

**Shayla:** When will it be too late to be saved?

**Meforshim:**

There are three answers to your question; three circumstances that influence that fateful moment.

**First, it is possible to cross that line in this life.**

It is possible to become so hardened in this life that the Spirit begins to take you at your word and gives you what you have repeatedly claimed to want, independence from the sovereign will of God. We call that point “Pharaoh’s line”, a reference to the Pharaoh who refused to obey Hashem’s command to let Israel go.

God, in His transcendence over time, knew that it would happen, but gave Pharaoh the opportunity anyway.

- **Exodus 4:21 HCSB** The LORD instructed Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, make sure you do in front of Pharaoh all the wonders I have put within your power. But I will harden his heart so that he won't let the people go.
- **Exodus 7:3-4 HCSB** But I will harden Pharaoh's heart and multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt. (4) Pharaoh will not listen to you, but I will put My hand on Egypt and bring out the ranks of My people the Israelites, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.

Notice that God was talking about the end result, the retrieval of Israel. God didn’t go in hardening Pharaoh’s heart, He simply was acknowledging that in the end His efforts with Pharaoh would be useless. We can actually watch the process unfold over time.

- Pharaoh hardened his heart (Exodus 7:13)
- Pharaoh hardened his heart (Exodus 7:22)
- He didn’t even take it to heart (Exodus 7:23)
- Pharaoh hardened his heart (Exodus 8:15)
- Pharaoh hardened his heart (Exodus 8:19)
- Pharaoh hardened his heart (Exodus 8:32)
- Pharaoh hardened his heart (Exodus 9:7)
- **The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 9:12)**
- **Pharaoh hardened his heart as the Lord said (Exodus 9:34-35)**
- **The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 10:1)**
- **The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 10:20)**
- **The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 10:27)**
- **The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 11:10)**
- **The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 14:4)**
- **The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 14:8)**

As you can see, there was a distinct line that Pharaoh crossed where the Lord God said, “enough”. We believe that it is possible to cross that line in this life by steadfastly refusing the Spirit’s message of salvation concerning the Messiah. (See also Unforgivable Sin)

**Second, that line is crossed at death.**

The number of our days have already been determined by God and sets limits that no man can pass (Job 14:5). When we die, we are like water that is poured out on the ground and can’t be recovered (2 Samuel 14:14). There is no reincarnation. There are no second chances. Each of us will die once and be judged (Hebrews 9:27). There is no purgatory. You don’t get to take a peek at life after death and make your decision then.

**Third, there will be a time in the future when all remaining humans will cross that line.**

The elders of CBF hold to a “prewrath” view of the timing of the Rapture. Our understanding is that the saints will NOT be raptured before the beginning of the seven year Tribulation period, but that we will be persecuted until shortly after the Abomination of

Desolation takes place at the mid-point (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). The rapture will initiate the Great Day of God's Wrath, which we are told that we will escape (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

At that point, the Spirit's testimony to human hearts will be removed (2 Thessalonians 2:7-8) and a spirit of delusion will be sent instead (2 Thessalonians 2:11) so that from that point on the rebels will believe only what is false and will be condemned in their sins.

If you would like to see what that condition would be like, consider King Saul's slow descent into madness initiated by the following statement:

- [1 Samuel 16:14-15 HCSB](#) Now the Spirit of the LORD had left Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD began to torment him, (15) so Saul's servants said to him, "You see that an evil spirit from God is tormenting you.

As the Scriptures say,

- [2 Corinthians 6:2 HCSB](#) For He says: **In an acceptable time, I heard you, and in the day of salvation, I helped you.** Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation.
- [Hebrews 4:7 HCSB](#) again, He specifies a certain day--**today**--speaking through David after such a long time, as previously stated: **Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.**