

FEW SHALL THERE BE

28/5/23

The principles of New Testament salvation are already established in the judgments of the Old Testament. **MAT 3:11** I indeed baptize you with **water** unto **repentance** (first judgment): but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with **fire** (second judgment): **12** Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable **fire** (the sins and sinners of his people). There is also a clear warning, that despite the power and simplicity of true salvation... few will choose to accept it.

There is a historical comparison between the 3 great judgments in the Old Testament compared with the 3 principles of New Testament salvation.

1. Water. Noah and the Ark... Only 8 saved (population estimated over 10 million people, 1500 years from Adam). **1PET 3:20** Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by **water**.

The first judgment above was revealed by water with very few survivors. The next judgment was by fire with very few survivors as well.

2. Fire. Sodom and Gomorrah... estimated at half million people. Abraham negotiated only 10 righteous needed to be found... with 1 angel while the other 2 went to Sodom. Gen 18:23-33. Only 4 survived. **LUK 17:28** Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; **29** But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. The second example... At the same moment that God's people were safe... then came the destruction. **30** Even thus shall it be (same conclusion for both Noah and Lot) in the day when the Son of man is revealed. Jesus confirms that it will be just the same at the end of this age... the sequence and manner of our deliverance is clearly confirmed.

The third example is Moses... includes all three elements of judgement. Water. Fire and the ongoing fire of forgiveness.

3. 1+2+3. Water, fire, overcoming & mercy.

Entering the promised land... (estimated 1 plus million adults)... Joshua and his wife, and Caleb and his wife were the only ones of the original adults who overcame (4 surviving adults). **NUM 14:26** And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, **27** How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me. The sea opened (water consumed the enemy... metaphor for worldliness) and they entered a place of safety. The Holy Spirit appeared as fire and sat over them. They were safe with the power of God in their midst, but they had obstacles to overcome. The second fire is symbolised as overcoming when the fiery serpents were defeated as they looked upon God's fiery serpent on a pole... symbolic of Christ... **[NUM 21:8** And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten (metaphor of Jesus on the cross and forgiveness of sins), when he looketh upon it, shall live.] **28** Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you (according to your choice): **29** Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, **30** Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swore to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. All those who rejected the path to the promised land were also rejected by their choices.

Let's compare these established principles with the New Testament Salvation Pattern and the overcomers.

A large number hear the message... **MAT 22:14** For many are called, but few are chosen. But few respond.

Of those who respond, perhaps the majority of them will fall short through unbelief of God's directions as well.

A small number... **MAT 7:14** Because strait is the gate (entrance), and narrow is the way (spiritual walk), which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. A double responsibility.

The same pattern follows that was observed in the Old Testament judgments (All escape Egypt but the majority fall short because they thought it too hard).

Great falling away.... From off the path. **2THE 2:3** Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come (the return of Christ), except there come a falling away (a forsaking of the way) first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; **4** Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God (Godly), or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God (our bodies are the temple of God), shewing himself that he is God. This is what they did when they were shown the promised land... it was all too hard: they allowed their ego to get in the way of God's blessing. The path and method of salvation was all too much for many of them. **They replaced God's blessing with their own ideals (false religion).** All can be saved (common salvation)... but it's always up to the choices we make and the path we choose.

Moses personal life...

Water... saved in the bullrushes.

Fire... the burning bush.

Overcoming & mercy... In front of Pharaoh, Moses rod... became a serpent and overpowered the other serpents and overcame 10 plagues.

His Ministry...

Water... parted the Red Sea.

Fire... Holy spirit hovered behind and above them once the water parted.

Overcoming & mercy... received the 10 commandments out of the midst of the fire (Due 5:22) upon the same mountain the burning bush appeared, on the same date as Pentecost. Again, God's fiery serpent on a pole again defeated the serpent's bite