

“GREAT” Tribulation / MISLEAD / Fall Away Meaning

The Beginning of Birth Pangs Matthew 24:4-8 and Mark 13:5-8

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible,
authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: “Follow Me: A Message from God”, a journey with Jesus)

And Jesus answered and said to them, "**See to it that no one misleads you.** For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,'¹ and will *mislead* many. And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; **see that you are not frightened,** for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs."

The Apostasy Matthew 24:9-14 and Mark 13:12-13

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible,
authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: “Follow Me: A Message from God”, a journey with Jesus)

"Then they will deliver you to *tribulation*,² and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name. And at that time many will fall away³ and will deliver up one another and hate one another. And many false prophets⁴ will arise, and will *mislead* many. And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come."

“Tribulation”: **1 Peter 4:12-19** - ¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ **For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?** ¹⁸ And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Matthew 5:10-12 - ¹⁰ **“Blessed** are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ **“Blessed** are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² **Rejoice and be glad,** for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

James 1:2-4, 12 - ² **Count it all joy,** my brothers, when you meet **trials** of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing . . . ¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under **trial**, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

James' zeal for Jesus resulted in his being the first of the 12 **apostles** to be martyred. He was killed with the sword on order of King Herod Agrippa I of Judea, about 44 A.D., in a **general persecution** of the **early church**—James was the brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3) and Authored the New Testament epistle, “James”.

Matthew 10:27-29 - ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not fear those who **kill the body** but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

Testimonies of those Tortured for Christ

A pastor by the name of Florescu was tortured with red-hot iron pokers and with knives. He was beaten very badly. Then starving rats were driven in to his cell through a large pipe. He could not sleep because he had to defend himself all the time. If he rested a moment, the rats would attack him.

He was forced to stand for two weeks, day and night. The Communists wished to compel him to betray his brethren, but he resisted steadfastly. Eventually, they brought his fourteen-year-old son to the prison and began to whip the boy in front of his father, saying that they would continue to beat him until the pastor said what they wished him to say. The poor man was half mad. He bore it as long as he could, then he cried to his son, “Alexander, I must say what they want! I can't bear your beating anymore!” The son answered, “Father, don't do me the injustice of having a traitor as a parent. Withstand! If they kill me, I will die with the words, ‘Jesus and my fatherland.’” The communists, enraged, fell upon the child and beat him to death, with blood splattered over the walls of the cell. He died praising God. - *Tortured for Christ, Richard Wurmbrand*

We Christians were sometimes forced to stand in wooden boxes only slightly larger than we were. This left no room to move. Dozens of sharp nails were driven into every side of the box, with their razor-sharp points sticking through the wood. While we stood perfectly still, it was all right. But we were forced to stand in these boxes for endless hours; when we became fatigued and swayed with tiredness, the nails would pierce our bodies. If we moved or twitched a muscle – there were the horrible nails. - *Tortured for Christ, Richard Wurmbrand*

¹ **I am the Christ.** Some of those who claimed to be the Christ (messiah) after Jesus were: the Sicarii, Theudas (AD 44-46), Menahem ben Judah and Simon bar Kokhba (AD 135). And in the five-hundred-year period from AD 1500 – 2000 there have been over forty individuals who claimed to be the Christ.

² **Tribulation.** Many people confuse two Biblical concepts: tribulation and God's wrath. Tribulation is affliction or suffering endured by the **saints** in this world at the hands of men. (Ref: John 16:33) The wrath of God refers to the anger of God poured out on the **ungodly**. (Ref: 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10)

³ **Fall away.** The word used here is apostasy, which means defection from truth, falling away, forsake. Some New Testament references to this concept can be found in: Galatians 1:6-9, 1 Timothy 4:1-3, Hebrews 3:12, Hebrews 6:4-6, 2 Peter 2:1-3, 2 Peter 3:17-18, 1 John 2:18-19 and Jude 3-4.

⁴ **False prophets.** A prophet is one who is supposed to declare God's will to people. In the Old Testament a prophet was considered false when he came in the name of the Lord and **1)** told people to serve other gods or **2)** the sign (miracle, prophecy, etc.) he declared did not come to pass. Jesus added another test when He told his disciples to discern the prophet's fruit (character): Was his behavior producing the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

It was strictly forbidden to preach to other prisoners, as it is in captive nations today. It was understood that whoever was caught doing this received a severe beating. A number of us decided to pay the price for the privilege of preaching, so we accepted their terms. It was a deal: we preached and they beat us. We were happy preaching; they were happy beating us – so everyone was happy.

The following scene happened more times than I can remember. A brother was preaching to the other prisoners when the guards suddenly burst in, surprising him halfway through a phrase. They hauled him down the corridor to their “beating room.” After what seemed an endless beating, they brought him back and threw him – bloody and bruised – on the prison floor. Slowly, he picked up his battered body, painfully straightened his clothing and said, “Now, brethren, where did I leave off when I was interrupted?” He continued his gospel message! - *Tortured for Christ, Richard Wurmbrand*

At the age of eleven, Mihai began to earn his living as a regular worker. Suffering had produced a wavering in his faith. But after two years of Sabina’s imprisonment he was allowed to see her. He went to the Communist prison and saw his mother behind iron bars. She was dirty, thin, with calloused hands, wearing the shabby uniform of a prisoner. He scarcely recognized her. Her first words were, “Mihai, believe in Jesus!” the guards, in a savage rage, pulled her away from Mihai and took her out. Mihai wept seeing his mother dragged away. This minute was the minute of his conversion. He knew that if Christ can be loved under such circumstances, He surely is the true Savior. He said afterward, “If Christianity had no other arguments in its favor than the fact that my mother believes in it, this is enough for me.” That was the day he fully accepted Christ. - *Tortured for Christ, Richard Wurmbrand*

“Mislead” / “Fall Away”: (STRONG’S NO. 4624 – Skandalizó): **to put a snare (in the way), hence to cause to stumble, to give offense;** to entrap (**apostasy** (defection - revolt) – literally, “**a leaving, from a previous standing**” - (make to) offend).

COGNATE (related definition): properly, *set a snare* (“*stumbling-block*”); (figuratively) “to hinder right conduct or thought; *to cause to stumble*” – *literally, “to fall into a trap”*. See 4625 (Skandalizó - properly, the trigger of a trap (the mechanism closing a trap down on the unsuspecting victim); (figuratively) an *offense*, putting a *negative cause-and-effect relationship* into motion (ex. “the stick in the trap that springs and closes the trap when the animal touches it”).

b. “to cause a person **to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey; to cause to fall away,**” and in the passive, **to fall away** (John 6:61; Matthew 13:21; MATTHEW 24:10; Matthew 26:33, Mark 4:17, Mark 14:29; John 16:1).

i.e. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 (*Paul re-enforces Jesus’ Teaching on this same Event*) - **The Man of Lawlessness** - ¹ Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion (apostasía (646) - apostasy) comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God . . . ⁷ For the **mystery of lawlessness** is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹ **The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,** ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness . . . ¹⁵ So then, brothers, **stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.**

BLASPHEMES: (STRONG’S NO. 988 – blasphemía): “*switches*” right for wrong (wrong for right), i.e. calls what God *disapproves*, “*right*” which “exchanges the truth of God for a lie” (Ro 1:25 - “because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie”; Isa 5:20 - “you who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness.”). Literally, slow (sluggish) to call something *good* (that *really is good*) – and slow to identify what is truly bad (that really is evil). (THAYER’S GREEK LEXICON – βλασφημία, railing, reviling): *a.* universally, slander, detraction, speech injurious to another's good name.

i.e. Mark 3:28-29 - ²⁸ “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever **blasphemes** against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin” — Matthew 12:31-32 - ³¹ Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but **blasphemy** against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. Luke 12:10 - ¹⁰ And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever **blasphemes** against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

“**MISLEAD**”: 4624. Skandalizó - to put a snare (in the way), hence to cause to stumble, to give offense; to entrap (**apostasy** (defection - revolt) – literally, “a leaving, from a previous standing” - (make to) offend).

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i.e. 2 Thessalonians 2 (Paul re-enforces Jesus’ Teaching on this same Event)

The Man of Lawlessness

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ²not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion (**apostasía** (646) - **apostasy**) comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷For the **mystery of lawlessness** is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹²in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Stand Firm

¹³But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then, brothers, **stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.**

¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

“**BLASPHEMES**” (STRONG’S NO. 988 – **blasphémia**): “switches” right for wrong (wrong for right), i.e. calls what God disapproves, “right” which “exchanges the truth of God for a lie” (Ro 1:25 - “because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie”; Isa 5:20 - “you who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness,”). Literally, slow (sluggish) to call something good (that really is good) – and slow to identify what is truly bad (that really is evil). (THAYER’S GREEK LEXICON – βλασφημία, railing, reviling): a. universally, slander, detraction, speech injurious to another’s good name.

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³¹Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but **blasphemy*** against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³²Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Luke 12:10

¹⁰And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever **blasphemes*** against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

2 Peter 3:17

¹⁷Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be **carried away*** by the error of the lawless and **fall*** from your **secure*** position.

* **carried away** (STRONG’S NO. 4879 – sunapagó):. (THAYER’S GREEK LEXICON – συναπάγω):.

4879. sunapagó ►

Strong's Concordance

sunapagó: to lead away with, fig. to be carried away with (pass.)

Original Word: συναπάγω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: sunapagó

Phonetic Spelling: (soon-ap-ag'-o)

Definition: to lead away with, to be carried away with (pass.)

Usage: I lead away with, carry along with (in good or bad sense according to context); mid: I conform myself willingly to.

HELPS Word-studies

4879 *synapágō* (from 4862 /*sýn*, “identified with” and 520 /*apágō*, “led away”) – properly, led (carried) away with. 4879 /*synapágō* (“led off together”) is used three times in the NT: once positively (Ro 12:16) and twice *negatively* (“carried off together”) of “being led astray” (Gal 2:13; 2 Pet 3:17).

NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin

from *sun* and *apagó*

Definition

to lead away with, fig. to be carried away with (pass.)

NASB Translation

associate (1), carried away (2).

Thayer's Greek Lexicon

STRONGS NT 4879: *συναπάγω*

[*συναπάγω*: passive, present participle *συναπαγόμενος*; 1 aorist *συναπαγήθην*; to lead away with or together: ἵππον, Xenophon, Cyril 8, 3, 23; τριηρεῖς, Hell. 5, 1, 23; τὸν λαὸν μεθ' ἑαυτοῦ, the Sept. *Exodus 14:6*; passive, metaphorically, to be carried away with: with the dative of the thing, i. e. by a thing, so as to experience with others the force of that which carries away (Zosimus () hist. 5, 6, 9 αὐτῆ ἢ Σπάρτην συναπηγετοτῆ κοινῆ τῆς Ἑλλάδος ἀλωσεῖ), to follow the impulse of a thing to what harmonizes with it, *Galatians 2:13*; 2 *Peter 3:17*; to suffer oneself to be carried away together with (something that carries away), τοῖς ταπεινοῖς (opposed to τὰ ὑψηλά φρονεῖν), i. e. to yield or submit oneself to lowly things, conditions, employments, — not to evade their power, *Romans 12:16*.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

carry away, condescend.

From *sun* and *apago*; to take off together, i.e. Transport with (seduce, passively, yield) -- carry (lead) away with, condescend.

fall* (STRONG'S NO. 1601b. – ekpiptó): .

1601b. ekpiptó ►

Strong's Concordance

ekpiptó: to drop away, fig. to lose, become inefficient

Transliteration: ekpiptó

Definition: to drop away, to lose, become inefficient

NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin

from ek and piptó

Definition

to drop away, fig. to lose, become inefficient

NASB Translation

failed (1), fall (1), fall away (1), fallen (1), falls off (2), fell off (1), run aground (3).

secure* position (STRONG'S NO. 4740 – stérigmos):. (THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON – στηριγμός):.

4740. stérigmos ►

Strong's Concordance

stérigmos: a setting firmly, steadfastness

Original Word: στηριγμός, οἰ, ὁ

Part of Speech: Noun, Masculine

Transliteration: stérigmos

Phonetic Spelling: (stay-rig-mos')

Definition: a setting firmly, steadfastness

Usage: firmness, steadfastness.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: 4740 *stérigmos* – *stability* (firmly set, fixed, established). [See 4741](#) (*stérizō*).

NAS Exhaustive Concordance

Word Origin

from stérizō

Definition

a setting firmly, steadfastness

NASB Translation

steadfastness (1).

Thayer's Greek Lexicon

STRONGS NT 4740: στηριγμός

στηριγμός, στηριγμοῦ, ὁ (στηρίζω), **firm condition, steadfastness:** of mind, [2 Peter 3:17](#). (of a standing still, Diodorus 1, 81; Plutarch, mor., p. 76 d.)

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

steadfastness.

From sterizo; stability (figuratively) -- stedfastness.

From: Brandon Shirkey <bshirkey10@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 2:45 PM
To: Ryan Roberts <ryan.roberts@springsoflivingwateronline.org>
Subject: Re: Question

Ryan, certainly, and please, tell me if I need to change any part of this response to properly align with Scripture.

February 18, 2020

Abbi:

Thank you for your question. Our standing with the Lord is one that we must always continue to address daily, whether in a spirit of union and intimacy or one of repentance. I also watched the video link you sent and it certainly hits on things we should carefully consider these days. I would highly encourage you to check out the link "End of the Age" on our Did You Know? page of our site. While we cannot say for certain whether all the information presented in those videos is 100% accurate, it is still the most compelling presentation that we have seen and the one that is most in line with God's Word that we believe.

To your question of can one lose their salvation, there is much debate about this. The majority of the Church (meaning the worldwide, universal Church) believes that the answer is "no". This is partly evident in why the Catholic Church began centuries ago baptizing infants so that they could "secure" the salvation of everyone possible. As for Protestants, the belief really didn't come about until around 1600 AD with John Calvin (the "founding father" of the Presbyterian denomination) who developed a system of theology known as Calvinism that has been condensed to a single statement used by many evangelical Christians today - "once saved, always saved." Unfortunately, there are many doctrines that the Church has come to believe in wholeheartedly and fully embrace as Gospel-truth that never came into existence until centuries and centuries after Jesus walked on the earth. Jesus warned us to beware of false teachers. So in order to get the Truth, we must go back to the Word of Truth and not base our beliefs on the opinions of mere men. We must always be like the Bereans in the Book of Acts and examine what is being taught against the authority of God's Word. While there is Scripture used to support both sides of the once saved, always saved debate, let's go back to Jesus' words.

In a few different instances, but most prominently in Matthew 24, when asked about the end of the world by his disciples, the very first words Jesus says are "Do not be misled." If our salvation is so secure that we cannot lose it, then why would Jesus be concerned about us being misled?

In verse 24 of Matthew 24, Jesus says that the signs and wonders performed by false messiahs and false prophets will even deceive the "very elect." This phrase used by Jesus literally means God's "chosen ones."

As Jesus continues to describe the last days to his disciples, He then mentions that many will "fall away." Literally, the Greek word used here is the word "apostatize," which means to renounce one's beliefs. If we can't lose our salvation, then who are these that will fall away? And how can one apostatize if they never believed in the first place?

One of the arguments of the once saved, always saved doctrine is that those who fall away were never fully Christians, to begin with. If that's the case, then what are these so-called non-Christians falling away from? You can't fall away from something if you don't first stand firmly in it. In fact, looking at the disciple Peter's own words in 2 Peter 3:17: Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and *fall from your secure position*. Peter is writing to Christians here ("dear friends"), not non-believers. He is thus indicating that believers can be "carried away" and even "fall away" from their secure position! Secure position in what? In their salvation and status in eternity. Any time something along the lines of secure position in relation to our faith is mentioned in Scripture, it is always in the context of our eternal salvation (i.e. whether our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life), not just a position such as James and John argued about who will sit on Jesus' right or left hand in His Kingdom.

While proponents of the once saved, always saved belief lean on Jesus' words that "none of them is lost" and "no one can take them from me", what they fail to recognize is the foundational belief to our faith of free will. If I have the free will to accept and receive Christ, then I must also have the freedom to reject Him, even if that means doing so after having first received Him.

Here is a critical part of this debate - finding the answer in the entirety of our faith in its original context. In Jude 11, it says - Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. Here are three Old Testament examples of those that once had a relationship and even intimacy with God, yet were led astray, rebelled, and fell away from their secure position,...and perished! And it is Jude in the New Testament, after Jesus' resurrection, who states that false teachers and those that follow them will face the same fate. Korah was one of the leaders of the Levites. This was no ordinary man who was just amongst the tribes of Israel. This was a leader in leading the nation of Israel in worshipping God. Yet due to his rebellion, as well as all of those that followed him, they all perished and were killed by God. This is a clear example of a follower of God, a believer, losing their salvation. And Jude states that even after Jesus establishes the New Covenant, this is still possible.

Here's another thing to consider, from the very words of Jesus once again:

Mark 3:28-29

²⁸ "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever **blasphemes*** against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—

Matthew 12:31-32

³¹ Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but **blasphemy*** against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Luke 12:10

¹⁰ And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever **blasphemes*** against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

***Blasphemes (STRONG'S NO. 988 – blasphemía):** "switches" right for wrong (wrong for right), i.e. calls what God *disapproves*, "right" which "exchanges the truth of God for a lie" (Ro 1:25 - "because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie"; Isa 5:20 - "you who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness,"). Literally, slow (sluggish) to call something *good* (that *really is good*) – and slow to identify what is truly bad (that really is evil). (**THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON**): *a.* universally, slander, detraction, speech injurious to another's good name.

I will end with this, a parable from Jesus Himself in Matthew 25 of the Ten Virgins. In this parable, Jesus is returning for His Bride, but five are prepared with enough wick and oil and are awake and alert for when he returns, while the other five are not. To those who are prepared, He welcomes them into His glorious Kingdom; to those who are not, He casts out and states "I never knew you." Now all throughout Scripture, virgins always represent God's people (i.e. Israel, the Church, believers). By Jesus' own words, He is stating that there will be those who were part of the family of God but because of their own choices in not being obedient and prepared as He instructed, they will lose their secure positions (of being virgin brides prepared to meet their bridegroom).

We hope this answer helps and we certainly encourage you to continue searching the Scriptures as the Bereans did.

Blessings,

Brandon Shirkey
Co-Pastor
Springs of Living Water

