



BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

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BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE, INC. PO BOX 587, SLINGER, WI 53086

Answers by the faculty of **Berean Bible Institute** or compiled from the works of mid-Acts Grace authors.

BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

A question that I have been hearing a lot of the last couple of months is, "How are you and Linda enjoying your retirement?" Well, the short answer is, "we are not!" "Why not?" "Because we have not retired, and we are not even semi-retired." Yes, I did step down from my position as Executive Director, handing over the administration of the **Berean Bible Institute** to Dr. Robert Nix. Linda has also given up her position as Registrar and Bursar of the school. However, we both remain very active at **BBI**. Both of us continue to teach and I am still the editor of the *BBI Bulletin* and *Bible Answers to Bible Questions*. Linda, who has volunteered her time as **BBI's** Registrar and Bursar for the last six years, will do secretarial work for me and help out when and where needed in the office and also oversee the monthly mailings. We will both continue to carry as heavy a work load as we did before, but with our focus and responsibilities in different areas of the ministry. Please continue to pray for the ministry of **BBI** as we press forward with the Lord's work. Especially pray that the Lord would provide the financial resources needed to maintain and expand the important work that is being carried out in this Bible teaching and training ministry, and for physical strength and spiritual guidance and wisdom for Dr. Nix as he leads **BBI** in the second decade of the twenty-first century. As we all know, the economic problems that our nation is facing has affected many ministries

because giving in general is down. But regardless, we trust that the Lord will continue to provide the needed resources through His people. We are also aware that ministry can be very challenging because we have an enemy who is always busy in his efforts to side-track or destroy any work that is glorifying the Lord by boldly declaring "Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery". Thankfully, our enemy, the Devil, is a defeated foe, defeated by the Cross by which we are saved. The Lord bless and keep you in His grace.

Because Christ is Alive,

W. Edward Bedore

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Editor

QUESTION: In your answer about baptism in the December 2010 edition of BABQ you say that the Lord Jesus water baptized those who came to Him for the remission of sins. But, isn't it true that Jesus Christ Himself did not actually baptize anyone, but His disciples did (Joh. 4:1-2)? The baptism that the Lord administered is with the Holy Spirit (Mat. 3:11; Acts 1:5).

ANSWER: It is true that the Lord Jesus did not actually do any baptizing with water Himself, but that He left it to His disciples to administer this ritual during His earthly ministry (Joh. 4:1-3). However, we must keep in mind that the Lord

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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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both authorized His disciples to baptize and oversaw what they were doing. In a real sense it was a baptism on His behalf that the disciples were performing, thus it was considered to be the same as if He had been the One actually baptizing. This is why the Scriptures say that He *“made and baptized more disciples than John”* even while explaining that His disciples actually did the baptizing.

While there are many different views about water baptism concerning its meaning, manner, and place for believers today that we do not have space to address here, there is a spiritual baptism that is all important. It is a baptism by which the Holy Spirit identifies believers with Jesus Christ as Savior by placing them into the Body of Christ. *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are also one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and all have been made to drink into one spirit”* (I Cor. 12:12-13). At the time of this baptism, when a person trusts Christ as Savior, the believer is indwelt and sealed by the Holy Spirit to insure their salvation (I Cor. 6:19-20; II Cor. 1:21-22; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30). Dear reader; If you have come to Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, believing that His death, burial and resurrection is sufficient to redeem each and every condemned sinner that comes to Him for salvation, and trusting in Him and Him alone, you have been sealed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit and *“baptized into Christ.”* If you **have not** trusted Christ to save you, you are separated by your sins and face everlasting judgment in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15). Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ right now and be saved. God is offering you the gift of eternal life today (Rom. 6:23).

QUESTION: I would like to have a better understanding of the two witnesses, the two olive trees and the two candlesticks of Revelation 11:3-4. Can you share something about them to help?

ANSWER: Revelation 11:3-13 describes two of God’s servants and their unique ministry during the Tribulation. They are identified as the Lord’s *“witnesses”* as well as being pictured as *“two olive trees”* and *“two candlesticks who standing before the God of the earth”* (vs. 3-4).

Their commission is to prophesy to Jerusalem and Israel for 1,260 days. They are God’s special witnesses on the earth during the first 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation. Under the Law a minimum of two witnesses were required to convict a transgressor. Like the prophets of old their message will be one of condemnation and hope. Israel and the world will be shown to be deserving of the judgment coming upon the earth and Christ will be proclaimed as the coming Messiah, the Redeemer of Israel. Being likened to *“candlesticks”* speaks of their testimony of Jesus Christ as the Light of the World who offers hope to those who find themselves in the dark days of the Tribulation and have ears that are *“willing to hear.”* The reference to them as *“olive trees”* may picture the blessings of health, wealth, and prosperity that will come to Israel in the Millennial Kingdom that will follow the Tribulation. Blessings promised in the Abrahamic Covenant. Or it could refer to the power given to these men as olive oil, which is symbolic of the Holy Spirit, was used as fuel to provide light from candlesticks.

The identity of these two prophets of God is unknown, but there is a lot of speculation about them.

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Enoch, Elijah, Moses, and John the Baptist have all been suggested as well as the possibility that they will simply be two as yet unknown men that God will raise up when the Tribulation starts. Regardless whether they are men from the past or the future, they will be Jewish prophets especially called by God and given a special message and special powers for a special time in the history of the earth. Understanding their ministry and message is more important than knowing their names.

QUESTION: Bible scholars begin with the decree of Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem in 445 B.C. If we deduct 445 years from the 483 years (7 weeks + 62 weeks of years) of Daniel 9:25 it brings us to the year A.D. 38. However, these same scholars claim that the cutting off of Messiah at the end of the 69 weeks of Daniel's prophecy marks the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, which they say took place in A.D. 30. This leaves 8 years of time out of their calculations. How can one explain the 8 missing years?

ANSWER: When looking at the dates from B.C. keep in mind that they are derived from our modern dating system of 365 ¹/₄ day years based on the earth's orbit around the sun. This dating system was not set in place until 1582. Israel, on the other hand, used a calendar based on the cycles of the moon that was 354 days long. There is no exact information available that tells how the Israelites adjusted their lunar calendar to synchronize it with the actual solar year, but late in Israel's history we know that they would add a month to their calendar as needed to bring things into order. Without these added days the seasons would be out of order with the measured yearly cycle. The 360 day year with 5 days added at the end of every year with additional days added periodically that Ussher

speaks of in his chronology seems to have been used to some extent, but never consistently.

The problem, as you pointed out, is reconciling all this with the seventy weeks of years in Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9:20-27). The entire seventy sevens work out to 490 years. If we go by Scripture we know that these 490 prophetic years are each 360 days long. This is shown to be true by the Biblical references to Daniel's seventieth week of seven years which is divided into two forty-two month periods that contain 1,260 days each (Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6; 13:5). The three and one-half year, or forty-two month period is also referred to as "a time" (one year), "and times" (two years), and "half a time" (one-half of a year) (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 12:14). If we simply allow the seventy weeks of years to be 490 years of 360 days each, as Scripture indicates we should, without attempting to work out some formula to adapt them to our present day solar calendar we come up with 176,400 days, for the entire seventy weeks. Subtracting the 2,520 days of the seven years that make up the seventieth week we end up with 173,880 days. Dividing this number by 365.25 (the days of our solar years) we come up with 476 of our 365.25 day years as the equivalent of the 483 prophetic years (sixty-nine weeks) of 360 days each.

Subtracting 445 (the year of the decree) from 476 we arrive at a date of A.D. 31 for the time of Messiah's being cut off from Israel. This date coincides, **not** with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, but about a year later with the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7:54-60. I believe that this climatic event in Israel's history marks the nation's final rejection of her Messiah. This is when Jesus Christ was "cut off" by Israel. If the prophetic program had been allowed to continue this would have been the precursor to the seventieth week of Daniel, during which the

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Tribulation will take place. Instead, as an overt outpouring of His love for lost sinners, God interrupted His Prophetic Program and instituted the Dispensation of Grace that He has mercifully extended for almost 2,000 years now.

This prophecy of 70 weeks was given through Daniel so that the exact number of days involved could be known, leaving Israel's leaders with no excuse for not recognizing the Lord Jesus as the promised Messiah when "He came unto His own and His own received Him not" (Joh. 1:11).

INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

Some Common Sayings Taken from the Bible

"A Land of Milk and Honey"

The phrase "a land flowing with milk and honey" is used in reference to Canaan, the land God first promised to Abraham and later to his descendants when He brought Israel out of their bondage in Egypt (Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 3:8). The phrase is found at least twenty times in the Bible. It refers to "a rich fertile land" in which God's people could prosper. Today it is used to refer to any place of comfort and prosperity a person might find themselves in, such as a good job, a nice place to live, a position of prestige, etc.

"Jeremiad"

A prolonged lamentation or song of sorrow is called a "jeremiad" after the prophet Jeremiah,

who is known as the "weeping prophet." Besides the book of Jeremiah, he wrote Lamentations, which is composed of five elegies lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. Jeremiah's intense burden for Jerusalem and God's covenant people illustrates the love and sorrow of the Lord for those He chastens. It is similar to the burden that the Lord Jesus Christ expressed in His lament over Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37-39).

"Shibboleth"

This word is found in Judges where we find the account of a tribal war between the Ephraimites and the Gileadites. Led by the Judge Jephthah, the victorious Gileadites seized the fords on the Jordan River to prevent the Ephraimites from escaping back to their tribal area on the west side of the Jordan. Because their tribal dialect was different, the Ephraimites could not pronounce "shibboleth", which means flowing stream, correctly. They had trouble with the "sh" sound and pronounced it "sibboleth." By using "shibboleth" as a password, the Gileadites were able to identify any Ephraimites trying to cross the river and kill them on the spot (Jud. 12:1-6). This word has come down to us today with a variety of meanings. It can refer to a distinctive "catchword" or "slogan"; the use of language that is regarded as distinctive of a particular group; a commonplace idea or saying; or a custom that distinguishes members of one group, often with intentions of snobbery.

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BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE
116 Kettle Moraine Drive South
PO Box 587
Slinger, Wisconsin 53086

Phone: (262) 644-5504
Fax: (262) 644-5507
E-mail: <bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org>
Web: <www.bereanbibleinstitute.org>