



BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

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“Are You a Spiritual Racist?”

Recently I was watching a Christian TV program where the subject at hand was the amalgamation of all religions and spiritual concepts that are rapidly taking place today. The speaker's objective was to inform his audience of how far the tentacles of the Ecumenical Movement have reached in recent years. During the course of the program, the speaker played vivid clips of “Christian” leaders who were promoting the idea that all religions and/or faiths are basically the same and whatever differences they might have should be set aside so that they can celebrate what they have in common and work together to bring peace on earth. One of the video clips was of a man who represents a major mainline denomination as its international officer of ecumenicalism. What this man said is that anyone who did not agree with the idea that all religions, faiths, and spiritual beliefs are equal and, instead, insists that there is only one way to attain salvation is a “spiritual racist.” In other words, to claim an exclusive faith that only allows for those who embrace it to have access to God is to be bigoted and intolerant. And where does this leave Biblical Christians?

The very essence of the Gospel of the Grace of God is that the forgiveness of sins and the redemption of lost souls is through faith in Jesus

Christ, the Crucified One who has risen from the dead (see Rom. 3:22-26; 5:6-11; 10:9-10; I Cor. 15:3-4; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7; etc.). To be a true Biblical Christian, a person must believe that everyone in the whole world is a condemned sinner, including themselves, and then personally trust in Jesus Christ alone, apart from all religions, faiths, and other spiritual beliefs. They must be convinced that no religion, faith system, New Age or New Spiritualistic experience, or anything else can save them, but that the Blood of Jesus Christ alone is sufficient to wash away their sins and that His resurrection power alone is able to redeem them and bestow them with the gift of eternal life. If believing these things to be true makes me a spiritual racist in the eyes of the world based on its religious, faith, and spiritual concepts, so be it. But, based on the authority of God's Word, I know without a doubt that I am heaven bound and those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ are lost sinners that need to hear the Gospel of the Grace of God in Jesus Christ, who is the One and Only Savior. *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Rom. 6:23).

Because Christ Lives!

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: Do you think “the sea,” as mentioned in Revelation 20:13 is another holding place for the souls of the dead?

Answer: The verse in question reads; *“and the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell (hades) delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”* It is found in a passage of Scripture that speaks of the *“Great White Throne”* Judgment at the end of the Millennial Kingdom (see Rev. 20:7-15). At this time all of the unsaved dead will be resurrected and will be judged and *“cast into the Lake of Fire.”* The sea and death, a reference to the grave, will deliver up the physical remains of those who are in them and Hell (Grk. hades) will give up their souls that are imprisoned there to be united with their resurrected bodies. The sea and death are both mentioned to show that no unsaved person will escape this final judgment, regardless of the condition or location of their physical remains.

QUESTION: What and when is the judgment described by Jesus Christ in Matthew 25 where all are judged, with the righteous going away into eternal life and the wicked into eternal punishment?

ANSWER: The judgment of Matthew 25:31-46 will take place soon after Jesus Christ’s return to earth at the end of the seven year Tribulation period (Rev. 19:11-12). Those being judged are those of the nations of the world, the Gentiles who have survived the Tribulation. With anti-Christ and his armies vanquished, Christ will assume His *“throne of glory”* as King of kings and Lord of lords in Jerusalem (Matt. 25:31). *“And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats”* (Matt. 25:32). This judgment is to determine who of those of the nations of the world are qualified to enter the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Even though they may have believed in Christ as the Son of God and Messiah, the determining factor here is how these Gentiles treated Israel during the Tribulation. In other words, just saying *“Lord, Lord”* and doing good works won’t be enough (Matt. 7:21-23). The Jewish people, both believers and unbelievers, will be under intense persecution during the Tribulation, especially the last 3 ½ years. *“The least of these, my brethren”* (Matt. 25:40,45) that the Lord refers to are the Jewish, or Israelite, people that will endure suffering during the Tribulation. Resources of all kinds will be in short supply during that terrible time and only those who take the mark of the Beast will be able to buy or sell on the open market (Rev. 13:16-17). Those Gentiles who do have provisions, but do nothing to help the suffering Jews, when and if they have the opportunity, will be refused entrance into the Millennial Kingdom and assigned to the Lake of Fire (Matt. 25:41-46). Those who helped the Jews during *“the time of Jacob’s trouble”* (Jer. 30:7) will be allowed into Christ’s Kingdom over which He will rule in righteousness. These people will repopulate the earth, of which at least three-fourths of the population will have died during the horrors of the Tribulation. It will be their unbelieving descendants who will follow Satan in his final rebellion after he is released from the Bottomless Pit at the end of the 1,000 years (Rev. 7-10).

QUESTION: Why did God have to supply manna (Ex. 16:15-18; Deut. 11:7-9) for the people when they had an abundance of sacrificial animals they could eat?

ANSWER: Israel did have a considerable amount of livestock (sheep, goats, and cattle) with them in the wilderness. However, there were not enough animals to feed all of the people daily and still sustain their flocks and herds, not even for a month. With between two and three

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million Israelites (600,000 men 20 years old and older plus women and children) to feed, it would not take long to decimate their flocks and herds. Unless they started with extremely large herds, the reproduction rate of the animals could not keep up with what was required for sacrifices and food. In fact, in the matter of the Lord's month long provision of quail for Israel in response to the people's complaining (see Num. 11:4-35), Moses raised this very issue. The Lord told him to gather the people together and announce to them that since they wanted meat they would indeed eat meat for a whole month, until it became loathsome to them (Num. 11:16-20). In response, Moses demonstrated a measure of unbelief because he didn't understand the Lord's intentions. He thought that the Lord was going to require him to somehow produce the meat required to feed all these people for a whole month. *"And Moses said, 'the people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and Thou has said I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month. Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them?'"* (Num. 11:21-22). In response, the Lord God of Israel chided Moses, reminding him that His arm was not short and He Himself would bring this thing to pass, which He did (Num. 11:23-24, 31-35). Of course, Moses might have been exaggerating somewhat as his reference to *"all the fish of the sea"* indicates. Nevertheless, their flocks and herds would have diminished in number very quickly if they were used exclusively to feed the multitudes.

Another thing to consider is that an all meat diet would not be a healthy diet. In fact, it would be unhealthy. While they may have had at least some meat and milk products available (the flesh of some animal sacrifices was eaten; Lev. 7:15-16; 31-32) from the flocks and herds, it would have been limited and would still have

been necessary for them to have access to another major source of nutrition to keep them physically healthy. The God-given manna from Heaven that provided for this served as their primary food source during their forty years of wilderness wanderings.

QUESTION: Where do we go when we die?

ANSWER: In the present Dispensation of Grace that we are living in, when a person places their faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, that person is forgiven and redeemed through the blood of Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:7). They are also justified or declared righteous in God's sight (Rom. 3:21-26; 5:1-2). The Gospel is that, according to the Scriptures Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose from the dead (I Cor. 15:3-4). When we hear the Gospel message of salvation and put our trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit who serves as an earnest, or guarantee, of God's promise to redeem us as His own purchased possession (Eph. 1:13-14; I Cor. 6:20). Salvation is not something we deserve or can boast about earning. It is a gift given by grace through faith (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6).

Believers who die today go directly to Heaven to be in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ (II Cor. 5:6-8). They will remain there until the time of the Rapture when every member of the Body of Christ will receive a glorified body like that of the resurrected Lord Jesus (I Cor. 15:20-23; 49-54; I Thess. 4:13-18). Following this they will receive whatever rewards they have earned in their service to the Lord (I Cor. 3:11-15), after which they will live in Heaven forever.

When the unsaved die, they go to Sheol/Hades that is in the center of the earth, where they will stay until the time of the Great White Throne Judgment where they will be judged accordingly for their sinful works and sentenced to the Lake of Fire where they will remain forever (Rev. 20:11-15).



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COMMON SAYINGS FROM THE BIBLE

"Fuel To The Fire"

In speaking of the judgment soon to befall Jerusalem because of the idolatry of its leaders, the Prophet Ezekiel said, "...as the vine tree among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so will I give the inhabitants of Jerusalem" (Ezek. 15:6; see verses 1-8). In other words, the vine (Israel) that was meant to bear good fruit (holiness) was barren, it was only good to "fuel the fire" of God's judgment. The persistence of the leadership in Jerusalem in continuing in their idolatrous ways was only adding to the intensity of the wrath of God that would eventually overtake them. It is used today in much the same way. We say that those who have foolishly put themselves in a dire situation and are making matters worse by continuing their actions, "are only adding fuel to the fire."

INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

"The Rheims-Douai Bible"

After Elizabeth I, a Protestant, ascended the English throne, many Roman Catholics fled to Europe. In hopes that England would someday again become Catholic, they prepared an English translation for Catholics. Rather than translating from the original Hebrew and Greek texts, they used the Latin Vulgate translation of the Catholic Church to work from. It turned out to be a poor translation of the poor translation it was based on. Catholic priests were the principal users of this translation.

While the Catholic Church generally forbid the translation of the Bible into the common languages of the people, this translation seems to have been done in hopes of winning the English people who liked having the Bible in their own language as evidenced by the several English translations that had been produced over the previous three quarters of a century or so. It got its name from where it was produced, the New Testament being published in Rheims, France in 1582 and the Old Testament in Douai, France in 1610.

QUESTION FOR THE READER: WHO AM I?

I was my father's third son. When my half-brother hurt my sister, I killed him and then ran away. I hanged myself, accidentally, of course. Who am I?

Answer to the May "Who Am I" Question for the Reader: Mephibosheth (Because of an accident, I became lame at an early age. My father was best friends with a king and when he found out I was alive he brought me to his kingdom to live. Who am I? *Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan, David's best friend. When Jonathan and Saul were killed, Mephibosheth's nurse ran away with him, but fell and Mephibosheth was rendered lame from the fall. He was taken to live with a family in Gilead before David found him and brought him to live in his kingdom. The story of Mephibosheth can be found in II Samuel 9.*)

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