

# BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

*And Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God*

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ISSUE 5

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*“Are There Contradictions and Errors  
in the Bible?”*

There are certainly passages in the Scriptures that are difficult for us to understand, but most assuredly we can say without hesitation or fear of being proven wrong that there are no actual contradictions or errors in God’s Word. If the Bible did have errors in it, it would not be the Word of God. We believe that the Bible is God’s Word from beginning to end. Every word of Scripture is God breathed and written down by its human authors exactly as God wanted it written (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21). If we cannot trust all of the Bible as God’s Word, then we cannot trust any of it because we could never know for sure what was truth and what wasn’t as we read it. In truth the Bible is totally reliable for all matters of faith and practice only because it is without error. The Bible in its parts and in its entirety is true regardless of the subject matter under consideration. Being God’s Word from beginning to end, it is without error from beginning to end. This means that it is not just the spiritual truths found in the Bible that are without error, but the historical details, scientific facts, and geographical aspects mentioned in the Bible are also completely accurate.

Yes, in the Bible there are what appear to be contradictions and over the centuries it has often been charged with being a book of errors and misstatements. But, diligent students of the Scriptures know what seem to be discrepancies in God’s Word are revealed to be accurate statements through the light of careful study and honest

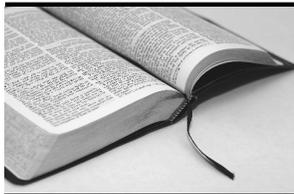
investigation. Great has been the number of allegations that the Bible contains historical inaccuracies, scientific fallacies, and geographical mistakes by those trying to prove it to be full of errors. Allegations that are no longer mentioned because as time has gone by the research of historians, the discoveries of scientists, and the findings of archeologists have uncovered evidence that has shown the Bible to be accurate and its accusers to be mistaken. With the great weight of evidence on its side, there is no reason not to trust in the accuracy of the Bible. If we find some passages of Scripture to be troubling because they seem to be in conflict with other passages, we can rest in the knowledge that the problem is with our understanding and not God’s Word, which *“is truth”* (John 17:17).

With all of the evidence of historical, scientific, and geographical accuracy (along with the abundant evidence of fulfilled prophecy, we might add), the greatest evidence for Biblical inerrancy is the unbroken stream of changed lives of condemned sinners who have simply put their trust in Jesus Christ, the Crucified One who has been raised from the dead, that they might be forgiven of their sins and given the gift of eternal life over the last 2,000 years. Multitudes are those who have had their lives spiritually transformed when they realized their lost condition and dared to believe that in spite of their sin God loved them and Jesus Christ died for them (Rom. 5:8). The gospel is *“...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”*

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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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(ARE THERE CONTRADICTIONS AND ERRORS IN THE BIBLE  
*continued from page 1*)

(I Cor. 15:3-4). "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Because Christ Lives!

*W. Edward Bedore*

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

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

**QUESTION: My question is two-fold: First, was it necessary for Jesus Christ's blood to actually be put on the cover (the Mercy Seat) of the Ark of the Covenant to make atonement for sins as the High Priest did with the sacrificial blood of a young goat on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:14,15)? Second, if it is true that the Lord's blood had to be put on the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant, how did it get there? I have heard that the priests dug a tunnel under the Temple that led to a cave located under the crucifixion site and they hid the Ark of the Covenant there to protect it from the hands of Israel's enemies when Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple were destroyed by the Babylonians. Then, when Jesus Christ was crucified above the Ark's hiding place, His blood ran down through a crack in the rocks made by an earthquake. Is this a credible explanation for how Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the Law?**

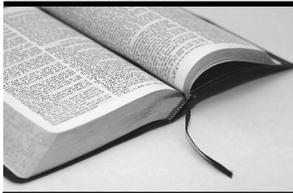
**ANSWER:** I will answer your second question first. No, this is not a credible explanation for how the blood of Jesus Christ could have found its way onto the Mercy Seat, which, by the way, is a type of the throne of God in Heaven. Under the requirements of the Mosaic Law, the High Priest himself had to enter into the most holy place in the Temple to put the sacrificial blood on the Mercy Seat. This is something that the Lord Jesus did not do, and, in fact, could not do according to

the Law. By God's command the only ones who were allowed to minister as priests in the Tabernacle/Temple were those who were of Aaron's family line. The Scriptures tell us that; "if He were on earth, He should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the Law: who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things..." (Heb. 8:4-5).

Not being born a Levite, Jesus Christ, who is of the tribe of Judah, could not carry out any of the functions of a priest in the Temple on earth (Heb. 8:4) as only Levites from Aaron's line were allowed to do so (Num. 3:10). Instead, "Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect Tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:11-12). His priestly Temple ministry was in Heaven itself and His priesthood was after the order of Melchisedec. It was not by the "law of a carnal commandment" (the Law of Moses) like Aaron's was, but by "the power of an endless life" (Heb. 7:15-17).

Christ had no need to present His blood before the symbolic throne of God on earth in the symbolic sanctuary of the Temple. To fulfill His mission as the Savior, it was necessary that He appear before His Father in His heavenly sanctuary, not with the symbolic blood of sacrificial animals, but with His own blood so that His work of redemption for fallen man would be certified as "complete" and "satisfactory" by the Father's acceptance of it as sufficient to appease His holy wrath towards sinners. Because His Son is found to have offered a fully sufficient sacrifice on the cross to pay man's sin debt, God is able to **forgive, redeem, declare righteous (justify)**, and freely give **eternal life** to every individual who trusts in His Son as their Savior, believing that Jesus Christ died for their sins, was buried, and was raised from the dead three days later (I Cor. 15:3-4).

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(BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS continued from page 2)

Jesus Christ was *“a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man”* (Heb. 8:2). When the time came, *“Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building (not the Temple in Jerusalem); Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place (in Heaven), having obtained eternal redemption for us”* (Heb. 9:11-12). The things built after the pattern of things in heaven were purified through the Levitical blood sacrifices, *“...but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these”* (Heb. 9:23). To this end, *“Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are figures of the true: but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us”* (Heb. 9:24; also see Rom. 8:31-38). A study of these passages in their contexts makes it clear the Ark of the Covenant that Moses built was only a shadow of God’s eternal heavenly throne and was not satisfactory for the sprinkling of Christ’s precious blood on behalf of sinners. Only His appearance before the actual throne of God in heaven would do. Many speculate today as to the location of the Ark that Moses built, but Scripture tells us that, *“The Ark of His Testament”* (the real Ark of the Covenant) is in Heaven in God’s heavenly Temple (Rev. 11:19), not hidden in a cave in Jerusalem.

Jesus Christ did fulfill the Law of Moses. He did this in His life by living up to the righteous standards of the Law. He never sinned. While the offering of Himself as a sacrifice for sins fulfilled the typology of the Passover and the Day of Atonement, neither were fulfilled in strict accordance to the types of the Mosaic Law. For example, He did not die at sundown as the Day of Passover began as the Mosaic Law required (Ex. 12:3-6), but rather He died the next afternoon

at *“the ninth hour,”* or 3:00 p.m., on a cross (Matt. 27:45-50). The types, like the parables, allegories, and other figurative language of the Bible are there to express either a particular or general truth, and not every detail is meant to have a special meaning. We get ourselves into trouble when we read more into them than what is there. That is why it is important to study Scripture in its context, carefully looking at what comes before and after a passage as well as why, where, when, what, and to whom it was written.

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## INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

*“King Henry VIII (1491-1547)”*

King of England from 1509 until 1547, Henry VIII is probably best known for having six wives, but he had a lot to do with the first complete Bible being translated into English. At first, Henry opposed the Protestant Reformation and its insistence on making the Bible available in the common language of the people. Being Catholic, Henry banned all Bibles other than those in Latin. When he broke away from the Catholic Church, he kept the prohibition of English Bibles in place. William Tyndale fled England and continued working on his translation of the Bible into English in Europe. Henry sent agents to track him down and he was captured and burned at the stake in 1536.

Tyndale’s dying words were, *“Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.”* The prayer of this man who was determined to make the Bible available to the common Englishman was answered. Henry’s attitude toward the reformation soon softened and he reversed course and authorized the printing of an English Bible. The Great Bible, so called because of its large size, was published in 1539. On its title page was a picture of King Henry.



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## COMMON SAYINGS FROM THE BIBLE

*"The Lord Gives and the Lord Takes Away"*

We usually hear people say this in reference to someone who was in a place of prominence and then lost it all. It can refer to a person's wealth, social standing, political office, prestige among their peers, or a position of power over others, or any other thing that the world holds to be of value. Most of those who use this saying do so in regards to someone else's misfortune and not their own.

The saying comes from Job's response after receiving the grim news that not only had all of his material wealth been lost, but that all ten of his children had been killed (see Job 1:1-19). *"Then Job arose and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground and worshipped, and said, 'Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly"* (Job 1:20-22). In his own time of great calamity, Job was acknowledging the sovereignty of God in every aspect of his life. He gave God the credit for all the blessings of good that he had enjoyed in life and knew that if God allowed them to be taken away He had a purpose in it and deserved to be trusted and worshipped. *"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out"* (I Tim. 6:7). The Bible teaches us that it is more important to trust in the Eternal God and worship Him rather than in the passing things of the world.

*"By the Sweat of His Brow"*

The basis of this saying dates back to the beginning of time and is related to an event that has affected the human race ever since; man's fall into sin. Along with death, one of the consequences of Adam's disobedience in eating the forbidden fruit from *"the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil"* was that he, and all his descendants, would have to work laboriously for their living. The Lord God told Adam; *"...cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground..."* (Gen. 3:17-19).

Today the phrase "by the sweat of his brow" is generally used to refer to what someone has accomplished through their own hard work, but we need to keep in mind that there is a more profound truth that underlies it. The reason we must labor for a living is because of the curse that sin brought upon the world.

## QUESTION FOR THE READER: WHO AM I?

I was born because God promised my mother she would have a child. I was raised in the House of the Lord by a priest named Eli. Who am I?

*Answer to the June "Who Am I" Question for the Reader: Esther* (I was just a simple Jewish girl when I was chosen to be the new queen of Persia. My cousin made me promise to hide my faith from my new husband. Who am I?) Esther kept her family and friends from being killed after exposing a plot by her husband's right-hand man. After the plot was exposed, Esther proclaimed to her husband that she was Jewish. This story can be found in the book of Esther.

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