

When God sets a deadline – Part I

(Revelation Chapter five)

Intro: As we approach chapter fifteen, we are going to see God drawing a line in the sand and the earth is about to experience the worst of the worst as it pertains to the Tribulation. By comparison, hell is undoubtedly the worst that a lost soul will ever experience. No one ever ends in hell without it being their personal choice which God honors. **II Peter 3:9** clearly states that “God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” We are reminded in the Old Testament that God does not take any pleasure in the death of the wicked, twice in Ezekiel, 18:32 & 33:11, God clearly states as much. But we have to notice that the onus is on the individual to make the choice. It is a turn or burn option that a dead line.

The final plagues are about to be unleashed and as the angels exit the Temple in heaven, God closes the doors so that no man is able to enter. These last seven plagues are 100% full of God’s wrath, meaning God’s mercy during these last seven plagues is going to be non-existent.

1. When God chose to destroy all land breathing life, His mercy was evident.
2. The Bible however, reveals there are times when God’s mind is made up and He will not change it.
3. One can consider this as God drawing a line in the sand, or that one has crossed a line God has set.

We will be looking at four times in the Bible in which God has set a final dead line. (Genesis 6:3)

There is:

I. Dead line for God’s _____ – Matthew 12:31 & 32.

A. This passage has a two-fold warning,

1. First and foremost to the _____ as they were in serious danger of rejecting Christ as Messiah which they would blaspheme the Holy Spirit in rejecting His revealing of who Christ actually was.

(Nicodemus came to have his suspicions confirmed. **John 3:1 – 6**)

- a. The religious leaders were on the _____ of the sin that will never be forgiven.
 - b. Cross this line and you’ll never _____ forgiveness in this life & the one following.
2. Secondly, to every generation following, be it Jew or Gentile. Discredit the Holy Spirit, attribute His work & ministry to _____ and it is a blasphemy.
 3. God has revealed the ministry of the Holy Spirit throughout Scripture and it is delineated specifically in the Gospel of **John 14 – 16**.

B. Let’s consider some biblical examples:

1. King Manasseh was a _____ king who did everything in his power to undo everything his godly father established.
 - a. God brought King Manasseh into captivity where in defeat he was humiliated.

- b. While in _____ he repented and God seeing his heart, restored Manasseh to his throne.
- e. Having repented he strived to _____ Judah back to God with little success.
- f. Folks, I have seen professing Christians live lives of indifference to God and spiritual truth to only later in life realize the foolishness of their choices and lament with broken hearts, how they lead their children to live worldly lives and now they reject any and all righteous living.
(Lot in Sodom – **Genesis 19:12 – 26.**)

B. King Manasseh dies and his son Josiah comes to the throne and he was a good, _____ king.

1. We will pick it up in **II Kings 23:21 – 25.**
2. Try as he would, Josiah could not _____ the wrath of God away from Israel - **II Kings 23:26 & 27.**
3. Manasseh crossed a line for which there was no _____ – **II Chronicles 36:16.**
4. Twice in **Proverbs, 6:15 & 29:1** we see “no remedy”.
5. Basically this word “remedy” means there is no cure, no healing. The legal definition for this is that there is no redress for wrong. (**Interesting - Hebrews 12:15 – 16.**)
6. **Hebrews 12:15 – 16** is not about a loss of salvation, for Esau still was in the family, but he had no redress with which to get back what he had sold, the right of the first born and his inheritance.
7. Josiah was right to try to change God’s mind and God was right in His sovereignty to not change.

There is:

II. A dead line concerning _____ – II Thessalonians 2:7.

- A. As the Redeemed of the Lord we don’t have a _____ to live or do as we please while we are here on earth.
- B. These folks here in our text, (**II Thess. 2:10 – 12**), are those who have been presented with the _____ message.
 1. They have _____ to put it off until it was to later or flat out rejected the Gospel.
 2. The Rapture has taken place; all the Redeemed of the Lord are now in _____ – **II Thess. 4:13 – 18.**
 3. Antichrist is now on the scene with _____ excuses or reasonings for the disappearance of millions upon millions of people around the world.
 4. The lost will be sent a strong _____ which they will take hook, line and sinker. (**II Thess. 2:11**)
 5. Why will they be so gullible? So that they may be _____ – **II Thess. 2:12.**
 6. “Might be damned” in the Greek is all one word – [Kree’-no, is to judge in its simplest of terms).
(To preside over with the power of giving judicial decisions because it is the prerogative of kings and rulers to pass judgment.)
- C. **First Timothy 4:1** – ‘conscience seared’ is one who carries about consciousness of perpetual sin – (**Genesis 6:5**)
 1. In **Genesis 7:1, 16 – 21**, God _____ a line in Noah’s day.
 2. God’s mercy saved 8 people that day when God shut the door of the Ark. On the rest.
 3. Noah preached for 120 years, all laughed until the rains came, and it was too late for them.
 4. Proverbs 1:24 – 31. A line crossed, God is slow to anger, but He does have a line one best not cross.