

QUESTION: What does it mean where Jesus said "He who endures to the end shall be saved"?

ANSWER: The first rule of Biblical interpretation is to look at the context; to whom is Jesus speaking, what time frame is He referring to, etc. This statement of Jesus is recorded two times in the Scriptures, in Matthew 10:22 and Matthew 24:13, and **both are referring to the END of the world**, just before Jesus returns (the Second Coming). In Matthew 10, Jesus just makes a quick reference to the end times and His second coming, but in Matthew 24 He goes into more detail.

- **Matthew 10:21-23** "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to **the END** will be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel **before the Son of Man comes.**"
- **Matthew 24:6-16** "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but **the END is not yet.** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences (epidemics of disease), and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows (labor pains). Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to **the END** shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, **and THEN the END will come.** When you therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (in the temple in Jerusalem).....then let those who are IN JUDEA flee to the mountains...."

There are four things we need to consider in examining these Scriptures:

- 1.) What does Jesus mean by "the end"?
- 2.) Are those who endure to the end saved BECAUSE they endure, or do they endure BECAUSE they are already truly saved?
- 3.) What is meant by the word "saved"?
- 4.) To whom, or to what group of people, is He speaking?

1.) What does Jesus mean by "the end"?

Jesus was answering the disciples' question, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the **SIGN of Your coming, and of the END of the AGE?**" (Matt. 24:3). Matthew 10:23 tells us that Jesus is talking about what things will be like, and what kind of persecution there will be **"before the Son of Man comes."** In Matt. 24:6-9, Jesus is speaking of "all these things [that] must come to pass, but **the END** is not yet." All these things will be leading up to His Second Coming, and they will increase and become more severe, just as labor pains in a woman about to give birth.

At the time of the Great Tribulation, just before Jesus returns to the earth, He says, ".....he who endures to **the END** shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, **and THEN the END will come.**" The gospel of the kingdom, first announced by an angel, will be preached to the whole world by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists during the seven-year Tribulation, and then the END will come. Read Revelation 13:7-10, Rev. 14:1-13, & Rev. 20:4 to see how these Tribulation Saints will suffer persecution and be killed during the end times, especially because they will not take the "Mark of the Beast" on their hands or forehead. Those who ENDURE to the END of the Tribulation without taking the Mark of the Beast are the TRUE BELIEVERS!

- **Rev. 14: 1,6 & 12-13** "Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand (144,000), having His Father's name written on their foreheads..... And I saw another angel.....having the EVERLASTING GOSPEL to PREACH to those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and people..... Here is **the perseverance (endurance, steadfastness) of the saints who KEEP the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus**, and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me," Write, Blessed are the DEAD which DIE in the Lord from now on, that they may rest from their labors..."
- **Revelation 20:4** ".....and I saw the SOULS of those who were BEHEADED for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and **which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands;** and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."

2.) Are those who endure to the end saved BECAUSE they endure, or do they endure BECAUSE they are already truly saved?

The true believers during the Great Tribulation will endure to the end BECAUSE they are saved, not the other way around. Whether in the seven-year Great Tribulation, or in present times of tribulation and trials, God's true children NEVER lose their faith, and are ALWAYS brought safely to their heavenly destination and home, because **it is Jesus who guarantees their salvation.** If you ever hear of someone who says they "used to be a Christian" and has turned away from following Christ (i.e., "didn't endure to the end" of their life), they were probably never really saved in the first place (see I John 2:18-19).

- **John 10:28-29** "My Sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them **ETERNAL life, and they shall never perish;** neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **NO ONE** is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."
- **Philippians 1:6** "Being **CONFIDENT** of this very thing, that **He who has BEGUN a good work in YOU will COMPLETE it** until the day of Jesus Christ."
- **I Corinthians 1:7-9** "...eagerly waiting for the revelation (Second Coming) of **our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the END,** that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **God is faithful,** by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."
- **I Thessalonians 5:23** "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you (make you HOLY) completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body **be PRESERVED blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**"
- **Titus 3:4-6** "But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, **NOT by works** of righteousness (including the "work" of "enduring") which we have done, but **according to His mercy He SAVED us...."**
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** "For by GRACE you have been **SAVED** through FAITH, and that not of yourselves, it is **the GIFT of God; NOT of WORKS** (including the "work" of "enduring"), lest anyone should boast."
- **John 14:1-6** "'Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house (in heaven) are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.** And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I**

will COME AGAIN and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also...."

- **John 6:38-40** "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the WILL of the FATHER who sent Me, that **of all He has given Me I should LOSE NOTHING**, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him, may have **EVERLASTING LIFE**; and **I will RAISE him up at the LAST DAY.**"

3.) What is meant by the word "saved"?

In the Greek, the word translated "saved" in English can also be translated "delivered." In Matt. 24:21-22 Jesus says "unless those days shall be shortened, there shall no flesh be saved." In this sense, He is speaking of physical deliverance for those Jews who are still alive at His Second Coming. However, the Bible also speaks of those Jews who will believe in Jesus as their Messiah when He appears in the sky, coming down to the Mount of Olives, so there is spiritual salvation for those Jews as well - those Jews who have "endured" and made it to the END of the Great Tribulation.

- **Matthew 24:31** "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.....and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."
- **Zechariah 12:10-11 & 13:1, 9** "And I will pour out upon the HOUSE of DAVID, and upon the INHABITANTS of JERUSALEM, the spirit of grace and supplications; and **they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced**, and they shall MOURN for HimIN THAT DAY shall there be a great MOURNING in JERUSALEM,and IN THAT DAY there shall be **a fountain** opened to the HOUSE of DAVID, and to the INHABITANTS of JERUSALEM **for sin and for uncleanness**. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried; they shall call on My name, and I will hear them: I will say, "It is my people", and they shall say, "The Lord is my God."

4.) To whom, or to what group of people, is He speaking?

He was speaking to the JEWS only, because their question concerned the Temple in Jerusalem. In Matthew 24, Jesus is **telling the JEWS about what will happen to the JEWS and their TEMPLE** in the LAST DAYS (vs. 16 "then let **those who are IN JUDEA** flee to the mountains"). Also, Matt. 24: 20 says to "pray that your flight may not be in winter or **on the Sabbath.**" Only Orthodox Jews, not Christians, would be concerned about traveling on the Sabbath. Many people get confused when reading the Bible, because they do not distinguish between ISRAEL and the CHURCH. There are prophecies that concern Israel, and there are prophecies that concern the Church of Jesus Christ, and these two are NOT the same! However, many of the Jews who will be living in the time of the Great Tribulation will become believers in Jesus Christ, because of the preaching of the 144,000.

- **Revelation 12:5-6, 17** "And she (Israel) brought forth a man child (Christ) which was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to His throne. And the woman (Israel) fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, and that they should feed her there 1,260 days (3 ½ years). And the dragon was wroth (angry) with the woman, and went to make war with the REMNANT of her SEED (Jews), which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."
- **Matthew 24:15-16 & 22** "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the Holy place (in the temple in Jerusalem).....then **let those who are in Judea flee into the mountains.**.....And

except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake, those days shall be shortened."

- **Daniel 8:11-19** "He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary (the temple) was cast down. Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the DAILY SACRIFICES; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered. Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, 'How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and **the TRANSGRESSION of DESOLATION**, and giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled under foot? And he said to me, 'For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.'" (approx. 170 B.C.- Antiochus of Syria desecrated the temple in Jerusalem, and when it was "cleansed" (rededicated), that began the Jews celebration of Hanukkah.)

Please also read Second Coming of Jesus.