

**WHOLENESS-SALVATION
FOR THOSE WHO NEVER HEARD OR NEVER WILL HEAR OF JESUS' SALVATION**



**THE PROBLEM: WHAT WILL BE THE DESTINY OF THOSE THAT
NEVER HEARD OR PERHAPS NEVER WILL HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS?**

HYPOTHESIS 1: THE NARROW APPLICATION OF JESUS AS THE ONLY SAVIOR

Everyone who never heard the name of Jesus or the facts of the gospel,
whether before Jesus or after, are all lost forever in hell.

HYPOTHESIS 2: THE WIDER APPLICATION OF JESUS AS THE ONLY SAVIOR

(Explained in following pages), the core answer being:

Since all people are saved by faith, it may be possibly true that God will apply the work of Christ
on the cross to those who, through no fault of their own never heard of Jesus,
but who did have faith to the extent it was possible for them to have.

If these people responded in faith to what they did know about God via
Natural Revelation (Romans 1:18-32) the *Interior Witness of the Law and Conscience* (Romans 2:1-16),
and the *persuading work of The Holy Spirit* (John 16:5-15)

it may be possible that God in God's grace will apply the work of Christ to them
even though in this life they never hear or know the name "Jesus."

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ❖ H2 is not an excuse to abandon Evangelism or Missions: it is a proposed comfort to a real problem.
- ❖ H2 does not reject the truth claim of John 14:6 that Jesus is the exclusive way to God. Rather, it provides an interpretation of John 14:6 that protects the exclusivity of Jesus' claim while avoiding the view that God is harsh, capricious or unjust in God's provision of salvation.

H2: THE WIDER APPLICATION OF JESUS AS THE ONLY SAVIOR

THE GOD OF PRE-JESUS, PRE-GOSPEL HUMANS

1. **OMNISCIENT:** *The God of the Bible is Sovereign, Eternal, Omniscient and “outside of Time.”*

Psalm 90:4
Rev. 13:8
Jer. 1:5
Isaiah 40:

2. **REVEALER:** *The God of the Bible is both Love and Justice and reveals God to all humans without favoritism.*

Romans 1:18-21
Romans 2:14-15
Acts 14:15-17
Romans 2:11
Romans 3:29

3. **JUSTIFIER:** *The God of the Bible saves everyone who is saved by “faith.”*

Genesis 15:6
Gen. 14:18-20 (see also Psalm 110, Hebrews 6—10)

“Faith” is relying on and responding positively to God to the extent that one has had God revealed to one. Abraham had faith in God to the extent God was revealed to him, but obviously not the same type of detailed knowledge about God that we have today now that Jesus has come. The same would be true of *Melchizedek* (Gen. 14, Psalm 110, Hebrews 6—10), who was a Priest of God long before God revealed the Law or the Gospel. The same would be true of the “*Wise Men*” who visited Jesus soon after he was born; they had “faith” but not the detailed knowledge of God and the full understanding of salvation in Jesus that we have today. All of these had faith to the extent *they could have faith based on what they knew*. Assuredly, there have been and are many people like Abraham, Melchizedek and the Magi, who through no fault of their own, lived in situations that precluded them from knowing all that God has revealed in the Scriptures. If they responded to God to the extent that they knew God with faith, it seems possible and reasonable to conclude that God would save them by the work of Jesus, even though they never heard the name of gospel of Jesus.

4. **COVENANT MAKER:** *The God of the Bible supplemented general revelation to all humans with a special covenant made with Jewish people, the Covenant of Law, which was designed ultimately to prepare the Jews and the world for Jesus Christ, but was never intended to save people, for people are only and always saved only by “faith.”*

Exodus 19-23 (1445 BC/E)
Rom. 3:20-23
Rom. 10:1-4
Galatians 3—5

5. **OVER-LOOKER:** *The God of the Bible “overlooked” cognitive and Theological confusion and instead looked for the highest level of “faith” (trust) possible for humans to exercise given their limitations, and saved them on that basis.*

Acts 17:29-30
Romans 2:6-11
Romans 10:14-16

CONCLUSION TO THE GOD OF PRE-JESUS, PRE-GOSPEL HUMANS

Prior to Jesus, for those who responded in faith to God's revelations (which faith would have been evidenced by how they lived, Rom. 2:6-11), God "overlooked" their ignorance and applied the work of Jesus "backwards" to them (*backwards to us, but not to God Who is outside of time*) and thus saved them exactly as we are saved after Jesus, by faith. When they arrived in Heaven, they then understood the ultimate basis of their salvation, the work of Jesus on the Cross.

THE GOD OF POST-JESUS, POST-GOSPEL HUMANS

1. *The Lamb that was slain "before" Creation in the Omniscient Mind and Plans of God actually entered into time and Space and was slain on the Cross for the Sins of everyone. Jesus is The One, Only and True Savior*

Rev. 13:8
John 1:14
1 John 2:2
John 14:6
Galatians 2:21

2. *God is now commanding all humans to repent of previous ignorance and exercise faith in Jesus (Acts 17:30), **but***

3. *Not all humans after Jesus' death "heard, are hearing" now and perhaps will not "hear" before they die.*

Romans 10:14-16

4. *What does it really mean to "bear" the Good News?*

Facts: 1 Cor. 15:3-4

Conviction and Responsibility: John 16:7-11

My definition of "hearing about Jesus" and The "Mystical" Line of Responsibility and Culpability
(see last page on "**Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit**")

MY PURPOSED CONCLUSION

Since God saved pre-Jesus people by the then future work of Christ on the Cross based on their faith or trust in God based on what they were able to know or "knew" about God (Acts 17:30), then God may also save those after the death of Jesus who never heard of Jesus' death in the same way God saved those prior to the death of Jesus, by

- 1) Jesus' work on the Cross,
- 2) Applied to them by God when they exercised faith in what they were able to know,
- 3) And understood ultimately by them when they finally reached God in Heaven.

Psalm 90:4 - 2 Peter 3:8

The Realm Outside of Time

Revelation 13:8, Jeremiah 1:5, Ephesians 1:11

THE REALM OF TIME			
PRE GOSPEL AGE: PRE-JESUS, PRE-GOOD NEWS HUMANS			POST GOSPEL AGE: POST-JESUS, POST GOOD NEWS HUMANS
Romans 1:18-21 C	Romans 2:14-15 C	Acts 14:16-17 C	≡ <i>Cosmos, Conscience and Care</i> continue as witnesses to God, with the additional witnesses of the <i>persuading work of the Holy Spirit</i> and of the <i>Good News of Jesus</i> for those fortunate to “hear” of their Savior.
Acts 17:30			
Genesis 14:18-20	Genesis 15:6	Torah Special Revelation to Jewish, 1445 BC/E	H The Good News of Jesus has been and is being proclaimed, but, what about those who did not hear and do not hear and will not hear? I John 2:2 Romans 10:13-15 John 16:5-15

Dear Friend:

Many people worry about committing the “unpardonable sin” of “blaspheming the Holy Spirit.” Below are some central passages and my thoughts on the “unpardonable sin.” I hope this is helpful to you as you think through this controversial passage. I believe once you understand fully what I have explained here, your fears that you have committed this sin will disappear and be replaced once again with the joy of your loving Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1) According to Jesus, The Holy Spirit

- a) Bears witness to Christ (John 15:26)
- b) Convicts the “world, i.e., non-Christians) of their need for Christ (John 16:7-11).
- c) Glorifies Christ (makes Jesus known, as He really is, John 16:13-15).

Thus, no one becomes a Christian until the Holy Spirit does His secret work within his or her heart. The Holy Spirit bears witness to Christ, convincing non-Christians that they need to believe in Christ to be forgiven and glorifying Christ in such a way that the unbeliever desires to and actually does come by faith to believe in Jesus. The Holy Spirit thus bears witness to the Person of Christ, the words of Christ and the works of Christ done via the power of the Holy Spirit.

2) According to John, The Holy Spirit

- a) Bears witness to Christ as one of three witnesses that fulfill the legal requirement of Deut. 19:15 (1 John 5:9).
- b) A rejection of the witness of the Holy Spirit *is the same as rejecting Christ as Lord and Savior*, because the Holy Spirit tells the unbeliever that Jesus is Lord. If one rejects that witness, *then it is self-evident that not only are they calling God a liar but also rejecting Christ Himself* (1 John 5:10-12).

THE BLASPHEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (MATTHEW 12:22-37, MARK 3:22-30).

Obviously we must read the entire passage *in context*. Once we have done this, it is clear that:

- 1) Jesus cast out demons *by the Spirit of God* (Matt. 12:28).
- 2) That Jesus’ exorcisms were one way that The Holy Spirit *bore witness to Jesus’ claims to be Christ and Lord* (see texts above).
- 3) That the Pharisees attributed the work and witness of the Holy Spirit in and through Jesus to Satan (Beelzebul, Matt. 12:24).
- 4) That in doing so, they were not only rejecting the witness of the Holy Spirit, but as a logical corollary, also rejecting Jesus as Christ and Lord. *Thus, if one rejects Jesus as Lord and Savior, how can one be forgiven?*
- 5) Thus, the “blasphemy of The Holy Spirit” is really the same as “*rejecting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior*,” and that is why it is unforgivable. If one rejects the only way to be forgiven, i.e., Jesus, then how can one be forgiven?
- 6) We later learn from the New Testament that the definition of a Christian is one who affirms that “*Jesus is Lord*” (1 Cor. 12:1-3). No one can say “Jesus is Lord” from the heart unless *they are empowered to do so by the Holy Spirit* (which of course assumes they have already agreed with the witness of the Holy Spirit to Jesus as Lord and Savior).
- 7) Thus, *a Christian cannot commit the “blasphemy of the Holy Spirit,”* because the New Testament definition of a Christian is one who accepts the witness of the Holy Spirit to Jesus and receives Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- 8) **In conclusion, to commit the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, one has to:**
 - a) *Reject the Testimony of The Holy Spirit* to the person, words and work of Jesus Christ., which is equal to
 - b) *Rejecting Christ Himself*, and
 - c) *Fudge up some other theory that explains* who Jesus is and how he did what He did, i.e., not only reject Jesus but also ascribe His person, words and work to Satan or some other evil Occult force. Thus, only a non-Christian can commit this sin, and of course, non-Christians are unforgiven until they receive Christ as Lord and Savior.

May the Holy Spirit illuminate you and set you free from fears so you can fulfill the destiny Christ has called you to fulfill (Eph. 2:8-10, 2 Cor. 3),

Agape,
John David Geib

WORLD POPULATION STATISTICS: POPULATION IN MILLIONS.

World Population Statistics 10,000 BC/E until Present	
10,000 BC/E	1-10 Million
5,000 BC/E	5-20 Million
2,000 BC/E	27-? million
Birth of Jesus	170-400 million
1,000 AD/CE	254-345 million
1950 AD/CE	2.4-2.6 Billion
Present	7.5 Billion
2050	9.2 billion

Year	Summary	
	<i>When lower and upper estimates are the same they are shown under "Lower."</i>	
	Lower	Upper
10000 BC	1	10
5000 BC	5	20
2000 BC	27	
1 AD	170	400
1000 AD	254	345
1950 AD	2,400	2,556

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10/40 WINDOW

10/40 Window is a term coined by [Christian missionary](#) strategist [Luis Bush](#) in 1990¹ to refer those regions of the eastern hemisphere located between 10 and 40 degrees north of the [equator](#), a general area that in 1990 was purported to have the highest level of socioeconomic challenges and least access to the Christian message and Christian resources on the planet. The 10/40 Window encompasses [Afghanistan](#), [Algeria](#), [Bahrain](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Benin](#), [Bhutan](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Cambodia](#), [Chad](#), [China](#), [Cyprus](#), [Djibouti](#), [Egypt](#), [Eritrea](#), [Gambia](#), [Greece](#), [Guinea](#), [Guinea-Bissau](#), [India](#), [Iran](#), [Iraq](#), [Israel](#), [Japan](#), [Jordan](#), [Kuwait](#), [Laos](#), [Lebanon](#), [Libya](#), [Mali](#), [Malta](#), [Mauritania](#), [Morocco](#), [Myanmar](#), [Nepal](#), [Niger](#), [North Korea](#), [Oman](#), [Pakistan](#), [Philippines](#), [Portugal](#), [Qatar](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [Senegal](#), [South Korea](#), [Sudan](#), [Syria](#), [Taiwan](#), [Tajikistan](#), [Thailand](#), [Tunisia](#), [Turkey](#), [Turkmenistan](#), [United Arab Emirates](#), [Vietnam](#), [Western Sahara](#), and [Yemen](#). These are all eastern hemisphere nations with at least 50 percent of their land mass falling within 10 to 40 degrees latitude.

The 10/40 Window concept highlights these three elements: an area of the world, with **great poverty and low quality of life, combined with lack of access to Christian resources**. The Window forms a band encompassing [Saharan](#) and [Northern Africa](#), as well as almost all of Asia ([West Asia](#), [Central Asia](#), [South Asia](#), [East Asia](#) and much of [Southeast Asia](#)). Roughly two-thirds of the world population lives in the 10/40 Window. The 10/40 Window is populated by people who are predominantly [Muslim](#), [Hindu](#), [Buddhist](#), [Animist](#), [Jewish](#) or [Atheist](#). Many governments in the 10/40 Window are formally or informally opposed to Christian work of any kind within their borders. 865 million [Muslims](#) or [Islamic](#) followers; 550 million [Hindus](#); 275 million [Buddhists](#); 140 million in 2550 tribal groups (mainly [animist](#)); 17 million [Jews](#)

World evangelism statistics: Of the 55 least evangelized countries, 97% of their population lives within the Ten Forty Window. Unless something changes soon, most of these unreached people will never hear the Gospel. Why? Bryant Myers of World Vision has estimated that only about one and a quarter percent (1.25%) of Christian mission giving is going to missions work in the 10/40 Window. Open evangelism is difficult and even impossible because of governmental restrictions in many 10/40 Window countries. Those are [creative access](#) areas. The statistics of the numbers of non-Christians can be staggering [[fate of the unevangelized?](#)]

MISSIONS STATISTICS FROM THE PLACES OF THE 10/40 WINDOW:

- **Center of population:** Two-thirds of the world's population -- more than 4.5 billion people -- live in the 10/40 Window.
- **Unreached and unevangelized:** 95% of the people living in the 10/40 Window are [unevangelized](#). Many have never heard the Gospel message even once. There are either no Christians or not enough of a Christian movement in many cultures of the 10/40 Window to carry out vibrant near-neighbor evangelism. If those groups are to be evangelized, believers will need to leave their own culture to enter another where they will seek to plant the gospel. Such cross-cultural evangelism is required because there are people groups with no church movements that are understandable or relevant to them.
- **Poverty:** Eighty-five percent of those living in the 10/40 window are the poorest of the world's poor. [PowerPoint on Third World development](#)
- **World religions:** Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism are centered within the 10/40 Window. [more info](#)
- **Least evangelized cities:** Half of the world's least evangelized cities are in this window.
- **Good news:** There's a difference between unreached and unreachable. In 1989 there were only four known Christians living in [Mongolia](#). That country now has an estimated 10,000 indigenous believers. Also, Christian television programming can now be received in many closed 10/40 Window nations. Christians delivered more than \$1 million worth of food to just one 10/40 Window refugee camp in a recent year. In one North African country that is hostile to the Gospel, abundant rain fell after an [Easter](#) service. A local news channel reported, "Christians have brought rain to the desert." Missions researcher David Barrett says the country with the most rapid Christian expansion ever is China where there are **10,000 new Christian converts every day**.

¹ John David Geib, *An Examination Of The Spiritual Mapping Paradigm*, Theological Research Exchange Network (TREN), 1997, http://www.tren.com/http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10/40_Window#cite_note-paper-0#cite_note-paper-0