



BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

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Answers by the faculty of **Berean Bible Institute** or compiled from the works of mid-Acts Grace authors

BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

When the wise men from the east came to Jerusalem they asked a "Bible question" of King Herod. "Where is He who is born King of the Jews?" They asked, explaining that they had "seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him." Old King Herod was greatly troubled by this and assembled the chief priests and scribes together and demanded that they tell him what the Scriptures said about where Israel's promised Messiah would be born. They told him that the prophet Micah had foretold that He would be born in Bethlehem. Secretly planning to murder the new born King, Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem to find Him, instructing them to come back to Jerusalem and tell him where He was so he could go and worship Him also. But, being warned by God they bypassed Jerusalem on their way home and Joseph took Mary and the young Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod's murderous plot. The Lord Jesus Christ came into this world for a purpose and nothing could hinder His earth journey from a manger in Bethlehem to the cross of Calvary. Not a wicked king, not Satan and his devilish temptations and not the religious leaders of the Jews.

We don't know exactly what the wise men knew about Him who was born King of the Jews and the prophecies about His future as the Savior and eventual Ruler of the world. But obviously they knew enough to invest considerable time and finances into traveling to Judea for a brief visit with the Child and to honor Him with expensive gifts of gold,

frankincense, and myrrh. Herod also knew something about His prophesied future and tried to destroy Him to protect his pretentious position as the king of the Jews that he had been appointed to by the Romans.

It is interesting to note that "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." In a real sense it is Jesus Christ Himself that is the Gift of God because eternal life is found in Him and Him alone.

The wise men gave what they had to Him and no doubt God honored their heart attitude in their giving. But, in value, in the giving of His Son to die for the sins of the world God made a gift available to "whosoever will" receive it that is worth far more than all the wealth of the whole world. Even with the wealth of the whole world not one soul could be bought out of the slave market of sin. But, Christ purchased us "with His own blood." The giving of the gifts by the wise men was no doubt done as a freewill gesture of praise and honor to God for the wonderful thing that He had done in sending His Messiah to Israel.

The Apostle Paul explained that our giving to the Lord today, in the dispensation of Grace, is on that same principle. We are not to give "grudgingly, or of necessity" but out of a "cheerful" heart, that says, "thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

Because Christ Lives!

W. Edward Bedore

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Tim. 3:16



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QUESTION: Under the ministry of John the Baptist, the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, and the twelve apostles salvation was offered as follows: repent, believe and be baptized for the remission of sins. So, what about the following? What did the woman of Luke 7:48-49 believe? In Matthew 9:1-2 it seems to indicate that others believed for the man who was sick of the palsy. What is required?

ANSWER: One thing we have to remember when reading the Gospel Records of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry is that they are historical books. Their primary purpose is to relate an accurate history of the events that took place in Christ's life. Consequently, most of the time they do not elaborate on doctrine like the epistles do. Also, they do not always provide us with all of the details concerning events as they took place. In other words, the Gospel Record are condensed versions of the life and times of Jesus Christ. However, in many places the Lord Jesus did directly teach doctrinal truths pertaining to the Kingdom and at other times used parables to illustrate them. With these things in mind, we will try to answer your questions about these two passages. The woman in Luke 7:48-49 that Christ said was forgiven of her sins had come to the Pharisee's house where He was eating to wash His feet and anoint them with "ointment" (fragrant oil). That she honored Him in such a way shows that she believed that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah of Israel that John the Baptist said He was and that He claimed to be.

Concerning the paralytic of Matthew 9:1-2 and those who brought him to the Lord, the faith of all involved is indeed in view, "...and Jesus seeing *their faith*...". Evidently the four men who carried him there (see Mk. 2:3) and the paralyzed man all believed that Jesus was the Messiah and could heal him. The Lord Jesus only spoke directly to the paralytic because He wanted to use him as a dramatic real life object lesson to reveal His power to both heal and forgive sins (see Matt. 9:1-8).

Concerning baptism, both John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus had been baptizing the people who came to them for the remission of sins for a while before these events took place (Matt. 3:1-6; Lk. 3:1-3; Jn. 3:22; 4:1-3). So, these people may have already been baptized disciples of the Lord. They could have been baptized either by John or by Christ. It is noteworthy that nothing is said about any of those in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost being rebaptized. This is evidence that points to the baptizing ministry of the twelve apostles on Pentecost as being a continuation of the earlier baptizing ministries of John and the Lord Jesus.

QUESTION: In the Book of Revelation chapter 20 we have the dead of all ages whose names are not written in the Book of Life being judged and cast into the Lake of Fire. My question is, if in chapter 20 the unsaved of all ages are judged at the Great White Throne and cast into the Lake of Fire, who are these dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, idolaters, and whoever loveth and maketh a lie that are outside the city in chapter 22?

ANSWER: The point of this passage is not that the wicked dead are hanging around outside the gates of the city, but that none of them will ever be found in the city, Notice what the Apostle John wrote in chapter 21.

"And the nations of them, which are saved, shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lambs Book of Life" (Rev. 20:24-27).

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Two things here are important to identifying those who will remain outside the city's gates and where they are. First of all, the city's gates will never be shut (v. 25), so that the entire population of the New Earth will be able to enter into it. Second, we are told the only ones who will be able to enter are those whose names "are written in the Lamb's Book of Life" (v. 27). In relation to this, it has already been stated that "whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire" (Rev. 20:15). Those who are allowed into the city are redeemed. The unredeemed, those who died in their sins will forever remain without. They will not be able to enter because they will be in the Lake of Fire which burns "with brimstone" and "the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever" (Rev. 14:10-11; 19:20; 20:10, 15).

When we consider this in light of the context of what will take place in Revelation chapters 20, 21 and 22, we see God giving a strong warning to the lost. Each of these chapters contains a pointed statement to the fact that those who reject Jesus Christ in this life will surely be cut off from the life and presence of God in the next (Rev. 20:11-15; 21:24-27; 22:10-15). In light of this inescapable truth, every blood bought saint should have a burden on their heart for the lost.

QUESTION: I found an article entitled "Hell, Sheol, Hades, Paradise, and the Grave" by Dr. Bedore. After reading it I have two questions I would like to ask.

First, what does the apostles Creed mean when it says that Christ "descended into hell"? Second, did Christ's spirit leave Him at His death, like ours will, and return to Him at His resurrection? I was thinking of Jairus' daughter in Luke 8:55.

ANSWER: First, the statement in the Apostles Creed that says that Jesus Christ "descended into hell" is about the reality of His death. The statement is made in relation to Psalms 16:10

and Acts 2:27. In Psalms 16 it is prophesied that in death the Messiah's soul would not be confined to sheol (hell) and His body would not decompose (see corruption) in the grave. In Acts 2:27 the Apostle Peter directly applied this prophecy to the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. The word translated "hell" in Psalm 16 is sheol and the Greek word translated "hell" in Acts 16 is hades. This hell is in the center of the earth. Today those who have died in their sins go there to await the Great White Throne judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

In the saying that "He descended into hell" the Apostles Creed is saying that the Lord Jesus Christ's soul and spirit were separated from His body in death. Since the soul contains the essence of a human's personality, or personhood, the verses referred to teach that Jesus Christ did not cease to exist when He died on the Cross, but that He continued to exist as a personal being who descended into hades (hell) for the three days that His body was in the grave.

Your second question is related to the first. Our bodies are only "tents," so to speak, that we live in. The soul is the seat of our personhood, it is who we are. Each individual also has a spirit that is inseparable from the soul. In the present dispensation, at physical death the soul and the spirit of a person leave their body and is sent either to heaven or hell (sheol/hades) depending on whether they are a believer or an unbeliever. Either way they will be reunited with their body when they are resurrected either unto everlasting life or unto everlasting judgment (Jn. 5:28-29; I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thes. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:4-6, 11-15).

For a full treatment of this and related subjects see Dr. Bedore's book, The Place and State of The Dead. Spiral bound, 8 1/2 by 11 format, available from **Berean Bible Institute** for \$10.00 (S&H included in price).



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INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

Some Common Sayings Taken from the Bible

"A Thorn in One's Side"

This saying is taken from II Corinthians 12:7 where the Apostle Paul says that God allowed Satan to afflict him in some physical way to keep him from becoming puffed up with pride over the spiritual truths that had been revealed to him by the Lord. After he had fervently petitioned the Lord three times to remove whatever it was that the annoyance was, the Lord said to him, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Cor. 12:8-9). Through this Paul learned that he could have true joy in every situation because it was God's grace that would sustain him (II Cor. 12:9b-10). It is often used today to refer to any bothersome person or problem that one has to continually put up with.

"Fire and Brimstone"

It is common to hear people refer to preachers who give strong messages against sin while warning their hearers about the judgment to come as "fire and brimstone preachers," even though most do not know what brimstone is. Brimstone is an old name for sulfur. It is a brittle non-metallic element that is yellow in color. It burns with a blue flame and gives off a very disagreeable odor. It is often found in abundance in volcanic areas. The book of Revelation says that Satan and all of the unsaved will eventually be cast into a "lake of fire and brimstone" where they will burn in torment "forever and ever" (see Rev. 14:10; 19:20; 20:10,15; 21:8). Burning brimstone is used in the Bible to illustrate the awfulness of the reality of the fires of hell.

"God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"

Although many people believe that this proverb is from the Bible, it definitely is not. Benjamin Franklin first said it and years later it was made famous by John F. Kennedy when he used it in a speech.

Some take this saying to mean that God blesses those who do hard honest work to better themselves and support their families. Others use it as a way of saying that the only way God provides anything for anybody is what they provide for themselves. Sometimes it is even used to justify less than honest ways of dealing with others. The first concept does have some merit, because God does honor honest labor and uprightness in all our relationships with others (see Eph. 4:25-29). The second idea about this saying is totally self-serving and can actually promote ungodly behavior.

"Maudlin"

This term means "weakly" or "tearfully sentimental" as it is used today. Its origin is from "Magdalene," referring to Mary Magdalene of the Bible, who was one of the devoted women who followed Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry. How the word came about has little to do with the Mary Magdalene of the Scriptures and everything to do with how she was portrayed in classical paintings. She was often depicted as disheveled with red swollen eyes from weeping endlessly over her sins. The British pronounced her name "Maudlin" and it became associated with the idea of "overdoing it emotionally."

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