

Hebrews 6:4-8 – Part II

Can I lose My Salvation?

Hebrews 6:7 (NOTES)

- "ground that drinks the rain" - The author is using a familiar NT symbol - *ground* (also: *earth* - AV, *land* - ESV). Where have we seen the symbol "ground" used in the NT? It is the "soil" (NASB) of Matthew 13:8.
Matthew 13:8
- The word translated variously as ground, earth, land, and soil in both this and the Matthew 13 passage is the same Greek word, "ge" (ghay').
- What does *ground* or *soil* symbolize in the Matthew 13 passage? The heart. Compare Matthew 13:3-8 with 18-23, and see 14-15.
- "drinks the rain ... and brings forth vegetation" - Not tastes, but drinks/consumes. How is it able to drink the rain and bring forth vegetation? It is "tilled."
- What does the *rain* symbolize? Rain flows into streams and rivers that bring new life to the dry, parched desert - a well-known geographical feature of ancient Israel, and a well-understood spiritual condition of the heart. In the OT, the Holy Spirit is symbolized by this life-giving rain.
- Water is a regular biblical idiom (figure of speech, symbol) for the Holy Spirit in the NT. John 4:14, 7:37-39, Revelation 21:6
- What does this tilling symbolize? Conversion, the giving of a new heart, the granting of a new nature.
Ezekiel 36:26, 2Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 4:24
- Who tills the soil of the heart? Who makes it ready to receive seed and water? The self? No, the Holy Spirit - He causes us to be born again. He regenerates us (tills our soil/hearts) and indwells our hearts (our soil/hearts drinks the rain/receives the indwelling presence of His Spirit).
Titus 3:5, John 3:3, 8
- From the Matthew 13 passage, what does the seed symbolize? The Word of God.
Matthew 13:19-23

- What does the vegetation in this passage symbolize? To "bring forth vegetation" is to produce fruit, which requires both seed (the Word of God) and water (the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit). Vegetation is the fruit that comes from successful planting and watering. The seed and water that go into the ground/heart produce the fruit that is the blessing of God.
- We are not discussing agriculture; we are discussing theology, the Gospel. God used agrarian symbols to explain His theology. He created agriculture, and it demonstrates His spiritual truth.
- "blessing from God" - Vegetation is the fruit of the Holy Spirit that brings us "blessing from God."
Galatians 5:22-23

Hebrews 6:8 (NOTES)

- "if it yields thorns and thistles" - What do thorns and thistles symbolize? Sin.
Genesis 3:17-19, 22:9-13, John 19:1-3
- Who is the curser and burner? God.
Genesis 3:14, 17, Matthew 10:28, 13:40-42, Revelation 20:14-15
- "it is (1) worthless and (2) close to being cursed, and it (3) ends up being burned." - It is (1) worthless to God, (2) close to being cursed by Him if it does not produce fruit, and if cursed, (3) will be burned. If the ground (heart) yields only thorns and thistles (sin), and never produces vegetation (fruit of the Spirit), it has not been tilled, planted, and watered by God, and is, thus, to be burned (in hell).
John 15:1-8
- Thus, this passage is about the unregenerate Jew rejecting the Messiah (Jesus) and thus "falling away". It is also about the regenerate person (Jew or otherwise) producing the fruit of the Spirit after having been regenerated by Him.
1Corinthians 12:3, Hebrews 10:26-31