

The Three Eternal Destinies #23 *The Starting Point: Repentance*

Even the righteousness of the nations in Rev 22:11 is the same as *filthy rags* (Isa 64:6). No amount of work or good deeds (Titus 3:5) that men can do will gain them salvation or entry into the Holy City. This is the work of the Son of God Himself for mankind, who was Holy — set apart from sin — as a perfect sacrifice, in a Body prepared for Him (Heb 10:5).

What happened in the Garden (Gen 2:17) cannot be rectified by man's good behavior. All men are now appointed to this first death (Heb 9:27). If men live by the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 3:16-19 and verse 22), when they die they go into death to pay for their sins, but if they remained within the boundaries of this path the way God gave men to walk in, they will be rewarded with a second life.

After the flood Gen 9:1-7 was added to Gen 1:26,27 and 3:16-19 to assure man's worthiness of a second life when they are all judged (Heb 9:27; Rev 20:12-15; Rom 2:14-16).

Worthy or Unworthy

All mankind will either be found worthy or unworthy of a second life at this judgment (Rev 20:12-15; Heb 9:27). All those who believed the gospel will not appear at this judgment, for they have passed out of death and into life already. Just like those who rejected the gospel (Jn 3:18,19). They too have been judged already and they will not appear at that judgment to be judged. They will go to a second death based on verses 19-21, not on their works as in Rev 20:12,13. If anyone's deeds are as Rev 21:8, they will be judged worthy of a second death, but if they kept the covenant of conscience they would not have committed these kinds of sins, and they will be rewarded with a second life in the Eternal Nations who then will spread abroad to fill the whole universe with the life of their offspring (Gen 1:27).

The Holy will not produce natural offspring as the Righteous of the nations do (Lk 20:35-36). They may reproduce, but not in a physical, natural way (our Father hasn't revealed that to us yet).

1 Pt 3:21 — Only in baptism (Rom 6:2-7), when one crucifies his flesh and cuts off the callused nature of a dulled and invalidated conscience can he be re-born — anew — with a sensitive conscience, not to keep the second covenant of Gen 3:16-19 and 9:1-7, but the New Covenant of the Spirit (2 Cor 3:3). This is the Starting Point, but only after one has come to the *turning point* — that is, *repentance*. If someone could be born on earth — *supernaturally* as Lk 1:35, and not under the fall — the curse of the inherited, fallen nature — he would not be free from Satan's attack and temptation any more than Adam and Eve before they fell. If someone were to be born this way he would have a *harder life* than one who was *already* fallen because of 1 Jn 5:19, and Satan would be working overtime in all aspects to bring this one also under his sway. So Messiah had no greater advantage in life than we do. Heb 4:15-16 and Jn 17:11-23 — In His name we can overcome Satan. We too can be protected — kept safe from Satan's attacks, if we call upon His name to save us from death and the evil one.

Since we have cried out for a good conscience (1 Pt 3:21), we must keep our conscience clean and pure from all defilement or we can become *dull to His voice*. Rev 3:6,22 — Can you still hear His voice or have you got a stained conscience? You received a new garment at baptism. Has it become defiled? (1 Pt 3:21). Paul said that he always maintained a clean conscience (Acts 23:1 and 1 Cor 4:4). We are to as well, and we have all we need to do so, just like he did (Heb 2:17; Col 1:10-14; 2 Cor 5:21).