



# 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

Sometime, probably between one and two years after the Lord Jesus was born in the city of Bethlehem of the land of Judea, some "wise men," or Magi, from the east came to Jerusalem looking for Him. Arriving in Jerusalem they asked, "where is He that is born King of the Jews?" Saying that they had "seen His star in the east" they had come on this long journey because they wanted "to worship Him" (Matt. 2:1-2).

When King Herod heard about these men who were looking for the One who was born to be the King of the Jews he was troubled because he had been "appointed" to the office of "king of Judea" by Rome, which controlled Judea and all the surrounding area at that time. Learning from the chief priests and scribes of Israel that, according to prophecy, the Christ would be born in Bethlehem, Herod sent the Magi on their way with instructions to report back to him after they found the One they were seeking (Matt. 2:3-8; Mic. 5:2).

Of course, many of us know the story as it is often read in churches and other venues during what is known as the Christmas season. Herod had no intentions of worshipping the Messiah of Israel and, if the One who was destined to sit on David's throne as the rightful King of Israel had indeed been born in Bethlehem, he wanted to kill Him. His true motives were graphically displayed in his brutal murder of all the male children in the Bethlehem area that were two years old and younger (Matt. 2:16-18).

We do not know for sure who the wise men were, but it seems likely that they may have been Jews of the dispersion who were living in

Persia where their ancestors had been taken captive six hundred years earlier. While many Jews left the lands of their captivity to return to the Promised Land after Cyrus, king of Persia, conquered Babylon, most stayed where they were. Regardless, after visiting the Lord Jesus (who was by then no longer a babe but a young child) and presenting Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, they returned to their own country (Matt. 2:9-12).

While this historical account is told over and over every year at this time, its prophetic significance is often overlooked. The focus of the Magi was not on a Babe lying in a manger, but on a young Child that they recognized to be a King, and they worshipped Him as such. Their question as to where to find Him was answered from the Scriptures that foretold His coming and they were guided to Him supernaturally (Matt. 2:4-6, 9-10). They came in anticipation of Israel's hope of redemption being realized in the One born King of the Jews. One day the Child they worshipped and honored as "The King" will return to earth to establish His everlasting Kingdom of Righteousness. Eternity was on their minds when they sought to know Him.

Even though Jesus Christ has not lived in Bethlehem for 2,000 years, it is still a wise thing to ask where He can be found. Not as the King of the Jews, but as the Savior of the world. Do you know Him personally as your Savior? If not, you don't have to go anywhere to meet Him. If you are a sinner, and we all are, simply put your trust in Him, believing that He died for your sins and has been raised from the dead.

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He promises to forgive you of your sins and give you the gift of eternal life if you do (I Cor. 15:34; Rom. 6:23, 10:13). Are you already saved and on your way to heaven? If so, then trust Him to direct your life according to His grace and He will give you strength to walk in His power (Eph. 2:8-10).

Because Christ is Alive!

**W. Edward Bedore**

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Editor  
BBI Bulletin, BABQ

**QUESTION: At the Great White Throne will the unbelievers be judged for Adam's sin or for their own sins?**

**ANSWER:** Because Adam sinned in disobeying God, all of his fallen race (all men and women) have an inherent sin nature and are subject to physical death. On the other hand, each sinful son and daughter of Adam is responsible for their personal sins. That is, the sinful things that they think, say, and do. It is these sinful works that they have committed that the unsaved will be judged for at the Great White Throne Judgment, "...and the dead were judged according to their works... and they were judged each one according to his works" (see Rev. 20:11-15). Through faith in Christ believers are forgiven of their personal sins and made spiritually alive (see Eph. 2:1-6), and given victory over physical death through His resurrection (see I Cor. 15:47-57).

*"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7). When we trust in Jesus Christ to save us from the penalty of sin, He "redeems" us from the bondage of the sin principle that permeates our soul (our sin nature that we inherited from Adam). Because He was pure in nature and deed, that is, He was sinless, He could die as a substitute for our personal sins that we might be made alive in Him.*

**QUESTION: How did David have the authority, or right, to offer sacrifices to God given the specific instructions that God gave to Moses for the priestly line of the Levites? I refer to II Samuel 6:12-13, 17-18 and also I Kings 3:15; 8:62 where Solomon seemed to have followed his father in offering sacrifices. I find this puzzling because in II Samuel 6:3-7 we find God striking Uzzah dead when he touched the Ark of the Covenant because the Levites were not carrying the Ark in the manner that God had directed them to in the Law. So, why did God strike Uzzah dead but not David when he broke God's rules?**

**ANSWER:** First, let's look at how sacrifices were to be offered as described in Leviticus. If the sacrifice being made was a freewill offering, the one bringing the sacrificial animal would place his hand on its head and then kill it before the Lord. Then the priests would take the blood and sprinkle it on the altar (see Lev. 1:2-5; 3:1-2). In other words, the person making a freewill burnt offering or peace offering to honor the Lord would actually kill the animal and the priests would collect the blood to put on the altar and dispose of the remains of the animal as prescribed by the Law. For a burnt offering, except for the skin, the whole animal was burned (Lev. 1:7-9). If it was a peace offering, only certain parts of the animal were burned (Lev. 3:3-5), the priest took certain parts for food (Lev. 7:31-32), and the offerer could keep what was left for himself (Lev. 7:15-17).

Now, back to David's offerings of "oxen and fatlings" [cattle and sheep] (II Sam. 6:13). According to the commands of the Law, David could offer these sacrifices as long as he had anointed priests in attendance to oversee them and manage the details of properly handling the blood and the ritual burning of the animal's remains. These were no doubt burnt and/or peace offerings of praise and thanksgiving that

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David made. Because David was not disciplined for offering these sacrifices, we can assume that he did it properly.

We do not know how many animals David sacrificed, but it tells us in I Kings how many and what kind of offerings Solomon made. As peace offerings he made a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand oxen and one hundred twenty thousand sheep (I Kings 8:62-63) at the dedication of the Temple. It can be said that Solomon sacrificed them because he supplied the animals. But, it would have been impossible for him to have killed them all by himself, not even over the fourteen days that the celebration lasted (I Kings 8:65). While he may have actually killed a number of the sacrificial animals himself, it seems safe to assume that Solomon had a large number of ordained priests there to carry out the ritual sacrifices of most of the animals on his behalf in a way that was acceptable to the Lord.

The sacrificial system under the Law was much more involved than we have the space to deal with here. But, we do want to say that, once and for all, Jesus Christ offered Himself on our behalf to deliver us from the curse of the Law. *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood..."* (Rom. 3:23-25a).

**QUESTION: What happens to babies and those without the mental ability to understand the gospel when they die?**

**ANSWER:** The Scriptural evidence points to the redeeming value of the Lord Jesus Christ's death on the Cross and the life-giving power of His resurrection being applied to both babies and those who do not possess the mental capabilities to understand and respond to the gospel, delivering them from the curse of sin that brings the wrath of God on the unsaved.

Concerning those who have reached the age of accountability, the only way of salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ. What we must remember is that individuals are not lost because they have not trusted in Christ, but because they are sinners, Romans 1:18-3:20 makes this very clear. According to the Bible there are only two options for the sinner; be reconciled to God and be saved, or remain at enmity with Him and be lost forever. Reconciliation can only take place through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (An article that gives a fuller treatment on "Infant Salvation" is available from Berean Bible Institute for \$3.00. Price includes postage and handling).

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## INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

### *"The First English Bible"*

The first translation of the whole Bible into English was done by John Wycliffe in 1382. There were no Hebrew or Greek manuscripts of the Biblical texts available to Him so he made his translation from the Latin Vulgate. Because of him translating the Bible into the common language of the people and his opposition to many of the teachings and practices of the Roman Church, his views were condemned and he was excommunicated in 1415, thirty-one years after his death. Thirteen years later, his bones were dug up, burned, and their ashes thrown into the Swift River.

### *"Bible Statistics"*

The following statistics are based on the King James Version of the Bible.

The Bible contains 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. There are 1,189 chapters, 31,173 verses, 774,746 words, and 3,566,480 letters in the whole Bible. Of these the New Testament contains 260 chapters, 7,959 verses, 181,253 words, and 838,380 letters.



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## COMMON SAYINGS FROM THE BIBLE

### *“There is a Fly in the Ointment”*

This phrase comes from Solomon’s words in Ecclesiastes 10:1; *“Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savor (odor): so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor.”* We use it in reference to something vile that ruins something that is good and apply the principle to many different situations. The verse is particularly pointed toward the fact that, like a fly that has gotten into a container of expensive perfume can ruin the whole batch and make it worthless, with one act of indiscretion a person can irreparably ruin their reputation and the trust and respect that others have for them. We see this dramatically illustrated in our country every year when politicians, and other public figures, careers are destroyed when their “folly” is exposed. But, much worse, the average person can suffer strained and even destroyed relationships on all levels through a little “foolishness.” Families and life-long friendships can be torn apart, jobs lost, bankruptcy, etc. It can also ruin a believer’s testimony, leaving them a poor witness of their Savior and His love and forgiveness.

### *“Gird Up Your Loins”*

The idea behind this saying is to prepare one’s self for action. In the Bible it was usually used in regards to physical work of some kind, but, today it is used of both physical and mental labor. The Apostle Peter, borrowing from the Old Testament, used the term in an academic

and spiritual sense. *“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”* (I Pet. 1:13). Paul also does this by using the term to encourage believers to prepare for spiritual battle. *“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...”* (Eph. 6:14; see vvs. 10-18).

The idea behind the phrase comes from the long loose garments worn in Biblical times. Workers preparing for physical activities would tuck, or gird, their long garments into their girdles or belts for freedom of movement. A more modern saying with similar meaning is “roll up your sleeves.” *“Gird up your loins”* is found many times in the Bible (Ex. 12:11; I Kin. 18:46; Job 38:3; Prov. 31:17; II Kin. 4:29; etc.).

### *“Pride Goes Before a Fall”*

We don’t seem to hear this saying as often as we once did. Perhaps the reason is that our post-modernism and its “political correctness” focus on “tolerance” and not offending anyone has made us more accepting of prideful attitudes. Regardless, God condemns pride as a root of sin in the Scriptures.

The saying is taken from Proverbs 16:18 which reads, *“Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”* This verse is simply saying that pride will in the end lead to one’s downfall. When people today use the shortened popular form of this Proverb, they generally mean it in the same way the Scriptures do; everyone will get their “comeuppance” someday.

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