



BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE, INC.

MARCH 2015

PO BOX 587, SLINGER, WI 53086

VOLUME 6

(Published eight times yearly: Feb., Mar., May, June, Aug., Sep., Nov., Dec.)

ISSUE 2

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"But, Don't They Follow Jesus?"

We are living in a time in which the Person of Jesus Christ is being redefined by a broad spectrum of those who claim to be "followers of Jesus." The philosophy behind this growing trend seems to be that as long as someone names the name of "Jesus" we should recognize them as brothers and sisters "in Christ" and therefore part of the "Universal Church." In turn, their beliefs and methods of ministry should never be called into question in any way because that would be divisive and cause harm to "the Church." This is really nothing new as modernist/liberal scholars, pastors, teachers, religious leaders, etc. have been pushing this sort of ecumenical thinking for over 150 years in America. Well, actually it was already happening early in the Apostle Paul's ministry. About A.D. 57, Paul wrote a word of warning to the saints in Corinth saying; *"But I fear, lest by any means as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him"* (II Cor. 11:3-4). Believers today should be diligent to take heed of this warning against being deceived by a false gospel that promotes a false christ and a false spirit.

The Jesus revealed in the Bible is not Lucifer's brother; He is not a manifestation of Michael the Archangel; He is not the impotent christ who is called out of heaven to be put to

death over and over again through the rituals of an elite group of priests; He is not just a man who was overshadowed and adopted by God; He is not just a good man whose life served as an example of how others should live in order to please God; He is not the genie Jesus who must answer every "word of faith" prayer uttered in His name demanding health and wealth; He is not an "emerging christ" who is developing toward perfect godhood by learning from his shared experiences with an "emerging church"; He is not a New Age guru that exemplifies the christ spirit in those seeking spiritual progress through enlightenment. No, the Biblical Jesus is none of these; the Jesus revealed in the Bible is much, much more. He is the REAL CHRIST!

He is the Son of God. The King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the Son of Man and at the same time He is God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity. He is the Creator of all that exists. He is the Innocent One who freely gave Himself to die on the Cross once and for all for our sins. Raised from the dead on the third day, He is the Living Savior who forgives, redeems, and justifies all who through faith trust in Him alone for salvation. Being fully God and fully Man, He is the One Man who can act as Mediator between God and men (Col. 1:19; 2:9; I Tim. 2:5-6). He is the One who intercedes on behalf of those He has delivered from wrath (Rom. 5:9-11; 8:31-34ff). He is the Head of the Church which is His Body (Eph. 1:22-23). He is our Great God and Savior who will come in glory to take His Church out of this world before the Day of the

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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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Lord comes (Titus 2:13; I Cor. 15:51-55; Phil. 2:20-21; I Thes. 4:13-18). He is the One that the Father has set at His own right hand in heaven above all else and has given the authority to judge all things (Eph. 1:20; John 5:22). He is the One that everyone will one day bow their knee before in submission to His will, acknowledging that He is Lord of all. The redeemed will do so in great adoration, thankfulness and praise, the lost will bow as condemned sinners, in regret and the harsh anguish of hopelessness. All will give glory to God (Phil. 2:9-11). He is all this and much more.

It is only the Jesus of the Bible, the real Jesus, the Jesus Christ who *"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"* (I Cor. 15:3-4) that can save a lost soul. Every false Jesus is a ploy of Satan to deceive sinners with a false hope in order to keep them blinded to the truth of the Gospel of the Grace of God (II Cor. 4:3-4). We are living in a time in which spiritual compromise and doctrinal dilution have become the accepted norm in order to not offend anyone. But the true Gospel, which has at its center the true Jesus, is offensive to the lost. It is not a "politically correct" message and it cannot be amended, condensed, or altered in any way to make it unoffensive and remain a true and meaningful message. It is foolishness to the perishing, but for the believer the power of God for salvation is found in it (see I Cor. 1:18, 21). Those who are following a false Jesus are lost, as only the true Jesus can save anyone.

All who have trusted in the real Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and have been redeemed by His blood are called to stand with the Apostle Paul who boldly declared, *"I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"* (Rom. 1:16). If we take that stand, won't we offend many?

Undoubtedly! Won't we alienate some of our family and friends? Probably. Won't we be viewed as fanatics and bigots by the world at large? Most likely. Isn't there a chance that we will face some form of persecution if we do? That could very well be the case. In fact, many have lost all and some have died for this message. But, is there any good reason that we shouldn't stand for the Truth? They will only hear it if we tell them.

Because Christ Lives!

W. Edward Bedore

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

(All questions answered by the Editor unless otherwise noted)

QUESTION: What is a "quaternion of soldiers" as mentioned in Acts 12:4? Why did Herod deliver Peter to four quaternions of soldiers after he was already in prison?

ANSWER: A quaternion of soldiers was a squad consisting of four men. In this case, they were assigned to special guard duty, being responsible to make sure Peter did not escape from prison. Four quaternions, sixteen men in all, were appointed to this task because the Roman military divided the night into four watches of three hours each. One quaternion would be on guard duty during each watch with two soldiers chained to Peter in a locked cell. The other two would be stationed outside the cell making sure no one could open its door (Acts 12:6). The two soldiers outside the cell constituted *"the first and second ward"* that Peter was led past in his miraculous prison break (Acts 2:10).

Herod, who had already put the Apostle James put to death, intended to kill Peter after the feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread were

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past. The special guard put on Peter would have normally made certain that he would stay shut up in prison until Herod would bring him out to be executed. However, the Lord had other plans for Peter and sent an angel to rescue him (see Acts 12:1-11). A whole legion of Roman soldiers, or the entire Roman army for that matter, could not have kept him in that prison.

Having been freed, Peter went to the home of the mother of John Mark where a group of believers had gathered to pray (Acts 12:12-17). When morning came and it was found that Peter had escaped, Herod had the guards put to death (Acts 12:18-19).

QUESTION: Paul talks about Peter being saved like him in Galatians 2, and Peter says in Acts that “we (the Jews) shall be saved even as they” (the Gentiles). Peter’s Kingdom message of salvation was different than Paul’s, so what do these verses mean?

ANSWER: First I want to say that in both passages the principle of salvation by grace through faith that forms the basis of the Grace Message is in view. The issue at hand in Acts 15 had to do with whether or not the Gentile believers had to be circumcised to be saved. This subject is also in view in Galatians. In fact, Paul wrote the letter to the Galatian churches to counteract the teaching that the Gentiles must be circumcised and, consequently, any other requirement that might be added to salvation by grace through faith alone.

In Acts 15, notice that Peter says “we (the Jews) shall be saved even as they (the Gentiles)”. This is a meeting made up of believers – saved individuals. This is important to the subject at hand because Peter is speaking in the future tense in this passage. He did not have his own salvation and that of the attending apostles, elders, and the Kingdom saints in Jerusalem in mind because all of them were already saved.

He had the Jewish people as a whole in view and was acknowledging Paul’s message and apostleship and that the principle of Grace was the underlying principle of both the Kingdom Gospel and the Grace Gospel (see Acts 15:6-11). In the end, anyone who is saved is saved by grace regardless of the dispensation they lived in. Yes, the Kingdom Gospel does have required works included in it, but the works in and of themselves have no saving power and add nothing to the salvation provided by the blood of Jesus Christ. The only benefit of the works prescribed by the Kingdom Gospel was when they were done as an expression of faith.

In Galatians, Paul chastised Peter because he separated himself and would no longer eat with the Gentile believers after some Jews from Jerusalem came to Antioch (Gal. 2:11-14). What Paul pointed out was Peter’s hypocrisy in doing so. The Lord had already made it clear to Peter that the Gentiles had a new standing before Him and that he was not to consider the uncircumcision of the Gentiles as something to separate over (see Acts 10:11-18). Peter had already learned from the Lord Jesus Himself that something new was happening and that salvation was being offered to the Gentiles by faith alone apart from works of any kind, even faith works (Gal. 2:15-16). Peter’s withdrawal from the Gentile believers in Antioch was causing a problem as it served to confuse people about the nature of the Grace Gospel, which was to take precedence over the Kingdom Gospel in the new dispensation that Paul was called to proclaim.

After the Rapture of the Church, the Kingdom Gospel will be back in force along with its required faith works. But, its basis of salvation will still be God’s grace because no one could ever earn their salvation or any part of it by the works of the Law or works of any kind.



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INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

“Scholasticism”

The Vulgate, a Latin translation of the Bible, was commonly used in the Middle Ages. The priests and monks who wrote commentaries and other religious books wrote them in Latin for each other during this period, not for the common people at large. Over time, they developed a system of Bible interpretation and theological study based on the logic and metaphysics taught by Aristotle, Plato and the writings of the early church fathers. They believed that the true meaning of the Bible was to be found in some deeper spiritual meaning than that of a literal interpretation. In other words, they rejected the idea of taking the Scriptures at face value and they approached the Bible as if it were an allegorical book of symbols with each passage having multiple layers of meaning that were waiting to be discovered by those who were properly schooled and clever enough to uncover them. The different writers seem to have been in competition with each other in discovering unique interpretations of the Bible. This “out of touch” with Biblical truth religious movement and its open-ended theological system became known as Scholasticism (not to be confused with scholastics and scholarship) and was prominent from the 10th to the 15th century. One of their leaders is said to have claimed that each passage of the Bible could be interpreted seven different ways. Another said that “the sense of God’s Word is infinitely varied.” It is no mystery why true Bible scholars like John Wycliffe, John Huss, Martin Luther, William Tyndale, and other

faithful servants of the Lord worked so hard and sacrificed so much to translate the Bible into the common languages of the people so that they could read and study it for themselves without depending on the self styled religious “experts” of Scholasticism.

Sadly, we are living in an era in which the vast majority do not appreciate having a Bible in their own language and neglect it and the precious truths found in it. At the same time, there is a growing band of self-styled apostles and prophets and influential Bible teachers that are propagating teaching that they have gleaned from Scripture in much the same way of the mystic Scholastics of old time. Let us stand firm on God’s Word in the “*present evil world*” (Gal. 1:4) that we are living in.

QUESTION FOR THE READER: WHO AM I?

I became king at the age of eight. I devoted myself to getting rid of idols when I was sixteen. While restoring the temple, my people found the Pentateuch written by Moses. Who am I?

Answer to the February “Who Am I” Question for the Reader:
Miriam (I was a prophetess. My baby brother was adopted by a foreign lady but we met again later in life. I didn't approve of his Ethiopian wife. God gave me leprosy for seven days because I spoke against my brother. Who am I?) Numbers 12 - Aaron interceded on her behalf and she was forgiven.

IMPORTANT DATE!

BBI’s Annual Grace Mission Conference!
March 27,28, 2015

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