



BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

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BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

A few days ago I had an opportunity to speak with a couple who were going door-to-door to talk to people about their religious beliefs. Their hope is to do enough "good works" by serving their religious organization to get them into the Kingdom of God that will someday be on this earth. They think that only 144,000 elite believers will ever be allowed into heaven, they deny the doctrine of the Trinity, and the Deity of Jesus Christ, and they use a Bible that has been altered in many places in an attempt to make the Scriptures fit the many false doctrines that their leaders have burdened them with.

At some point in your life you have probably encountered people from this group who call themselves Jehovah's Witnesses. If you have you know that it is very difficult to share the Gospel with them because of how they have been trained by their leaders. They refuse to read anything other than literature produced by their parent organization, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. In spite of their zeal and sincerity, and they are zealous and sincere, they have missed the whole point of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Like all other religious sinners, regardless of what name they go by, they are lost. They will never earn the salvation they are working so hard to obtain. The reason Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to die on the Cross for us was to provide a way of salvation that is not possible any other way than as a gift. A gift of life that only a living Savior can give.

After talking to these people the Lord impressed on my heart anew the need to pray for the lost that we encounter in our lives. We need to pray for them and we need to share the Living Christ with them. They are in spiritual darkness and they need the Light of Life. This is true not only of those who belong to recognizable cults like the J.W.'s and the Mormon's, but of everybody who thinks they can earn God's favor through their good works. It simply cannot be accomplished through self-effort. God's favor is found in the person of Jesus Christ, God's own Son, who has already done all that is necessary for our redemption. The power of God for salvation is found in the message of the Cross of Jesus Christ (see I Cor. 1:18-21).

If you are reading this today and you do not have assurance of salvation, if you do not know for sure where you will spend eternity you can know today. The truth that we do not like to face as individuals, is that each and every one of us is a sinner. We have all sinned and fallen short of God's perfect standard of holiness and as sinners we are condemned to Hell (Rom. 3:23, Rev. 20:15). The other side of that coin is the awesome truth that Jesus Christ died for our sins and He was raised from the dead that He might give eternal life to all who come to Him to receive forgiveness through His blood in order to be redeemed and declared righteous in God's sight (I Cor. 15:3-4; Eph. 1:7). Have you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation? If you have, I rejoice with you in His mercy and grace through which He has

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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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saved us. If you have not, I beseech you, through faith trust in Jesus Christ's finished work of redemption and be saved today. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Rom. 6:23).

Because Christ Lives!

W. Edward Bedore

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

QUESTION: In Acts 11:19 it speaks about "preaching the Word unto the Jews only" by those kingdom saints that "were scattered abroad" because of persecution. In verse 20 it says that some men from Cyrus and Cyrene preached to the "Grecians" in Antioch. Were these Grecians dispersed Jews, as in Acts 6:1 or Gentiles?

ANSWER: The "Grecians" of Acts 11:20 were indeed dispersed Jews that had been heavily influenced by the Greek culture and language. These Jews were living outside of Israel while the Grecians (literally Hellenists) of Acts 6:1 evidently stayed in Jerusalem after becoming believers somewhere during the time covered between Acts 2:1 and 6:1. As there were many Jews from all over on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:8-11), it seems very probable that this was when the Grecians of Acts 6:1 came to believe that Jesus was the Christ (Messiah) of Israel. The term "Grecians" is only used of Greek speaking Jews and is found three times in the Bible (Acts 6:1; 9:29; 11:20).

QUESTION: I have read that the Apostle Paul's being called Saul should be equated with Abraham's name change in Genesis 17:4-5. I don't think that is right and I would appreciate your thoughts on it.

ANSWER: I agree with you that the author is wrong about this. My disagreement is based on

the differences between the two events and the other name changes found in Scripture. First, when the name changes of Abram/Abraham (Gen. 17:1-6); Sari/Sarah (Gen. 17:15-16); Jacob/Israel (Gen. 32:24-30); and Simon/Peter (Mat. 16:17-19), took place it was clearly stated in Scripture. We do not find this in the case of Paul (see Acts 13:4-9ff.).

Second, not only does the Scriptural Record specifically say that the Lord changed these other people's names, but it also gives us a brief explanation of why He gave them a new name. With Saul/Paul there is nothing mentioned.

Third, in the matter of Paul, the Scriptures say *"Then Saul, who also is called Paul,"* (Acts 13:9). This is simply given as a point of clarification so the reader would be aware that Saul and Paul were one and the same person as they read the rest of Acts and would recognize his authorship of the 13 epistles that begin with the name Paul (see verse 1:1 of Romans through Philemon). Paul simply had two names; the Jewish Saul and the Roman Paul. It was common for Jews born and raised in the dispersion, as Paul was, to have both a Hebrew and Gentile name. That Paul was born in Tarsus makes this even more likely for Paul because this gave him the birthright of a Roman citizen. This is fitting of Paul's apostleship and message as in the Dispensation of Grace there is no distinction between Jews and Gentiles in the Body of Christ. Paul's being both a Jew and a citizen of Rome by birth pictures for us the oneness in Christ that all believers have regardless of nationality.

QUESTION: I have always thought that the "prince of this world" was a reference to Satan, but recently someone told me that the Lord Jesus Christ was actually referring to Himself when He used this term in John 12:31. Is this true?

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ANSWER: No, it is not true. In His upper room discourse the Lord Jesus used this term three times (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). While Jesus Christ will one day rule over the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords He is not doing so today. Satan is the leader of the world system that is dominant today. And the world is no friend of God (see I Joh. 2:15-16). The Apostle Paul tells us that Satan is the "god of this world" (II Cor. 4:4) and the "prince and the power of the air" and "the spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2). All three of these titles point to Satan as being the one who is presently controlling the world system. In other words, he is the ruler or prince of this world.

Christ was referring to His coming death by which the world and Satan would be judged in John 12:32 (cf. Heb. 2:14). In John 14:30 He is speaking of Satan's coming through the means of Judas who would betray Him (cf. John 18:1-3). "Hath nothing in Me," as the sinless Son of God Satan had no claim to Him or power over Him. If He was referring to Himself here, He would be denying who He was. In John 16:11 the Lord again declares to His disciples that Satan is about to be judged and his power broken. For the believer, Satan is a defeated foe, a toothless lion that can only roar. When we put on the armor of God his fiery darts can have no affect on us (Eph. 6:10-18).

QUESTION: Somewhere I heard that there were over 600 commandments contained in the Mosaic Law. Is this true?

ANSWER: Yes it is. There are 613 commands in the Law of Moses. 248 are mandatory and the other 365 are probationary in nature. The commands are found in the Bible books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Dr. Harold Willmington has condensed each law into a one sentence command for clarity. His list can be found in his book "Willmington's Guide to the Bible." Just looking at this overwhelming

list of do's and don't brings a greater appreciation for the over abundant blessings of grace. The significance of Paul's words take on a new perspective for us. "For as many as are of the works of the Law are under the curse: for it is written *Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the Law to do them.* But that no man is justified by the Law in the sight of God, it is evident: for the just shall live by faith" (Gal. 3:10).

QUESTION: In Luke 24:50 what did Jesus do when He lifted His hands and blessed the apostles; what was the blessing?

ANSWER: Because of His position as the Great High Priest (Heb. 8:1), I believe that He was most likely pronouncing the priestly blessing on the apostles as the representatives of the twelve tribes of Israel (see Mat. 14:28; Lk. 22:20). The model for this three-fold blessing, as it was revealed to Moses, is found in the book of Numbers. "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord life up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace" (see Num. 6:22-27). This would be a blessing they would need in the face of the opposition to the Gospel that they would soon encounter from the religious leaders of Israel.

INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

Some Common Sayings Taken from the Bible

"Beautiful"

The first English Bible produced on a printing press was William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament in 1524. It was also the first English Bible that used the word "beautiful." While its use is common today it was a fairly new word in Tyndale's time and some were surprised that he used such an unfamiliar word in the Bible.



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"Can a Leopard Change His Spots"

This saying comes from the book of Jeremiah where the Lord says to Israel through the prophet; *"Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to (doing) evil"* (Jer. 13:23). The leopard question portion of the verse has found its way into common usage. God said it of the wayward people of Judah to bring home the truth that the nation was so entrenched in its evil ways that it was more likely that an Ethiopian could change his skin or a leopard its spots than it was that the nation could turn back to serve the Lord in love and thanksgiving by its own power. Today it is used of those who have once again demonstrated some problematic trait in their character proving that they haven't, and probably never will be changed from their former ways. Of course, as believers in Christ we know that individuals can be changed through the power of the Gospel.

"Feet of Clay"

This phrase comes from the second chapter of the book of Daniel. The young prophet was given the opportunity to tell the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, what he had dreamed and give him the interpretation of it (see Daniel chap. 2). The dream was about a statue of a man that was made of four different metals, with clay being mixed with the iron its feet were composed of. This imposing figure, which represents four powerful nations, was destroyed in the dream by a Stone that crushed its feet of iron and clay, causing the whole statue to fall and be crushed to dust and blown away while the Smiting Stone

became a great mountain that filled the whole earth. The meaning is that the godless nations of the earth will one day be destroyed by Jesus Christ when He returns to earth to establish His Kingdom of Righteousness.

Today, it is said that a person has "feet of clay" when they are brought low in some way from a seemingly invincible position because of some weakness or inability on their part.

"My Brother's Keeper"

Adam and Eve's first son, Cain, killed their second son, his younger brother Abel, out of jealousy. When the Lord confronted Cain He asked, *"Where is thy brother?"* Cain answered by saying *"I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?"* (see Gen. 4:3-9 ff.). Today people use it to deny responsibility for what someone else has done. For example, if asked about the behavior or action of another person they may say, "I'm not my brother's keeper" meaning "I don't control that person."

THE BIBLE STANDS

The Bible stands
like a rock undaunted
'mid the raging storms of time;
It's pages burn with the truth eternal,
and they glow with a light sublime.
The Bible stands tho' the hills may tumble,
It will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble;
I will plant my feet on its firm foundation,
for the Bible stands.
-from the hymn by Haldor Lillenas

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