



BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

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BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

"And the Lord said unto Cain, 'Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen?'" (Gen. 4:6).

Early on in the history of man, God required blood sacrifices, which started a rivalry between the first two children of Adam and Eve. Almost everyone who has any knowledge of the Bible knows about the murder of Abel by his older brother Cain (see Gen. 4:1-16 for the account of what happened).

Cain and Abel both brought sacrifices to offer to the Lord, but they were of different kinds. Cain, who was a "tiller of the ground," brought of the crops he had raised for his offering. Abel, who was a sheep herder, brought an offering from his flock. In response to these offerings, the Lord God received Abel's and rejected Cain's. The difference in the Lord's attitude towards their offerings was not based on His love and care for these two men. It was based on their attitude towards Him. The Scriptures say that Abel's was "a more excellent sacrifice" than that of Cain because Abel's was offered "by faith" (see Heb. 11:4).

When his offering was rejected, Cain became angry and his attitude showed it. That the Lord loved this man and was concerned for Cain is demonstrated by His asking him about his anger and telling him that he would be accepted if he would "doest well" (Gen. 4:7a). God also showed His care when He warned Cain of the consequences of not doing well (Gen. 4:7b). If he chose to follow his own path in opposition to God's way, he would be swallowed up and dominated by the sin that so easily ensnares those of Adam's race (Heb. 12:1). Sadly, Cain rejected the Lord's counsel and "rose up against Abel his brother and slew him" (Gen. 4:8).

Cain's murder of Abel marks the beginning of the persecution of God's people by those who walk "according to the course of this world." It was not Abel who caused such murderous anger to fester in Cain's heart, but his own pride. He was angry with God because He would not accept him on his own terms. He killed Abel because his sacrifice was accepted by God as he had offered it by faith. Abel simply believed God and acted accordingly. Cain's pride was wounded because, in rejecting his sacrifice, the Lord was saying that Cain's way simply was not good enough. Ever since that time men and women have been insisting that God must accept them on their terms as defined by whatever religion they have chosen to embrace. But, God's Word tells us that "without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)" (Heb. 11:6).

Today God is not asking anyone to offer a blood sacrifice in order to be accepted by Him. He requires that we accept the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, who shed His own blood on our behalf that whosoever will trust in Him will receive forgiveness of sins and be redeemed. The world is offended by the exclusiveness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which dismisses all self-determined efforts to please God as insufficient for making anyone acceptable to Him. Everyone must come to God through faith in His Son and His finished work or they cannot come to Him at all. God's way is to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Because Christ is Alive!

W. Edward Bedore

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

"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 Timothy 3:16



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QUESTION: Isaiah 14:12 is a rebuke to the king of Babylon. I have heard it said that the name "Lucifer" is from a Latin word and that this is a reference to Satan. Why can't it be another adjective for the "splendor" of the king of Babylon? To me there is no good logical link to Satan. Please explain.

ANSWER: Lucifer is from a Latin term that means "light bringer" or "light bearer." It has been used throughout most of the history of the Church to refer to Satan. It is used in Isaiah 14:12 for the Hebrew word *halal* which means to "shine," such as a light given off by the celestial bodies. The term "*son of the morning*" signifies a "bright star." This verse could be literally rendered "*How art thou fallen from heaven, O [light bringer] O [bright star of the morning]...*" This couplet is a commonly used repetitive parallelism in which the same thing is said in two different ways for emphasis.

The Apostle Paul points out the fact that the Devil pretends to be a light bearer in his warning to the Corinthians about being deceived by false teachers who are pretenders of righteousness. "*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light*" (II Cor. 11:14). This statement by Paul may not give us a solid link by itself, but it does at least link Satan to the idea of being a deceitful light bearer. I believe that it is within reason to think that the Apostle may have had Isaiah 14:12 in mind when he wrote to the Corinthians. Other passages that are often cited as linking Isaiah 14:12-15 to Satan are found in Luke and the Revelation. In looking at them, we need to keep in mind that all of these passages were prophecies when given. The question is then, which have already come to pass and to what extent have they been fulfilled?

When the seventy who were sent out returned to report that through the name of Jesus Christ demons were subjected to them, the Lord "*said unto them, 'I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven'*" (Lk. 10:17-18). This was obviously a prophetic declaration as Satan was not then and

has not to this very hour been cast out of heaven. That will not happen until the middle of the Tribulation (Rev. 12:8-9). When it does happen, it will be a time of rejoicing for those in heaven and a time of woe for those on Earth (see Rev. 12:7-12). These passages provide further evidence for linking Satan to Isaiah 14:12.

The title Lucifer (shining one or bright one) is applied to the king of Babylon, not as a particular person or individual, but as the very personification of Satan, who is the real power behind the throne of Babylon and all of the evil and arrogant rulers who oppose the Creator God and those who trust in Him. While many wicked kings/rulers of nations have claimed divine authority on earth, they do not assault heaven in the way this king is depicted as doing. Even in hyperbolic language, the huge ego and stupendous ambition expressed in these verses could hardly come from the mouth of any other than that of Satan who is the arch enemy of God and His people. It is Jesus Christ who is the real "*Bright and Morning Star*" and is rightfully seated at the right hand of the Father (Rev. 22:16; Eph. 1:20).

QUESTION: Were all the sins of the world judged at the Cross?

ANSWER: On the Cross, Jesus Christ, with His own blood, paid a price that is sufficient to cover the sin debt of all Adam's fallen race. He died for all of us, for each of us, and for every one of us. However, it is only those who trust in Him as Savior that receive the benefits of His blood of redemption and are forgiven of their sins. Scripture is clear that redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ takes place at the time one receives forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:6-7). A person is either "*in Christ*" and enjoys all the positional benefits offered through His death, burial, and resurrection (see I Cor. 15:1-4) or they have none and remain lost in their sins.

Technically, it is not accurate to say that "sins are judged" at all unless we are talking about the

(continued on page 3)



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(BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS cont. from page 2)

evaluating of a persons actions to determine if they were sinful or not and the degree of punishment they deserve (see Rev. 20:11-15).

On the Cross, Jesus Christ *"was made sin for us"* in that He suffered in the place of sinners (II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 13:12; I Pet. 3:18). *"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures"* (I Cor. 15:3).

INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

"The Largest Army"

While the future Battle of Armageddon will undoubtedly involve a far larger force of men (see Rev. 16:16; 19:19), the largest army of the past found in the Bible for which a specific number is given is the one million man army of the Ethiopian king, Zerah. When he led this large army against the five hundred eighty thousand man Judean/Benjaminite army of King Asa, the Judean king cried out to the Lord God of Israel for help. The Lord answered his prayer and struck the Ethiopian army, giving Judah a great victory over them (see I Chron. 14:8-15). There is also a future demonic army of two hundred million horsemen that will be active during the Tribulation (Rev. 9:16).

"Six out of Three"

There are six Old Testament books that were originally only three. I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, and I and II Chronicles were just known as Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles before they were divided into two books each. It may have been that they were divided because their original length made them so large and bulky that they were unhandy in scroll form.

COMMON SAYINGS FROM THE BIBLE

"Faith to Move Mountains"

The Lord Jesus was chiding His disciples for their lack of faith to cast out a demon when He

told them *"...if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, 'Remove hence to yonder place and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you'"* (Mat. 17:20; see Mat. 17:14-21). In this passage, the relative size of the mustard seed and the mountain are figurative of what can be accomplished if one will trust in God even a little bit. Even the largest obstacles can be removed because *"with God all things are possible"* (also see Mat. 19:26). Christ never taught His disciples to have faith in their faith, but to have faith in God (Mk. 11:22-24). We also have to remember that these promises of answered prayer are not directly to us today, but belong to the Dispensation of the Kingdom, which will not begin until after the Rapture of the Church.

Today it is commonly used in reference to someone who is persistent in accomplishing some difficult task or achieving a goal.

"The Powers That Be"

This term comes from the Apostle Paul's admonition to believers to: *"let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God"* (Rom. 13:1). This teaches us that in His providence God is ultimately in control of nations and rulers of nations, and that believers are to subject themselves to the rules and laws of their country. No distinction is made between good rulers and bad rulers in this regard, but the Scriptures do make allowance for disobeying "the powers that be" if a believer is directed to disobey God's Word. When the apostles were on trial for preaching the Gospel after being ordered not to (Acts 5:25-28), they said, *"we ought to obey God rather than men"* (Acts 5:29). Every blood-bought saint should say, Amen! to that.

Today, it is used of people who are in authority or control, the higher ups who give the orders.



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“Armageddon”

While Armageddon is a place, it has come to mean a great destructive conflict or confrontation, a battle between the forces of good and evil. It is found in the book of Revelation. *“And He gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon”* (see Rev. 16:15-16). This is where the great battle between the forces of anti-Christ and Jesus Christ will take place when the Lord returns to earth at the end of the Tribulation to establish His Kingdom on earth. The destruction of the armies of anti-Christ will be complete.

Today people generally use the term Armageddon to refer to a nuclear war that would mark the end of the world. It is usually thought of as the final battle between good and evil on Judgment Day. This is a misunderstanding though, as the final battle between God and Satan will not take place until 1,000 years after the Battle of Armageddon and then the Great White Throne Judgment will take place (see Rev. 19:11-20:15 for the sequence of these Last Days events).

“Laodicean”

The city of Laodicea was about 40 miles east of Ephesus and 10 miles west of Colossae in what is now western Turkey. Laodicea is best known as one of the Tribulation churches that is mentioned in the book of the Revelation. The church of Laodicea as pictured in Revelation is one of material wealth and social prominence but spiritually “lukewarm.” Jesus Christ’s message to the Laodicean Church is *“I will spew thee out of My mouth”* because of their spiritual

indifference (Rev. 3:14-17). Even though these words were spoken specifically of a church of the future, they have an application for the Church today. The Lord is not pleased with His people when they are worldly minded and apathetic towards the things of God and are willing to compromise the truth rather than stand on it.

In popular use today, someone whose attitude is lukewarm or indifferent towards religion or politics is said to be a Laodicean.

“Sabbatical”

This word is used to describe a leave of absence from regular work. It is often associated with taking a break from one’s normal duties to work on a special project, such as a college professor taking a sabbatical from his teaching responsibilities to write a book. Or it can just mean to take time away from the regular work schedule to relax the mind and become refreshed. The word is taken from the Biblical *Sabbath*, which was a day of rest on the seventh day of each week to commemorate the creation week (Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11).

In addition to the weekly Sabbath and the various feast-day Sabbaths during each year, Israel was to observe every seventh year as a “Sabbath” or Sabbatical year. Their land was to lie fallow and not farmed for the entire year and all Hebrew slaves were to be set free. It was because of their idolatry and that the nation had failed to observe the Sabbath year by setting their Hebrew slaves free according to God’s covenant with Israel that God sent Judah into captivity in Babylon (Jer. 25:4-11; 34:8-22).

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