



# BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

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## BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

*"What Is the 'Good Fight' Paul Fought?"*

Knowing that he would soon be put to death because of his faith in Jesus Christ, Paul wrote to Timothy saying: "...the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:6-7). The three areas of responsibility and conduct he refers to here are related to his earlier instructions to Timothy in this same epistle.

In his endeavor to teach others what Paul has taught him (II Tim. 2:1-2), Timothy was reminded by the Apostle that he would have to endure the hardships of war as a soldier of God and not shrink from his duty (II Tim. 2:3-4; Eph. 6:10-18). He would also have to condition himself as a spiritual athlete in order to victoriously run the race of life as a believer (II Tim. 2:5; I Cor. 9:24-27). In addition, he would have to work hard at planting the Grace Message and then patiently wait for the harvest that is sure to come (II Tim. 2:6; I Cor. 3:5-8). Of course, to "fight the good fight," to "finish the course," and to "keep the faith" can only be done in the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells each believer (II Tim. 1:7, 13-14).

To fight a "good fight" is to be diligent to carefully guard "sound doctrine." This means to stand for the truth whatever the cost. Sadly, today, just as it has been since Paul penned his letter to Timothy, there are those who are willing to compromise the truth of the Grace Message for the sake of popularity, personal profit, to gain a following, etc., etc. For

whatever reason, they give those who refuse to embrace "sound doctrine," but have "itching ears" and "turn away their ears from the truth" (II Tim. 4:3-4) whatever it is they want to hear. Bible truth is not popular with the world in general and particularly not with the religious of the world. And it never will be. As believers we are called to stand for the truth of the Gospel of the Grace of God at all costs.

Paul finished his life's course by living a life pleasing to the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 22-26; Col. 1:10-11). He had a testimony of Christ living in him (Gal. 2:20) and we are to do the same (Phil. 4:9).

Paul "kept the faith" by engaging in the work of ministry, preaching "Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery" (Rom. 16:25) wherever he went and whenever he could (see Rom. 1:14-15; 15:24; II Cor. 10:16). Those of us who know and cherish the Gospel of the Grace of God in Jesus Christ that the Lord has revealed to us through the epistles of the Apostle Paul, are to do the same by being involved in some way as "Ambassadors for Christ" in "the ministry of reconciliation" (see II Cor. 5:17-21) and helping "to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery" (see Eph. 3:8-9).

Which of these three aspects of a believer's life are most important? They are all equally important, of course. But, mark well this fact, when sound doctrine is compromised, the believer's personal testimony and ministry will also be adversely affected. Maybe not in the eyes

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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 Timothy 3:16*



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of men, but it is the Lord Jesus Christ to whom each of us will give an account to (Rom. 14:12; II Cor. 5:10). May each of us, by the Grace of God, fight the fight, run our course, and keep the faith so that we will be able with the Apostle Paul to say; *"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give to me at that day..."* (II Tim. 4:8).

Because Christ Lives!

*W. Edward Bedore*

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

*(All questions answered by the Editor unless otherwise noted)*

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**QUESTION: What is the judgment that Peter speaks of in I Peter 4:17?**

**ANSWER:** The judgment of I Peter 4:17 speaks of the judgment that will befall Israel's religious leaders, who controlled the Temple worship at Jerusalem, because of their corrupted ways (Matt. 23:1-39), their rejection of Jesus Christ as the Messiah (Acts 7:51-60), and their persecution of believers (Acts 8:13). Salvation came first to the twelve apostles and to the other disciples of Christ during the Lord's earthly ministry. But, those who had the greatest advantage and should have recognized Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah were those who sat in Moses' seat as custodians of God's Word, overseers of the Temple (God's house; Joh. 2:13-17; I Kin. 6:1; Ezra 1:3; 5:2; etc.), and leaders of the people (Matt. 23:2; Rom. 3:1-2), rejected and killed Him (Acts 3:14-15). This judgment was interrupted with the Lord putting the Kingdom program on hold when He began dispensing Grace through the Apostle Paul (Acts 9:1-9ff; 26:12-23). It will

be fulfilled during the seven year Tribulation that will one day come upon this unbelieving world. The direct application of the Kingdom, or Circumcision Epistles (Hebrews through Jude) is for the believers living during that terrible time.

**QUESTION: At the Great White Throne Judgment, what is the reason for examining the works of the lost? Also, why is the Book of Life needed if only the unrighteous will be there?**

**ANSWER:** The Book of Life will be at the Great White Throne Judgment as evidence that the names of those being judged are not written in it. The reason the works of the unsaved will be examined is to determine the degree of punishment they will suffer, *"...and they were judged every man according to their works"* (Rev. 20:13). While all sin is a reproach to a Holy God, not all sin has the same consequences and so does not receive the same degree of punishment. The sins of each unsaved person will be evaluated as to how they have harmed others, and how far reaching their effects have been (see Matt. 11:22-24; Mk. 12:40; Lk. 12:47-48; 20:46-47).

**QUESTION: I have heard Jesus Christ referred to as the "Adopted" Son of Joseph. Why is He referred to in that way?**

**ANSWER:** To begin with, the use of the word adoption in this way is not in the same sense as it is used in the Apostle Paul's letters where it refers to the believers' present position of assurance he has of the future possession of all that God has in store for them. We might call it the promise of an inheritance and the eventual receiving of the promised inheritance, (see the 'BBI Bulletin', vol. 15; issue 3; winter 2013-2014; pg. 5).

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In referring to the Lord Jesus Christ as “the adopted Son of Joseph,” we are using the term adoption in the sense that it is commonly used today; the taking of an unrelated child into one’s home to be raised as their own son or daughter. Jesus Christ is referred to in this way in regard to His relationship with Joseph, His mother’s husband, to emphasize and at the same time safeguard the doctrine of the Virgin Birth. The evidence from Scripture indicates that the Lord Jesus Christ was raised in Joseph’s home and was recognized by the people of the community as his son. On one particular occasion, when the people of the area He grew up in were upset with the Lord Jesus because of His teaching, they questioned His credentials, saying; *“Is this not the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary? and His brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?”* (Matt. 13:55-56). From this and two other passages of Scripture (Mk. 6:1-3; Lk. 4:22) Bible antagonists often try to prove that the Bible teaches that the Lord Jesus was simply a natural born son of Joseph. They also like to use a reference from John where Philip, in speaking to Nathanael, referred to the Lord as *“Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph”* (John 1:45). Of course, none of these passages actually say that Jesus Christ was the natural son of Joseph, but are simply an accurate record of what certain people who thought that He was said about Him.

In truth, the way of salvation offered in the Bible through faith in Jesus Christ rises or falls with the Virgin Birth. If He was not the virgin born Son of God that the Scriptures say He is then He could not save anyone. He would just be another sinful son of Adam in need of a Savior. The Lord was careful to guard the truth of the Virgin Birth in the pages of the Bible. The narrative in the Gospel Record of Matthew explaining how Mary became pregnant with the Lord Jesus begins and ends with a refutation of any claim that Joseph was His father. *“Now the*

*birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit”* (Matt. 1:18). *“Then Joseph....took unto him his wife: and knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn Son: and he called His name JESUS”* (Matt. 1:24-25; see Matt. 1:18-25 for the full account).

The Gospel Record of Luke, in giving the genealogy of the Lord Jesus, tracing it back to Adam, says: *“And Jesus Himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli”* (Lk. 3:23). The statement *“as supposed”* in this passage lets the reader know that the people who knew the Lord as a carpenter from Nazareth quite naturally *“assumed”* that He was the son of Joseph, but He wasn’t. The account of the angel announcing to Mary that she would conceive by a special work of the Holy Spirit (see Lk. 1:26-38) makes it as clear as possible that Jesus Christ would be born of a virgin.

In referring to Christ as the adopted Son of Joseph, we are maintaining the distinction of Him not being a natural born son of Joseph, least those who hear us think that the Lord Jesus is only a son of Joseph and not truly the Son of God.

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### The Bible

An unknown writer said, "This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding; its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity.—Source Unknown.



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## COMMON SAYINGS FROM THE BIBLE

### *"Hanged High as Haman"*

This common saying from the Bible comes out of the book of Esther. Haman was the highest ranking official of the Persian king Ahasuerus (also known as Xerxes I), who ruled from 485-464 B.C. When Esther's cousin and foster father, Mordecai, refused to bow in reverence to Haman, he devised a plot to not only kill Mordecai but also all of the Jews in the vast Persian Empire. At Mordecai's urging, Queen Esther, who was a Jew herself, interceded and turned Ahasuerus against the wicked Haman. Caught in his own web of intrigue, the king sentenced Haman to death and had him hanged on the seventy-five foot tall gallows he had especially built to hang Mordecai on (Esth. 7:9-10). The expression is used today in reference to someone who is "brought down by their own plot," especially if it was meant to harm another.

## INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

### *"Bible Concordances"*

A "Concordance" is a reference book consisting of an alphabetical index of the principle words used in a book, article, or other literary work along with the immediate context they are found in. Bible Concordances are of exceptional value in their usefulness to pastors, Bible teachers, Bible students, and all Bible readers in general, as they make it possible to locate almost any verse in the Bible if you know one word in it. In 1737, Alexander Cruden (c.1701-1770) published the first concordance for the King James Version of the Bible entitled, "A

*Complete Concordance of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.*" In 1890 James Strong (1822-1894) issued his well-known *"Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible."* The inclusion of concise Hebrew and Greek dictionaries and a numbering system correlating the Hebrew and Greek words of the Biblical texts with the English words used by the translators in the KJV has made Strong's Concordance one of the most used and helpful reference works ever produced. Today these and other helpful works are readily available on computer software, but both are still in print and very much in use.

## QUESTION FOR THE READER: WHO AM I?

Oops! The question in the February BABQ was: "My son was the oldest man who ever lived. My great, great grandson built an ark so many would live. Who am I? The answer given in the March BABQ was Enoch. This is the right answer to our "incorrect" question. Enoch was in fact the father of Methuselah, the oldest man, but he was only the great grandfather, not the great, great grandfather of the ark builder, Noah. Please excuse our blunder. And thanks to our diligent readers who caught the mistake. As the editor and final proofreader, I can only say "mea culpa."— The Editor

## QUESTION FOR MAY:

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?

*Answer to the March Who Am I Question for the Reader: (I was the fattest king of Moab. I was tricked into believing my enemy was coming to give me a tribute, but instead he stabbed me. Worse yet, while I was bleeding none of my people helped me. Who am I?) Eglon (Judges 3).*

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