 2:1-2 [New King James] *“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”*

The Greek word translated “propitiation” is “hilasmōs” meaning that sin is covered or remitted.

Jesus Christ is the personal means by Whom God shows mercy to a sinner who believes in Jesus Christ being the One provided by God the Father.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 [New King James] *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

God the Father and our Saviour Jesus Christ graciously desire that all humans will eventually know the truth as to why they exist, that is as objects of God’s love and grace.

The Word of God, the Christian Bible, inspired by the Holy Spirit, who is God, shows us that the whole Triune Godhead love the human beings they all had a part in creating, [**Genesis 1:26-27**].

2 Peter 3:9 [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

God longs for all human beings to repent, that is, turn to Him, to experience Him for who He really is as their Creator, Sustainer, Deliverer, Redeemer, Heavenly Father and Friend.

All the Triune Godhead desire all humans to receive the gift of eternal life, [**Romans 6:23**] and to dwell with Him eternally within an intimate relationship, [**John 17:3**].

Saviour and Judge –

Hebrews 9:27-28 [New King James] *“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”*

The only way to read into this passage of scripture the idea of automatic damnation for all who die without the understanding of the message that Jesus Christ brought to all humanity from God the Father, is to begin with that very assumption.

This passage of scripture does **not** say this, it does **not** even address the question.

It simply says that judgement follows our death.

It says nothing about what that judgement might include.

It says nothing about whether God will allow people to come to trust Him after they die and are resurrected back to human life.

Acts 17:30-31 [New King James] *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”*

Not only will the whole world be judged in righteousness, but the judge will be none other than the Saviour of all humanity, [**John 5:22**].

If anyone wants assurance that the Triune Godhead is serious about all this forgiving and reconciliation of all humans, all we need to notice is that God raised the judge from the dead after all the people who need forgiveness and redemption, [that is all of us] murdered Him on the cross.

God will **not** be thwarted in His faithfulness to His covenant to be our God and we His people, [**1 Peter 2:9-10; Romans 11:1**].

Revelation 21:1-4 [New King James] *“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’”*

This is a description of the end product for all God’s people.

Revelation 20:1-3 [New King James] *“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and 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.”*

The evil being who has encouraged and prompted all human beings to sin, from the time of Adam and Eve to this present time, will be restrained.

No longer blinding humanity to God’s love and mercy, [2 Corinthians 4:4].

Then all who are among the “*firstborn*” [**Romans 8:29**] to be true Christians will begin to teach and guide all who have lived through the “*tribulation*” that will come on all the earth at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, [**Matthew 24:21-22**].

Revelation 20:4-6 [New King James] *“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”*

This is the first phase of the gospel message of God’s love and mercy being offered to people who have **never** heard it before.

Revelation 20:7-10 [New King James] *“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and 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. They 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. The 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.”*

This is the description of Satan’s final time of world deception and rule over human beings, [**1 John 5:19**].

Finally we see the time of teaching and judgement of all who have died without ever hearing the name of Jesus Christ their only Saviour.

Revelation 20:11-13 [New King James] *“Then 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. And 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. The 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.”*

This includes all mentioned in **verses 7-9, “Gog and Magog,” people who on the very extremes of the physical world, showing that no human is overlooked, also a people who are in total hostility towards God’s people, [Ezekiel 38:1-18].**

Revelation 20:14 [New King James] *“Then death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire ...”*

What does this mean?

Hebrews 2:14 [New King James] *“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,”*

Jesus Christ’s sacrifice and resurrection destroyed the power over death that Satan used to enslave people to him.

This will no longer be an influencing force in the final judgement of Jesus Christ.

We find two great truths of human destiny attested continually in scripture.

1 All, that is every human being, gets judged by God, no exceptions.

2 Jesus Christ is the judge, [2 Corinthians 5:10-12].

Jesus Christ is no ordinary judge.

This judge holds the universe in place every moment by power of His Words, [Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:3].

This judge not only gives existence to every human being, He became like us [John 1:1-4, 14] for the express purpose of forgiving us all crimes against us by sacrificing His life that is of more value than all He created.

This judge draws all people, eventually, through His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead.

This is no ordinary judge!

The judge is perfectly fair and just, [Isaiah 19:6-7] but **not** only fair and just, because that would leave every human being eternally dead.

This judge's fairness and justice are overpowered by His perfect mercy, [Hosea 6:6; Matthew 9:13; Matthew 12:7; James 2:13].

Judgement Day –

Imagine you are standing in the Court of the Universe, waiting with a pounding heart for the judge of all things to walk in and pass judgement on you.

You had never really taken seriously the idea of a final judgement.

You had heard people talk about God and such, but it never really meant anything to you.

Now for the first time you realise there really an accounting to be given for the life you have lived.

Your breath is shallow, and rapid.

Sweat is trickling down your spine.

Your eyes focus on the signs above two doors behind the bench.

One clearly reads, "*exit for perfectly sinless and righteous saints.*"

The other very clearly reads, "*exit for all others.*"

Flooding through your mind right now is a hideous kaleidoscope of all your lies, lusts, meanness, betrayals, selfishness and greed.

You know you have no hope, you feel numb, and hear yourself groan.

Then the judge walks in and takes His throne.

His presence overwhelms you.

He is nothing you could have expected.

The whole courtroom seems to come alive in response to Him.

He is the definition of power and authority, yet He radiates peace, serenity and love.

He is so compelling that your thoughts are no longer on yourself and your dread.

Your body relaxes, an unexpected peace and joy bubbles up from the centre of your being.

As awesome as He appears you suddenly long to be accepted by Him and not have to live another moment without Him.

You know that whatever His verdict, it will be good, and you are no longer afraid of anything.

“How do you plead?” the judge asks.

His voice seems to draw the truth out of you.

“Guilty,” you respond, and as you do so, you realise two things at once, that you are deeply ashamed of your sinful life, and you know already that the judge has dropped all charges against you.

Your shame melts into grateful tears of joy and peace of heart as you receive His life-giving gaze into the depth of your whole being.

“Guilty of what?” the judge asks, “There does not seem to be any record against you,” [Isaiah 43:25]. “Are you ready to join in the celebrations?” [Revelation 19:9].

Or of course, you could plead **not** guilty and try to argue your case, demanding to demonstrate your righteousness and being worthy of eternal life.

Or you could simply tell God to leave you alone, and keep His gospel message, you do not need it, you want to be your own master and fend for yourself.

Your only exit from the court would be through the *“Exit for all others”* door into a dark future with no hope.

Even if you don't like my little tale of Jesus Christ's courtroom, the point is that if we do admit our sins our Saviour/judge is fully willing to forgive us and allow us to enter into the very Creator God's created family.

Sad to say, the Word of God, the Christian Bible, tells us that some humans will not accept the grace and love of the Creator God and our future King.

They will **not** trust the Son of God and His Father.

Nor could there be no greater tragedy, indeed, no greater stupidity, than for guests invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb to reject God's free gift of grace in favour of their own pitiful and miserable attempt to make this physical life worthwhile.

Matthew 22:1-13 [New King James] *“And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, ‘See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.’” But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, “The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.” So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, “Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding*

garment?” And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

This is the sad account of all who in their self-righteousness and personal pride, do **not** consider they need the mercy and grace of the Creator God.

Matthew 25:1-13 [New King James] *“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”*

In this parable of another group of people who miss out on the marriage of the Lamb.

This time it is the lack of preparation for the event by **not** allowing the Holy Spirit [depicted by oil for their lamps] to generate in them all the qualities that the bride of Jesus Christ must have to be wearing the pure white wedding dress, [**Revelation 19:7-8; Matthew 22:11**].

It is only when we surrender our lives now to our Saviour as a “*living sacrifice*” that the Holy Spirit will develop these qualities in our lives.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

The Holy Spirit will then fulfil His work in us.

John 16:7-8 [New King James] *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”*

Convict us of sin and the need for God’s forgiving grace, [**Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8**].

Show us what is true acceptable righteousness, [**Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24**].

Remind us that we will be judged by our Saviour at the end of our physical life, [**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10**].

Notice it tells us that every human being will have the chance of the Holy Spirit preparing us for judgement, by producing within us the “*fruits*” of the Holy Spirit, which are the very characteristics of the Holy Triune God Whom we are to worship.

This will complete the two-phase plan of the Creator God.

Genesis 1:26-27 [New King James] *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

“*Image*” means shadow or resemblance and “*likeness*” is character which involves time and relationship with the One whom we wish to emulate.

2 Peter 3:9 [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

Our Creator God does not want anyone to reject His plan for humanity.

We **only** become “*lost*” by making the wrong choice of rejecting our Creator God.