



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 Bible is a rich and interesting Book to say the least. In fact, it is a one-of-a-kind Book that towers over all other literary works as it alone is inspired by God. Because of its uniqueness and diversity of subject matter, there are quite naturally many questions that can be asked about the Bible and what it teaches. It is good to ask questions in an effort to learn more about the Bible and to know its Author better. However, there are also many questions in the Bible that are asked by God of man. Questions that are still important for men and women of today to pay attention to. Let's look at a few of them.

God's first question to Adam after his fall into sin was, "where art thou?" because Adam was trying to hide from Him. This question was asked to expose Adam's guilt and shame. He could not hide his sin from God.

When Sarah laughed at what she thought was an absurd idea, that she would bear a son at ninety years old as God said she would, the Lord asked her and Abraham, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" It was a question meant to rebuke Sarah for her unbelief.

Job thought God was being unfair to him because of the suffering he was going through. He wanted an audience with God so he could question Him. But, when God finally did appear to Job, he had nothing to say. Instead, the Lord asked Job 77 questions about Himself that Job had no answers to. Their purpose was to help Job realize how inadequate he was to demand a face-to-face meeting with God as equals.

When Moses said that he couldn't go to Egypt to deliver Israel because he wasn't a good

speaker, the Lord asked him "who hath made man's mouth?" The objective behind these questions was redemptive in nature. They were designed to help the men and women involved to recognize God's power and sovereignty and their need for Him in their lives. A question that the Lord asked during His earthly ministry that every man and woman should give serious consideration to is found in Matthew. The Lord Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man am?" Do you believe that He is the Son of God? Have you placed your trust in Him alone for the forgiveness of your sins? I hope that you have because Jesus Christ alone can save you. We are all sinners who need a Savior. The bad news is "the wages of sin is death." The Good News is that "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Because He Lives,

W. Edward Bedore

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Editor

QUESTION: People say that they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. I have heard that there is a difference in believing on the Lord Jesus Christ and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. It does say in Acts that when the jailer asked "what must I do to be saved" that Paul and Silas answered; "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:30-31). Can you help me with this?

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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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ANSWER: We also read in the Scriptures that *"whosoever believeth in Him (Jesus) should not perish, but have eternal life"* (John 3:15), and that *"whosoever believes in Him (Jesus) shall receive remission of sins* (Acts 10:43). To "believe in Jesus" and to "believe on Jesus" are simply two ways of saying the same thing. They are both ways of expressing the truth that one must place their faith in Jesus Christ to be saved. The Apostle Paul explains this in Ephesians where he says after first hearing the gospel (good news) of salvation, a person must respond by placing their trust (faith) in Jesus Christ. Having trusted in Him, they are sealed by the Holy Spirit (see Eph. 1:12-13).

Salvation is not getting all the terminology right, but is about understanding our need of a Savior and what Jesus Christ accomplished on the Cross on our behalf in order to save us. When a person believes that the Gospel is true and places their trust in Christ to save them, He saves them whether or not they know how to explain it in precise theological terms or not. A summary of the Gospel Message is *"that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures"* (I Cor. 15:3-4).

QUESTION: In an answer in the December issue of the BABQ, you state that "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." But, in Hebrews we read that *"The Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit...."* (Heb. 4:12). Doesn't this teach that the soul and spirit of man can be separated?

ANSWER: You are right that this verse says that the Word of God pierces *"even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit."* However, this is a reference to a different kind of separation, or dividing than what I was speaking of in my answer. I was referring to the fact that the spirit

and soul of an individual together make up their nature and personality. Consequently, they are bound together in such a way that together they constitute the immaterial existence of the individual and thus cannot be separated. But, together they can be separated from the material, or physical part of man, that is their body.

On the other hand, Hebrews 4:12 is speaking of how the Word of God convicts and exposes us by penetrating even to the innermost parts of our being. In doing so, it is able to reveal the true motives and purposes behind the thoughts and intents that come out of our hearts (see Matt. 15:18-19). In other words, it reveals whether our outlook is "spiritual" (Christ-centered) or "soulish" (self-centered). The Lord sees right through all of our pretenses and excuses. He knows our hearts and He reveals it through His Word. We cannot hide anything from Him as, *"all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do"* (Heb. 4:13).

QUESTION: Why is the nation of Israel almost always looked at as the guilty party by the news media and almost all of the other nations in every situation in spite of the long history of the Jews having suffered relentless persecution, physical attacks, and murder at the hands of others? Even when they are simply trying to defend themselves from unprovoked attacks, they are pictured as the aggressor.

ANSWER: Logically, it certainly seems that Israel should be appreciated, encouraged and respected by the Western nations and the news media. The fact that Israel is the only democratic state in the Middle East and that the Jewish people have contributed so much to the good of humanity around the world in general should generate some level of respect and appreciation for Israel and its people as a whole. But, sadly, it does not. And this in spite of the fact that modern Israel was born in the aftermath World War II during which a concentrated effort was made to completely exterminate the Jewish people by Adolph Hitler and his Nazi party.

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The answer as to why there is an irrational hatred toward the Jews is found in the Bible, and it has to do with the fact that Israel is God's chosen people and the ancient land of Canaan (modern day Palestine) has been promised to them. God has special plans for Israel in the future, but at the present time, Israel is set aside by God in unbelief. But, one day God will restore her to a place of privilege and honor among the nations when His Son returns to earth. The animosity toward the Jews by the world in general is the result of Satan's influence on the world system. In his efforts to dethrone God and take His place, the devil has determined to wipe out the Jewish people in the land of Israel and around the world so that God cannot fulfill His prophetic promises to them. Of course, he will never accomplish his goal because he is a defeated foe. The final victory belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ who will one day assign Satan to the Lake of Fire.

QUESTION: I know that Paul was saved by grace on the Damascus Road and that was the beginning of the Body of Christ, but why did Ananias say "arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16; cf. 9:18). And why did Paul not receive the Holy Spirit until Ananias put his hands on him? Was this not part of the Kingdom preaching?

ANSWER: In baptizing Paul, Ananias was simply doing what he knew to do as a Kingdom saint (Acts 9:10-18; 22:11-16). The Scriptures do not say that he was instructed to do so. The "filling" of the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17) is not the same as the "indwelling." All Grace believers are indwelt and sealed by the Holy Spirit when they trust Christ as Savior (Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:12-14), yet we are admonished to "be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:17-18). The indwelling has to do with our assurance of salvation and filling has to do with empowerment to serve God. During

the Acts period, this empowerment included the working of miracles (signs and wonders) which eventually passed away. Today it has to do with demonstrating Christ-likeness in our lives.

INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

Some Common Sayings Taken from the Bible

"Salt of the Earth"

This phrase is found in Matthew 5:13 where the Lord Jesus tells His Israelite listeners "Ye are the salt of the earth" meaning that their duty was to act as both a seasoning and a preservative. He also said, "But if the salt have lost his savor" it would be no good to His kingdom and be cast out as worthless.

In those days, salt was a highly valued commodity. It was so valuable that Roman soldiers were sometimes paid in salt rather than money. The Latin word *salarium* means "salt money." It is where we get our word "salary" from.

Today the phrase "salt of the earth" is used in a complementary way for a person or a group of people that are held in high esteem.

"The Handwriting on the Wall"

In Daniel chapter 5, we find the account of a feast given by King Belshazzar of Babylon in which he mocked the God of Israel by drinking from the gold vessels that had been taken from the Temple in Jerusalem when the Babylonians destroyed it. Suddenly the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote the words MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN on the wall. The king was frightened by this and Daniel the Israelite prophet was brought to him to interpret the words. The words meant that God had numbered the days of his kingdom and that it would be divided between the Medes and the Persians.

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That very night the army of Cyrus of Persia under the leadership of Darius the Mede captured Babylon and executed Belshazzar.

Today the phrase is used in regards to some sign or event that foreshadows some kind of dismal outcome. "When the quarterly report showed that sales were down again, the production staff knew the handwriting was on the wall, there would be layoffs soon."

"The Forbidden Fruit"

Even though this saying is not actually found in the Bible, almost every Christian recognizes it as coming from Genesis in association with man's fall into sin. The first man and woman (Adam and Eve) were placed in an ideal environment with only one rule being imposed on them: "*Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die*" (Gen. 2:17). The serpent tempted Eve through a lie and she evidently then tempted Adam and they ate of the forbidden fruit together (see Gen. 3:1-6). Through Adam's willful disobedience (I Tim. 2:14), the curse of sin and death came into the world (Gen. 3:7-19; Rom. 5:12). This, of course, is why all of mankind is in a sinful state and God sent His Son to pay the price of redemption on the Cross on our behalf (I Cor. 15:3-4).

The term "forbidden fruit" is commonly used today of anything that is tempting but off limits.

"Adam's Apple"

Although the Bible doesn't tell us what the forbidden fruit of "*the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*" that Adam and Eve ate from was, popular tradition has consistently deemed it an apple. From this came the fanciful story that when Adam ate of the fruit a piece stuck in his throat forming the bulge that protrudes from the front of the neck, particularly in men. Technically it is the anterior thyroid cartilage of the larynx.

"Woe is Me"

This phrase is used at least eight times in the Bible. Jeremiah used it four times and it is used once each in the Psalms, Isaiah, Micah, and I Corinthians. Also, a similar saying, "*Woe to me*" is found once in both Job and Isaiah. While Jeremiah used it more times, the best known "*woe is me*" passage is found in Isaiah chapter 6. The prophet was so awestruck with the majesty of the Lord and his own unworthiness when he had a vision of Him in His glory in the Temple that he cried out "*Woe is me! For I am undone; for I am a man of unclean lips.*" A seraphim then touched his lips with a hot coal from the altar and declared him purified. Then God asked, "*whom shall I send?*" and Isaiah replied, "*Here am I; send me.*"

Unlike Isaiah, who feared because he was a sinful man facing an absolutely holy God, the phrase "*woe is me*" is commonly used today by those who are facing the prospect of something bad happening to them or have had something bad already happen to them. It has become a widely recognized exclamation of sorrow.

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