



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

It is encouraging to see so much interest in the BABQ since we started publishing it. First, because it indicates that there are a lot of our readers that have a genuine interest in knowing their Bible better because they believe it is the Word of God and that it is important to understand it.

The second reason is related to the first. That there are Bible believers like you out there that not only hold the Holy Scriptures in high regard, but also understand that Bible truth is something to cherish, protect, and proclaim. This is encouraging because there are many “professing” Christians today who do not think that knowing the Bible is all that important. Those, like you, who are actively striving to grow in the Word to learn more of the Lord Jesus and His purposes for our lives are like a beacon light shining out of the dark.

I recently came across a quote from a book titled *Evidence Not Seen* about an American missionary named Darlene Deibler Rose who spent over three years in a Japanese prison camp during World War II. As it related in a very real way to the practical importance of knowing what the Scriptures say and having its truths imbedded in our minds and souls I would like to share it with you.

“In the cell I was grateful now for those days in Vacation Bible School, when I had memorized many single verses, complete chapters, and Psalms, as well as whole books of the Bible. In the years that followed, I reviewed the Scriptures often. The Lord fed me with the Living Bread that had been

stored against the day when fresh supply was cut off by the loss of my Bible. He brought daily comfort and encouragement—yes, and joy—to my heart through the knowledge of the Word....I had never needed the Scriptures more than in these months on death row, but since so much of His Word was there in my heart, it was not the punishment [they] had anticipated when they took my Bible.”

Just as He sustained this faithful servant through the most difficult of circumstances He will sustain us in our times of need if we will but dare to trust Him by believing His Word. Even in the darkest days of despair His Word is a channel of life and hope for the soul of every blood bought saint of God. In all situations His “*grace is sufficient*” for us (II Cor. 12:9); His care for us “*surpasses all understanding*” (Phil. 4:6-7); and His inspired Word “*is profitable*” to our need to be “*equipped for every good work*” (II Tim. 3:16-17).

In our quarterly newsletter, the **BBI Bulletin**, we generally publish longer articles and studies concerning Biblical topics. These are for the purpose of teaching sound doctrine and providing instruction in grace living. In the BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS we try to provide concise answers to important questions that serious minded believers have about the Scriptures. We also include some interesting facts in the BABQ about God’s Word and its influence on society. Both the **Bulletin** and the BABQ are produced and sent out with the goal of edifying the Body of Christ and equipping the saints to walk in the Spirit.

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“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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If you have found the **Bulletin** and the BABQ to be worthwhile then maybe you could pass them on to someone else when you are finished with them. Or, we would be glad to send both the **Bulletin** and the BABQ directly to them if they ask.

All of us here at **BBI** appreciate your earnest prayers and support of this ministry. Grace and peace to you "in Christ."

Because Christ Lives,

W. Edward Bedore

Dr. W. Edward Bedore

QUESTION: I understand that paradise has been moved to heaven, but I would like to know about the following: (1) Is paradise a special place in heaven for the saved who have died? (2) Are the Old Testament saints in paradise today? (3) Will the Old Testament saints be raised with the New Testament saints when Christ comes again? (4) Are God and the angels in paradise with the saints or in some other area if heaven is divided into sections?

ANSWER: These are good questions, but I don't think that the Bible gives us enough information to answer them all in detail. We know that there was a fixed barrier in Sheol/Hades that separated the saved and unsaved dead there before the Cross (Lk. 16:19-26). We also know that Jesus Christ's soul (His person) was in Sheol/Hades while His body laid in the tomb for three days (Acts 2:27,31) and that He promised the thief on the cross that they would be together in Paradise the day they died (Lk. 23:42-43). We conclude from these things that before Christ's resurrection Sheol/ Hades was partitioned into at least two parts, one for the saved and one for the unsaved, the place of the saved being called Paradise. I believe that when Christ ascended to the Father after His resurrection that He took the souls of all

the saved dead with Him. Thus Paradise was moved to heaven. Whether heaven is divided into sections or not we are not told. It may be, that the third heaven is now simply referred to as Paradise because the saved dead have been moved there to enjoy its comforts while they await their resurrection.

Concerning the timing of the resurrection of the saints of the Dispensation of Grace, they will be raised before the seven-year Tribulation begins. In contrast the Old Testament saints and the believers who die during the Tribulation will be raised after the Tribulation when Christ returns to earth. (For more on this subject see "The State and Place of the Dead" by Dr. W. Edward Bedore. It is available for \$7.50.)

QUESTION: Paul speaks of a man being caught up to "the third heaven." This means that there is also a "first heaven" and a "second heaven." What are the differences between them?

ANSWER: The three heavens are numbered according to their proximity to the earth. The **first heaven** is the atmospheric region that surrounds the earth (Gen. 1:7-8). We breathe it, the birds fly in it, airplanes travel through it, and the clouds, rain, and snow form in it (cf. Ps. 147:8; Prov. 23:5; Dan. 7:2; etc).

The **second heaven** is the celestial, or stellar heaven (Gen. 1:14-19; Deut. 4:19; Ps. 33:6; Heb. 1:10). It is where the stars, the sun, and the moon are, that which we refer to as "outer space."

The **third heaven** (II Cor. 12:2) is also referred to as the "heaven of heavens" (I Kin. 8:27; Deut. 10:14; II Chron. 2:6; Neh. 9:6). It is the abode, or habitation of God (I Kin. 8:30,39). We cannot give a location for it except to say that it is a real place that God has especially prepared from which to rule over all of creation (Ps. 103:19). It may be that it exists in another dimension that is inaccessible to natural man. Regardless, it is where Jesus Christ is today seated at the right hand of the Father (Mk. 16:19; Acts 2:33; 7:55-56; Rom. 8:34; Col. 3:1; Heb. 10:12; I Pet. 3:22).



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QUESTION: The Bible says that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world. Does this mean that everybody's sins have already been judged and taken away so that individuals do not need forgiveness of sins today?

ANSWER: While Christ died for the sins of the world no individual sinner can claim any personal benefit of His redemptive work of the Cross apart from a personal relationship with the Savior, which results in salvation. This, of course, can only be achieved through faith in Him. It cannot be earned, purchased, or attained through any human effort. It is pretty simple and straightforward really. All are under the wrath of God because *"all have sinned"* (Rom. 1:18; 3:23). It is through His death that Jesus Christ paid for our sins with His blood and it is only believers who are baptized into His death. In other words, it is only believers, those who have been personally identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, who are forgiven and washed in His blood.

In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul tells us that two important aspects of the believer's blessings *"in Christ"* are *"redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"* (Eph. 1:7). There is no piece-meal parceling out of the Lord Jesus Christ as Redeemer and Savior. A person either receives Him as their Savior through faith and thereby they are forgiven of their sins, declared righteous in God's sight, are reconciled to God, sanctified, and given eternal life or they remain lost in their sins, unrighteous in God's sight, at enmity with God, unholy, and spiritually dead. It simply is one way or the other. There is no in-between, a person either is *"in Christ"* and has all that He has to offer or they are without Christ and face the wrath of God.

To any lost sinner reading these words, there is hope for you if you will but place your faith in Jesus Christ and receive the forgiveness of sins. He died on your behalf, He was buried and He rose again from the dead (I Cor. 15:3-4). *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved"* (Acts 16:31).

THE BIBLE IS UNIQUE

In the last edition of the BABQ we gave a brief look at some of the ways that the Bible stands out as one of a kind in its continuity. Here we would like to mention its single-minded focus on a people and a Person. The first eleven chapters of the Bible give us a brief but important history of the origin of man, how he became alienated from his Creator through sin, and the extent of his depravity. This concise record of the origin of man and the spread of the nations serves as an introduction to the rest of the Bible as it forms the foundation for the Scriptures.

From the introduction of Abram (later known as Abraham) in chapter twelve on, the focus of the Biblical record is on him and his descendants, who became the nation of Israel. As God's chosen people, everything in the Bible from Genesis chapter twelve on is in some way tied to Israel. In fact, most of it is directly concerned with this particular people. It is through this nation that the Bible's main personage, the Living Creator God is ultimately made known through His Son, Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament the types and shadows of the patriarchs and the Mosaic Law provide groundwork for the coming of Christ. In the historical books the way is prepared for the coming of Christ. Expressed in the poetical books is a longing for the coming of Christ. In the prophets there is found the promise of the coming of Christ.

In the New Testament we find this same continuity of focus on the Person of Jesus Christ. The Gospel records give us the history of the first coming of Christ and His life, death, and resurrection. The Acts record the spread of the proclamation of Christ, to the Jew first and then to the Gentiles; the Epistles of Paul (Romans-Philemon) explain the Gospel of the Grace of God through Christ. The Kingdom

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Epistles (Hebrews-Jude) anticipate the Second Coming of Christ; and the Revelation foretells the events that will precede the Second Coming of Christ and the things that will follow.

Although the Bible contains many books written over many years by many authors, its continuity shows it to be one Book in essence. This fact stands in stark contrast to the works of the authors who are the most renowned and respected by the world. While they may share some commonalties, the philosophers and thinkers of the world are for the most part contradictory to each other in their positions and perspectives. The Bible, God's Word, is the only written work available to mankind that bears the mark of God's hand in its continuity. It is indeed a unique Book. Read it. Believe it. And trust it. *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"* (Rom. 10:17).

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*** INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS ***

Some Common Sayings Taken from the Bible

A few more of the common sayings in use today that come from the Bible.

"Fat of the Land"

Joseph told his brother that when they moved their father (Jacob) and their families to Egypt to escape the famine in Canaan, that he would make sure they would live in the most productive area of Egypt where they would *"eat of the fat of the land"* (Gen. 45:18). What Joseph meant was that the land he was putting them on

would produce good crops to feed them and they would prosper there. Its basic meaning remains the same today, but it is sometimes used to refer to someone who is prospering because of some fortunate situation they have happened to find themselves in.

"Keep the Faith"

This expression comes from the Apostle Paul's second letter to Timothy shortly before he was executed in Rome. He said. *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"* (II Tim. 4:7). "The Faith" he was referring to is the Gospel of the Grace of God in Jesus Christ and the Body of Grace Doctrine that it rests on. It is commonly used today in regards to maintaining a position on some religious, philosophical or other matter or to "hoping for the best" when in dire circumstances.

"Fight the Good Fight"

This saying also comes from II Timothy 4:7 (see *"Keep the Faith"* above). Paul meant that he had faithfully carried out his duties as a soldier of Jesus Christ (cf. II Tim. 2:3-4) and had no regrets and that his life on this earth was coming to an end. He was looking forward to receiving the *"crown of righteousness"* that the Lord Jesus had reserved for Him in heaven (II Tim. 4:8).

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