



# 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

Since publishing the first *BABQ* in 2009 we have received a considerable amount of mail at **BBi** with questions about the Bible and Bible subjects. Because of the time necessary for research and writing along with our teaching responsibilities, we have not yet been able to answer them all. But, do not give up because we are working hard to respond to as many as possible as soon as possible. So, please, keep your questions coming and we will do our best to answer them, either personally or in the pages of the *BABQ*. Questions requiring longer answers may appear in the *BBi Bulletin*, which offers more pages to work with.

In the world we are living in today it is more important than ever that believers have a viable working knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, especially of sound doctrine. Throughout the Bible there are warnings against perverse teachings that pull people away from the truths of God's Word. As false teachings undermine the foundations of Scripture, sound teaching is the only way to guard against being taken captive, *"through philosophy and vain deceit, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ"* (Col. 2:8; cf. Acts 20:28-30; II Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15; I Tim. 4:1-2; II Tim. 3:1-9; etc.)

The Apostle Paul warns us about a time to come when most of the professing church *"will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables"* (II Tim. 4:3-4). If we have not already entered into this time, we are certainly experiencing a taste of what it will

be like when it does come. In every generation the true Church of Jesus Christ has been challenged by the infusion of false doctrines that pervert the Grace Gospel. Early on the Apostle Paul had to deal with it (see Gal. 1:6-9). Eventually the Church became engulfed in the spiritual darkness of religious tyranny for over a thousand years. The Reformation was essentially the rediscovery of forgotten Biblical doctrines and the preaching of the Bible as the inspired and inerrant Word of God that it is. Today, the Church is once again slipping away from the preaching of God's Word and into spiritual darkness. This regression can only be reversed by the strong preaching and teaching of the Gospel of the Grace of God. Let us pray that the Lord will raise up an army of men who are willing to sacrifice in order to become ministers of the Gospel and will boldly proclaim it whatever the cost. The time is now and the responsibility to stand for the truth is ours.

Because Christ Lives,

**W. Edward Bedore**

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Editor

**QUESTION: During the time Paul preached to both Jews and Gentiles they became part of the Body of Christ. Isn't it a contradiction then, that the Jews Peter preached to in Jerusalem had to follow the Law when Paul says we are not under the Law?**

**ANSWER:** That Paul preached the Grace Message to both Jews and Gentiles while Peter, James and the other Jews in Jerusalem continued to follow

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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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the Law is not a contradiction. There is obviously a big difference, though. The answer is simply that Peter and the other apostles and many Jews who believed in the Lord Jesus as Israel's Messiah before Paul was converted were saved under the Gospel of the Kingdom and were Kingdom saints. Their personal hope did not change with the changing of dispensations when Paul was saved (see Gal. 2:6-9 where Peter, James, and John acknowledged Paul's apostleship to the Gentiles and agreed to limit their ministry to Israel while Paul preached Grace to the nations).

It is important to note that although the Kingdom church in Jerusalem remained zealous for the Law and continued to keep its customs (Acts 21:18-20), Paul never said a word in protest. However, when the Judaizers tried to introduce any element of the Law into the churches that he had founded, he not only opposed it, but condemned it as heresy (Gal. 1:6-8).

The Kingdom saints were not incorporated into the Body of Christ, but they lived out their lives in anticipation of Christ's Second Coming. The Kingdom church simply died out as time went by. When the Dispensation of Grace comes to an end, things will play out a little different though. Unlike the Kingdom church, which was left on earth when the Prophecy program was put on hold, all of the members of the Body of Christ (the Grace church) will be taken out of the world at one time in the Rapture, before the Prophetic program is restarted. All who are saved after the Rapture will become Kingdom saints under the terms of the Prophetic Kingdom gospel. *(Also, see related question below).*

**QUESTION:** After Paul's conversion, were there any more Kingdom saints, or were they all in the Body of Christ? *(This question is similar to the one above).*

**ANSWER:** I do not believe that the members of the existing Kingdom church became members

of the Body of Christ. Comparing Paul's teaching against any form of law-keeping in Galatians and the fact that the Jerusalem church, under James' leadership, was openly "zealous of the Law" (see Acts 21:17-20ff.) is telling. In Galatians Paul put a curse on those who would come to the churches that he established and preach any other than the Gospel of the Grace of God that he preached (Gal. 1:6-12). But, in Jerusalem he didn't protest at all when James claimed that there were still thousands of believing Jews there who were "zealous" in their adherence to the Law. Since Galatians was written about AD 49 and Paul's visit to Jerusalem in Acts 21 was about AD 58, almost 10 years later, we cannot explain this "apparent" contradiction away by appealing to "progressive revelation." Besides, the Jerusalem church had endorsed Paul's ministry at least eight years before (Acts 15:1-29).

It seems that the Kingdom church continued until its members died out or were finally dispersed when Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70. The Kingdom brethren that joined Paul in his ministry of the Grace Gospel did so believing that God was doing a new thing through Paul and they wanted to serve the Lord in whatever capacity they could during that time. A strong desire to see souls saved probably motivated them. It's doubtless that either they or Paul had any idea that God would extend the new Dispensation of Grace for two thousand years. Even though the Kingdom believers were looking for a Kingdom on earth while the Grace believers looked for a heavenly home, their faith was in the same Savior, who is the only Savior.

**QUESTION:** What is your perspective on the two silver trumpets of Numbers 10:2-4,8 in relation to the trumpets of I Corinthians 15:52 and I Thessalonians 4:16-17? Also, in Joshua 6 there are seven trumpets mentioned. Are they related to the seven trumpets of Revelation? I believe that the trumpet call of the Rapture is

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**clearly distinguishable from the trumpet blasts of judgment in Revelation. I also believe that the saying, "the New Testament is concealed in the Old, and the Old Testament is revealed in the New" is an accurate statement with Revelation being the apex of Bible prophecy.**

**ANSWER:** First of all, it is true that, in regards to the prophesied Kingdom program, the N.T. was hidden in the Old and the O.T. was revealed in the New. The shadows and types and the prophecies found in the O.T. pointed forward to Jesus Christ and His coming Kingdom, and Revelation pre-records the consummation of the Kingdom program. However, the particulars of the Grace Message revealed to the Apostle Paul, the Mystery of the Dispensation of Grace, are the *"unsearchable riches of Christ"* that are untraceable, or not to be found in the O.T. or the Gospel Records. You are also correct in your assessment that the trumpets of I Corinthians and I Thessalonians are distinctly different than the *"trumpets of judgment"* found in Revelation. The Church which is Christ's Body will be called away to its home in heaven before God's wrath is released on the nations of the world.

The silver trumpets of Numbers 10 were to be used during Israel's feasts, sounding a general alarm to the camp, and signaling when to begin their march while traveling in the wilderness. Later, when the Temple was built, the number of trumpets was expanded to 120 (see II Chron. 5:12). It has been suggested that they were always made in pairs with 2 the minimum number and 120 the maximum. While the Levites played other instruments, only the priests could blow the trumpets. The seven rams horn trumpets, know as *"shofars,"* used by Joshua during the siege of Jericho seem to have been for special use during battle.

Since the Lord told Israel that the silver trumpets were to *"an ordinance forever throughout your (Israel's) generations"* (Num. 10:8), there can

be no doubt that their use will be reinstated when the Millennial Temple is built.

We cannot say that the seven trumpets of Joshua 6 are a type of the seven trumpets of Revelation, but they are symbolic. As Jericho was destroyed when Israel blew the seven trumpets on the seventh day, so will anti-Christ and his kingdom be destroyed after the seventh trumpet is blown presenting the seven vials of God's wrath that will bring the Tribulation to an end with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to claim His Kingdom.

**QUESTION: I understand that Paul wasn't given the Mystery all at once, but it was given progressively and that the Bible was not put together chronologically. In what order was it given?**

**ANSWER:** There are two basic ways to survey Paul's epistles. One is, the chronological order that they were written in. The other way is the logical order, the order that they are found in our Bibles. In this, the content of the individual Pauline letters are studied according to the order they are found in the Bible.

In studying Paul's epistles in chronological order the focus is on determining the when, why, where, and circumstances surrounding the writing of each book. However, misunderstandings can result when too much emphasis is given to the chronological order and circumstances in which they were written. This is because the dates assigned to Paul's epistles (and other Bible books as well) are not actually given in Scripture, but are traditional. There is evidence found in Scripture that point to certain dates for the writing of particular Bible books, and for some this evidence is strong. However, the dates for other books are hotly debated among scholars. While the dates of some books are almost unanimously accepted, none have gone unchallenged, and for others there is no

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consensus of opinion. The truth is that there is no actual evidence by which to give an absolute date for the writing of any Bible book.

The chronological order of Paul's letters should not be ignored as the time, the place, and circumstances of the writing of his epistles most certainly should be considered as insight into what he has said may be gained. But we want to be extremely cautious in developing doctrine on things that are determined by deduction rather than what the Bible has to say. We can only speculate about what and when Paul knew about the Mystery based on the chronology of his letters. But we can be certain about what is revealed in each one by reading them to see what is revealed to us in them. Some have gone to such extremes as to claim that Paul's early letters have nothing in them for us today. This is serious error.

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## INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

*Some Common Sayings Taken from the Bible*

### **"Sweating Blood"**

In the Gospel Record of Luke we read of the Lord Jesus' extreme anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane. Aware that He would soon be arrested and put to death, He prayed to the Father. *"And being in agony He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground"* (Lk. 22:44). His anguish was not based on any fear of the physical suffering that He would endure, but that He, being the sinless

Son of God, would have to bear the sins of the world in making *"His soul an offering for sin"* (Isa. 53:10, 12 cf. II Cor. 5:21).

Today we say somebody is "sweating blood" when they are facing some uncertainty in life that probably will not have a pleasant outcome.

### **"Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child"**

This saying comes from Proverbs 13:24 which reads; *"he that spareth his rod hateth his son: But he that loveth him chaseneth him betimes."* This wisdom from the mind of God teaches us that if children do not receive proper discipline (training) from their parents, their parents are not loving them properly. While there is debate over the use of the "rod" today, the main point of the proverb is not corporal punishment, but the necessity of discipline in the home. Not receiving proper discipline when young can, and often does, result in serious long term affects on peoples lives. This became, and remains, a popular saying because its truth is generally recognized in society despite the "politically correct" view that denies it.

### **"Holier than Thou"**

This phrase is used in a derisory way toward those who in some way seem to have a self-righteous or "I'm better than you" attitude towards others. In Isaiah, God condemned this kind of attitude by His people Israel, saying to them; *"I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts; a people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; .....which say, 'stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou'"* (see Isa. 65:2-5).

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