



BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

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"Then said Jesus unto the twelve, 'will you also go away?'" (John 6:67). The Lord Jesus put this question to His closest disciples at a time when many of His followers were leaving Him. He had become very popular as an itinerant preacher who performed many miracles. He healed all manner of diseases and other physical problems and fed the thousands who came to hear Him preach. But, as His teachings became more challenging and the religious leaders became more hostile towards Him, Jesus' popularity began to diminish. After declaring Himself to be *"The Bread of Life"* sent down from God, those who did not believe that He was who He said He was began to desert Him having only been attracted by His miracles and how they might benefit from them. They found that His teachings were just too hard to accept (see John 6:22-60). He then confronted them saying that *"the flesh profiteth nothing,"* meaning that the physical benefits had no real value. On the other hand, His words that were being rejected expressed spiritual truth that would bring eternal life to those who believed them. But some hardened their hearts in unbelief, *"and walked no more with Him"* (see John 6:61-66).

About a year later, the Lord Jesus Christ would hang alone in naked and bloody shame on the Cross where He suffered the most agonizing death possible as He bore not only the physical torture of crucifixion, but also the acute spiritual agony of bearing the sins of the world. Alone, He willingly went to the Cross for us that those who trust in Him might receive the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life.

Sadly, many today express faith in Christ, but deny Him when they experience opposition from the world. They want a Jesus that conforms to the world's view of religion; a Jesus that is simply another path to God among many; a Jesus that is not offensive to anybody; a Jesus that offers social reform rather than soul regeneration. Like those who left following the Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry, they are offended by His claims of exclusivity and reject the idea that He is the only way to God. The Scriptures tell us that *"there is One God and One Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."* (I Tim. 2:5; also see John 14:6). But, the message of the Cross is *"unto the Jews a stumbling block and unto the Greeks (Gentiles) foolishness"* (I Cor. 1:23). Whether a person believes it or not, Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation and a personal relationship with the Lord God. Many are on the broad road of destruction today. Jesus Christ is the one and only way to the Father and eternal life. He died for our sins that we might receive forgiveness of sins and He was raised from the dead that we might have eternal life. Do not walk away from Him because it is hard to accept that we must depend on Him and Him alone for our salvation. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved today.

Because Christ is Alive!

W. Edward Bedore

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

(All questions answered by the Editor unless otherwise noted)

"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: Does the Bible teach that all the souls of individuals exist in heaven before entering their physical bodies? And, are the soul and spirit of a person the same thing?

ANSWER: We will answer the second question first. The soul and the spirit of a person are not the same thing. According to the Scriptures, the whole sanctification of a believer by God involves the *"spirit, soul, and body"* (I Thess. 5:23). Although it is sometimes difficult to recognize the distinctions between the soul and the spirit of a person because the two terms are used interchangeably at times in Scripture, there is a diversity between the soul and spirit of man that God's Word can and does divide one from the other (Heb. 4:12). The soul of man is the *"seat of personality."* It is the place where our perceptions, reflections, feelings, and desires reside. It is also associated with will and purpose.

"The spirit of a man," on the other hand is said to be *"the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart"* (Prov. 20:27). This is the part of man that is designed to recognize God and communicate with Him. But, because of sin, the natural man is spiritually dead and therefore unresponsive to God. This does not mean that they do not have a spirit, because they do. It is capable of communicating with *"the spirit of the world."* It is just dead to God and His righteousness. Scripture tells us that the life walk of those who are *"dead in trespasses and sins"* is *"according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience"* (see Eph. 2:1-2). The lost are in need of regeneration by the Spirit of God (see Titus 3:5-6).

The other question was *"Do the souls of individuals exist in heaven before entering their physical bodies?"* No, they do not. The Bible teaches that the entire human race was created in Adam, who was the first man. Through a process that only God can understand, an

individual soul comes into being every time a human being is conceived. Theologians argue over whether God creates a new soul to be immediately infused into each newly conceived embryo, or if the soul is directly passed down from a father to his children, starting with Adam. Regardless of which view one takes, it must be agreed that the Bible teaches that each human being that is conceived is an individual moral agent who will be held responsible by God for his or her own thoughts, attitudes, and actions. It is also clear from Scripture that each individual is born with a sin nature that is inherited from Adam, and that each individual can and does commit personal sins by which they are alienated from God and deserving of judgment. It is not as important to know how people come into being as individual living souls as it is to know where they will end up in eternity. The Bible teaches that only through faith in Jesus Christ can anyone be forgiven of their sins and escape the wrath of God into the indescribable blessing of the gift of eternal life (Rom. 6:23; II Cor. 9:15). Those who die in their sins will be judged accordingly and cast into the Lake of Fire to suffer torment forever and ever.

The idea of the pre-existence of souls is in no way compatible with Biblical teaching, but it does fit the concepts of reincarnation as taught by Hinduism, Buddhism, and New Age adherents in general. Another form of this idea is found in Mormonism. The Mormons see the soul and spirit as the same thing, and teach that gods and goddesses on other planets are busy conceiving spirit children who are sent to inhabit newly conceived babies on earth and other planets. Both reincarnation and Mormon teaching are unbiblical and contrary to the revelation of the nature of God, the nature of man, the Person of Jesus Christ, the purpose of the Cross, and the way of salvation through Jesus Christ that is found in the Bible.



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QUESTION: When did the disciples write their books of the Bible? Do you think that they kept daily journals or sat down and wrote them later in their lives?

ANSWER: This is an interesting question that I don't think I can give a definitive answer to. To the extent of my knowledge, except for the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, we don't have any hard evidence to help us know for sure one way or the other.

Luke indicates that he was not an eyewitness himself of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry, but he received the information he needed to write the Gospel of Luke from those who were (see Lk. 1:1-2). No doubt he also gathered information from those who were there during the events of early Acts to write at least the first chapters of the book. Luke comes on the scene to join Paul and his traveling companions in Troas and sailed with them to Macedonia. We know this from the fact that he changed from referring to Paul and his companions with the second person "they" (Acts 16:6-9) to the first person "we" (Acts 16:10-11)*. Luke could have collected the information that he used to write the Gospel of Luke after traveling to Jerusalem with Paul (Acts 20:5-21:18).

From the evidence we can suppose that Luke probably did keep some kind of a journal containing the information he gathered to use in writing his Gospel Record of the Lord Jesus' life. Concerning the book of Acts, he would have written parts of it from his own experiences and other parts from material he obtained from Paul and others who were eyewitnesses to the events that he wrote about.

When it comes to the rest of the New Testament, there is no evidence that points one way or the other that I know of. However, some of the Old Testament writers seem to have used previously written works to compile some of the

historical portions of Scripture (see II Sam. 1:18; I Kings 11:41; 14:19; 15:7; I Chron. 29:29; II Chron. 12:15; 20:34; etc., etc.). Regardless, what is vitally important to remember is that what has been recorded in our Bible is exactly what God wanted to be there. The Apostle Peter tells us *"that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"* (II Pet. 1:20-21). The Apostle Paul also addresses this subject, explaining that *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (literally God-breathed), and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"* (II Tim. 3:16). The Word of God is infallible, trustworthy, and authoritative for all matters of faith and practice.

*Luke indicates that he was with Paul during portions of the Apostle's journeys by the use of "we" and "us" in his written account of Acts (see Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; 27:1-28:16). From these passages it appears that he joined Paul in Troas on his second missionary journey and accompanied him to Philippi. Then, when Paul returned to Philippi on his third journey, Luke rejoined him for his trip to Jerusalem. Luke seems to have stayed somewhere in the area while Paul was imprisoned at Caesarea where he sailed from with Paul on his voyage to Rome. It is likely that he did the research necessary to write his Gospel Record of the earthly life and ministry of Jesus Christ during those two years.

QUESTION FOR THE READER: WHO AM I?

I was sent with the Apostle Paul to deliver a letter. He chose me to accompany him through Syria and Cilicia in his missionary work. In Philippi I was thrown in prison. Paul left me in Thessalonica when he was in fear of his life and later I joined him in Corinth. Who am I?

Answer: in the December BABQ



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INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

"The Longest Words in the Bible"

There are two words with 18 letters each that are found in the Bible. Jonath-elem-rechokim, which is in the title of the 56th Psalm, means "the silent dove of distant lands." In Isaiah 8:1 and 8:3 we find Maher-shalal-hash-baz, the name of the prophet Isaiah's son. It means "quickly the spoil, hasting the prey." Jonath-elem-rechokim is the name of the tune that Psalm 56 was to be sung to. Maher-shalal-hash-baz is a symbolic name given to Isaiah's second son that signified the judgment that would come upon Damascus of Syria and Samaria of Israel because of their forming a military alliance against Jerusalem of Judah (Isa. 7:1; 8:1-4).

COMMON SAYINGS FROM THE BIBLE

"Like Mother, Like Daughter"

In pronouncing judgment on Jerusalem for her abominations, the Lord said through the prophet Ezekiel, "behold, everyone that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying 'As is the mother so is her daughter'" (Eze. 16:44). The idea behind this saying is that the traits of the parents are seen in the children. The particular charge against Jerusalem, which represented all of Israel, is that just as the Israelites of earlier times had committed spiritual harlotry by worshipping the false gods of their pagan neighbors the present generation had also fallen into idolatry. Today it can be used in either a positive or a negative way when

a child of any age exhibits the characteristics of one of their parents. "Like father like son," "like father like daughter," and "like mother like son" are variations of this proverb that are commonly heard.

"Man Shall Not Live By Bread Alone"

This saying comes from the Lord Jesus' retort to Satan when the Devil tried to entice Him to turn stones into bread in order to relieve His hunger after He had fasted for forty days in the wilderness (see Matt. 4:1-4; Lk. 4:1-4). The Lord was quoting from Deuteronomy when He said; "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4; Deut. 8:3). The point being made in Deuteronomy was that the main reason God kept Israel in the wilderness for forty years was so the generation that would enter the Promised Land could learn to trust Him to provide for them. It was a time of testing for the nation (see Deut. 8:1-3). Christ applied this principle to Himself. He refused to give in to fleshly desires and chose to trust the Father who had allowed Him to go through this time of severe testing. One lesson for believers in this is that the spiritual aspects of life are in the long run more important than the physical.

This saying is sometimes used when people are faced with decisions that have moral and/or relational issues involved as contrasted with physical, material, or economic advantage. It is used more or less in that way today, depending on the users' worldview.

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