

Questions About Whether There Is A Second Chance to Repent at the Resurrection

By Pastor Ed Anderson

For those that have already died during Jesus' return at the Second Coming Resurrection, is there a way for them to repent or is their fate sealed?

Answer:

This is a heartfelt and important question. Here's the clear and compassionate biblical answer:

At Death, Our Destiny Is Sealed

The Bible consistently teaches that **when a person dies, their opportunity to repent and choose Christ ends**. Their character is fixed, and their case is closed. This is confirmed in multiple passages:

"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."
(Hebrews 9:27)

At death, a person's record is complete. There is **no second chance after death** — whether before or after the Second Coming.

The First Resurrection: Only for the Saved

The **first resurrection** (at the Second Coming of Jesus) is **only for those who died in Christ**:

"The dead in Christ shall rise first."
(1 Thessalonians 4:16)

This means those who are **already saved** and resting in faith will be raised. Their fate is not being decided at that moment — they are being rewarded for their faithful life. There is **no additional opportunity for repentance** at that point.

The Lost Are Not Raised Yet

Those who died **without faith or rejected God's call** are **not raised at the Second Coming**. They remain in the grave until the **second resurrection**, which happens **after the 1,000 years (the Millennium)**:

"The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished."
(*Revelation 20:5*)

And when they are raised, it is not to repent — but to face the final judgment.

No Repentance After the Resurrection of the Lost

After the 1,000 years, the wicked are resurrected for judgment (Revelation 20:11–15). Sadly, this is not an opportunity to repent but to face the consequences of their choices.

Even in this final moment, Revelation shows that **the lost do not truly repent**:

"They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints..."
(*Revelation 20:9*)

This shows that their hearts are unchanged. Even after seeing the New Jerusalem and the glory of Christ, they still resist God.

Why This Matters Now

Jesus' urgent call is to **choose today**:

"Now is the day of salvation."
(*2 Corinthians 6:2*)

"Today, if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart."
(*Hebrews 3:15*)

Because once a person dies, **their opportunity to accept Christ is gone**. That's why the Holy Spirit pleads with us now — not to delay.

Final Word: God Is Just and Merciful

Even though this may sound hard, God **has given every person a chance** in their lifetime — through creation, conscience, Scripture, and the work of the Holy Spirit. He is:

“Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

(2 Peter 3:9)

No one will be lost because they didn't have a chance. They will be lost because, sadly, they **rejected** the chances they were lovingly given.

But the good news is this: **Today, salvation is still available!** Let's live and love in that truth — and help others hear the call before it's too late.