



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

The first issue of BABQ was received very well. From the response we've had it is evident that many of our readers have Bible questions that they would like answered. We are thankful for the opportunity the Lord has given us to be of help to those who have a sincere interest in learning more about the Word of God. We hope that you will find this edition to be interesting, helpful and encouraging.

These are certainly interesting and challenging times that we are living in. It seems that the whole world, with great concern for the future, is asking the question, "what will happen next?" Recent events on the national and global stage have made it evident that there is no real security to be found in worldly pursuits and investments. Thankfully, total security for the soul is available to every lost sinner who simply places his or her trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and receives the gift of eternal life. Pray with us that the Lord will continue to use the ministry of **BBI** to spread the Gospel of the Grace of God though the proclaiming of "Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery" (see Rom. 16:24-27). Your prayers, encouragement, and support are deeply appreciated.

Because Christ Lives,

Dr. W. Edward Bedore

QUESTION:

Why is the Land of Israel referred to as Palestine today?

ANSWER:

The name Palestine is derived from the Philistines. The Biblical names for the land promised to Abraham's descendants as their inheritance (through Isaac and Jacob) are Canaan and Israel. The name Palestina, or Palestine, is found four times in the Bible (Ex. 15:14; Isa. 14:29,31; Joel 3:4) in reference to the coastal strip to the southeast of Israel that was occupied by the Philistines. It was roughly the same area known as the Gaza Strip today. The Romans referred to the southern part of Israel as "Provincia Judea" but this name was changed to "Provincia Syria Palestina" by the Emperor Hadrian in the early second century AD. Eventually the name Palestine came to be used of all of the land that was ever occupied by the Jewish people. It is no coincidence that the land promised to Israel by covenant is now known by the name of her most persistent and troublesome enemy. It is another part of Satan's never ending attack on God's chosen people. It was David who finally subdued the Philistines and brought peace to ancient Israel. With an even greater victory David's greatest Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, will one-day once again subdue Israel's enemies. He will defeat not only the Philistines (Palestinians), but also all of the other people of the earth who are bent on destroying Israel. He will bring lasting peace to Israel when He comes the second time (Eze. 34:28-31).

"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:

If the Tribulation that will take place after the Rapture of the Body of Christ is a time of God's judgment on the earth, will people be able to be saved during that terrible time of God's wrath upon the ungodly?

ANSWER:

While the Tribulation will be a time of judgment upon those living on the earth, many individuals will be saved during that time of God's vengeance. The Dispensation of Grace will come to an end with the Rapture of the Body of Christ, and the Kingdom Gospel will be preached in the Tribulation (Mat. 24:14). People will either harden their hearts even more against God or turn to Him in repentance. For a brief time after the Rapture there will be no saved people on earth, but many will quickly turn to the Lord. These Kingdom believers will suffer strong persecution (Rev. 6:9-11; 7:9-15). The Messiah's mission is to provide salvation for both Israel and the Gentiles (Isa. 42:5-6; 49:1-7). In the darkness of the Tribulation, the light of Christ (Joh. 8:12) will be seen in believing Israel and will draw God-fearing Gentiles to the Living Creator God of Israel (Isa. 60:1-3). Both Jewish and Gentile believers who survive the Tribulation will enter the Kingdom in their natural bodies and will replenish the earth's depleted population. Kingdom believers who have died will be resurrected to enter the Kingdom on earth (Rev. 20:4-6).

QUESTION:

What must a person do to be saved?

ANSWER:

It is not what a person does that saves them, it is what God has done for them "in Christ" through His death on the cross that

provides salvation for lost sinners. People are lost because they have sinned and are worthy only of God's judgment (Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 6:23a). When individuals, who realize that they are condemned and without hope because of their sin, turn to Christ for forgiveness, they will be saved. No sinner could ever do anything to merit God's favor, causing Him to pardon their "sin debt." But, if they trust in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins, He will redeem them from the penalty of sin (condemnation in the Lake of Fire, Rev. 20:11-15). Being released from their sin debt (Eph. 1:7) they are declared righteous (justified) in God's sight, and therefore at peace with Him (reconciled). *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved"* (Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:21-26; 5:1; I Cor. 1:18, 21; 15:3-4; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 1:13-14; 2:8-9). *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit"* (Titus 3:5).

QUESTION:

Romans 4:25 states that Jesus Christ *"was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification."* This suggests that Christ's sacrifice of Himself for our redemption was not completed at the crucifixion, but something was added by His rising from the dead. What more is imputed to the believer through His resurrection?

ANSWER:

In one word, LIFE! What the Apostle Paul refers to as *"the preaching of the cross"* (I Cor. 1:18) includes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:3-4). The resurrection is so important to the Gospel of the Grace of God that the longest chapter in any of Paul's epistles is

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dedicated to it (see I Cor. 15). In His death the Lord Jesus paid the complete price of our redemption on the cross (Joh. 19:30) so that through faith in Him we might receive the forgiveness of sins. But, if He had not been raised from the dead and remained in the clutches of death, He could not impart the gift of eternal life to anyone. The complete victory over sin and death was won through His death and resurrection. As a Living Savior, He sits at the right hand of God to make intercession for us (Rom. 8:33-34). His resurrection proves Him to be the *"Son of God with power"* (Rom. 1:4). Every believer, having been united together with Him in His death is also united with Him in His resurrection (see Rom. 6:5-10). He died on the cross in order to take away our sins and was raised from the dead in order to make us righteous in the eyes of God (Rom. 4:25). His resurrection demonstrated the Father's acceptance of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on behalf of sinners. Because *"He lives"* the Father is free to impute His righteousness to all who believe. *"If Christ be not raised.... Ye are yet in your sins...but now is Christ risen from the dead....."* (see I Cor. 15:12-22).

THE BIBLE IS UNIQUE IN MANY WAYS

Here we would like to share with you some unique things about the Bible. They are interesting to say the least, but they are much more than simple curiosities about the greatest Book that has ever been written. They are important facts that set the Bible apart from all other literature. The evidence from its exclusive qualities show the Bible to be the very Word of God just as is claimed within its pages. In this issue of the BABQ we will look at the uniqueness of its consistency in diversity.

The Bible is a collection of 66 short books and letters that were written over a period of 1,500 to 1,600 years by at least 40 different authors that came from quite diverse backgrounds. Among them were farmers, poets, kings, shepherds, fishermen, dignitaries, priests, prophets, tax collectors, historians, scholars, prisoners, soldiers, musicians, and doctors who lived on three continents and used three different languages. Yet, in spite of the separation in time, location, and backgrounds of its writers the Bible contains a continuity of purpose and message that cannot be explained as mere coincidence. It reveals God's plan for the redemption of mankind and how it has been unfolded within the confines of human history with a singleness of thought that defies human logic. No three men living today with similar backgrounds, education and goals could write a single work that covers even one-third of the number of issues and subjects dealt with in the Bible and end up with the kind of agreement that we find within the pages of the Holy Scriptures.

The evidence of continuity within the Scriptures points to it being a work that has as its source an intelligent and powerful Being that guided its human authors in what they wrote. Of itself, the Bible declares that *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..."* and that *"...holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"* (see II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21). Look for more on the unique continuity of the Bible in the next issue of the BABQ.

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* INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS *

Some Common Sayings Taken From the Bible

In the last BABQ we listed a few of the common sayings in use today that are taken from the Bible. Following are a few more.

“Eat, Drink, and Be Merry”

This phrase from the Bible is found in the Lord Jesus’ parable about the rich fool in Luke 12:13-21 (see verse 19). This parable was given as a warning against trusting in temporary material wealth while rejecting the true wealth that is found in trusting God. It is commonly used today in regard to those who foolheartedly live only for today’s pleasures with no thought or preparation for the future. Also see I Corinthians 15:32; I Tim. 5:6-11.

“Scapegoat”

The original scapegoat was a real goat that had been selected to symbolically bear the sins of the people of Israel (Lev. 16:10, 20-22). A second goat was sacrificed as a sin offering to the Lord (Lev. 16:7-9, 24-25). Together these goats typify Jesus Christ’s sacrifice of Himself for the sins of mankind. He paid the price of redemption with His own blood, and as the Sin Bearer takes away the sins of those who trust in Him (Rom. 3:21-26; Eph. 1:7). Today the

term “scapegoat” is used of someone that is blamed for another’s mistake or wrong doing.

“The Blind Leading the Blind”

This phrase is one that we hear quite often today. Referring to false teachers who lead others away from the truth, Jesus said, “*and if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch*” (Mat. 15:14). The meaning is that those that do not know the truth can only lead others farther from the truth and both will suffer for it. It is commonly used today to refer to any circumstance where both the leaders and followers are inept because they lack the knowledge and/or skills necessary for whatever they are trying to accomplish.

“Money is the Root of All Evil”

This is a common saying that is **misquoted** from the Bible. What Paul actually wrote to Timothy is “*the love of money is the root of all evil*” (I Tim. 6:10). Money itself is not evil and it does not produce evil. It is man’s “love of money” that results in him doing evil. An attitude of covetousness is the same as idolatry (Col. 3:5) and brings trouble to those who set their affections on material riches rather than the spiritual riches found “*above where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God*” (cf. Col. 3:1-3; I Tim. 6:10b; Col. 2:3).

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