

### What Is the One New Thing You Learned or Idea to Which You Were Exposed?

What stood out for me this week was the continuation of Dr. Mack's video on 'The Language of Prophecy' which expounded on 'conditional' and 'unconditional' prophecy in Biblical text. The video highlighted that prophecy 'in its very nature may be conditional' (Mack, video on 'The Language of Prophecy, Pt. II'). One of the Scriptural text provided was taken from Jeremiah 18:7-10, NIV which reads: '7 If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, 8 and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. 9 And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, 10 and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.'

The word 'if' means that the prophecy was/is 'conditional'. I recall some of the covenants in the Old Testament that were conditional such as the Mosaic Covenant (Deuteronomy 11) whereas the Davidic Covenant was based upon what GOD told the Jeremiah (18:7-10) was conditional since both the Babylonian and Assyrian empires enslaved the chosen people (the Israelites) of GOD, who were foretold that they would not be held as captives. Something I never thought of. Professor Mack stated in that 'all promises of blessings and punishments are conditional in nature.'

I understand that prophecy by nature may be conditional, however does this also apply to salvation? Is salvation conditional or unconditional? Once saved, always saved? I have always wrestled with this Scripture found in Matthew 24:12-13 (NIV) in terms of salvation: '12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.' This week's video inspired me to revisit these verses and examine the details. To my understanding it is the one who remain faithful until the end will be saved. I went through four different translations of the verses below where the word 'if' was emphasized and paralleled with the New International Version:

**Romans 10:9:** 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**1 Corinthians 15:2:** 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

I believe the 'ifs' indicate that one did not truly understand what salvation was in the first place which is why they would have fallen from grace. As Paul warned believers in Galatians, 5:4 (NIV): '4 You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from CHRIST; you have fallen away from grace.' Have they fallen from grace because the promise and prophecy was conditional? Those fallen from grace, are those who have severed themselves from Christ.

For salvation, one has to believe in their heart, truly repent, confess, baptism (public display of one's belief) and endure until the end.

I have participated in countless Bible Study and Christian Life Development classes where salvation was discussed. Unfortunately, most did not elaborate on whether salvation is conditional or unconditional which is something the sermons generally pass over for lack of understanding or in fear of being labeled a rebel. We are reminded that 'GOD will hold every nation accountable for its actions' (Constable, pg. 122, cited from Martian, Isaiah, pg.47). One has to understand the depths of salvation to truly embrace it whereas it is no longer a word but lifestyle which displays that Christians are now part of the elect. The chapters 12-22 of Isaiah, highlighted a people who had forfeited their heritage as the elect which resulted in punishments because they sought after idols (themselves and others) instead of GOD. In 19:19-22, the reader is given the illustration of a conditional prophecy, henceforth the Israelites were reminded of their past which is what the prophet Jeremiah (18:7-10) calls our attention to.

I am forever grateful LORD, FATHER TRIUNE GOD for YOUR ABUNDANT GRACE, GRANTING me Salvation! HALLEUJAH!! If it was not for YOUR GRACE...where would I be?