

*Does the Bible say anything about waiting to accept the Lord until later in life on purpose?*

The bible says: Behold, now is the accepted time (2 Co 6:2, KJV); today is the day of salvation (v2b, NLTb). Never is man encouraged to delay his decision to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.

C.S. Lewis wrote:

Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement: he is a rebel who must lay down his arms. Laying down your arms, surrendering, saying you are sorry, realising that you have been on the wrong track and getting ready to start life over again from the ground floor—that is the only way out of our ‘hole.’ This process of surrender—this movement full speed astern—is what Christians call repentance.<sup>1</sup>

There comes a time when the Holy Spirit withdraws himself from an individual (Ge 6:3) because he refuses to repent (Pr 1:24-33).

Jerusalem was destroyed for their failure to embrace their Messiah. Charles Stanley wrote:

“How is it that the vast majority of people alive in Jesus’ day did not realize that they were in the presence of God in the flesh? More to the point, do we realize it when God is doing something special in our midst?”<sup>2</sup>

Refusing the promptings of the Holy Spirit is the unforgivable sin (Mt 12:32).<sup>3</sup> Regarding Zephaniah 1:12<sup>4</sup>, J. Vernon McGee wrote:

“[Some] say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil.” They are saying, “God’s doing nothing. God is not going to do anything about it.” Habakkuk’s question was, “Why don’t you do something about the evil, Lord?” God told him, “I am doing something.” And when Habakkuk was given a vision and saw what God was really doing, he cried out to God for mercy for the people.

Sinners presumptuously is not wise (Ps 19:13, 50:21, Ga 6:7). First, one *will not* repent (Ro 1:18-23); then, he *cannot* repent (v 24-32, Lk 22:3). It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb 10:31).

God said to Moses: I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion (Ro 9:15). If one wishes to avail himself of God’s mercy, he must do so on this side

---

<sup>1</sup> C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (1952; repr., San Francisco: Harper. San Francisco, 2001), 56.

<sup>2</sup> Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Lk 19:44). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.

<sup>3</sup> Men’s refusal of spiritual things is because of: hardness of heart (Ex 7:14), commandments and laws (Ex 16:28), obedience (1 Sa 8:19), Messiah (Ps 118:22), salvation (Is 8:6), shame (Jer 3:3), repentance (Hos 11:5), healing (Jer 15:18) and God (Heb 12:25). Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). *Nelson’s quick reference topical Bible index* (p. 523). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

<sup>4</sup> And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil [Zeph 1:12].

of the grave; or, he will become what the apostle Paul warned about—a vessel of wrath fitted for destruction (Ro 9:22).