

# BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

*And Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God*

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ISSUE 1

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*"What is the New Age Movement?"*

Based on the ancient Yogic Eastern religions, the New Age movement is a loose affiliation of organizations, groups, and individuals with a shared goal of penetrating and overthrowing Western thought and culture with the infusion of Eastern mysticism and the Yogic philosophies of Hinduism. While New Age concepts had been taught in North America since the 1800's, it wasn't until many in the Hippie movement of the late 1960's and early 1970's embraced much of its philosophy that it grew into what was recognized as a movement. By the mid-1980's it had become very influential, especially in its effect on the Western view of values and morality by redefining both according to New Age thinking, which rejects the idea of any absolute values in favor of relativism. Sadly, much of New Age thought as a worldview has gone mainstream today in America. This is true even though most people do not recognize it and the negative influence it has had on our culture over the last five decades. The Political Correctness that is running rampant in America today, trampling Western culture and moral values underfoot as it goes, is the daughter of New Age thinking.

The New Age thinking that undergirds the concepts that are promoted by Political Correctness are nothing more or less than an attack on truth, an attack that uses "denial" as one of its main weapons. The "enlightened" champions of PC claim that "truth is relative" and therefore truth is whatever you want it to be. For them, the end justifies the means, and one's own emotions and experiences

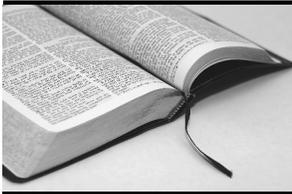
override all objective facts and evidences. PC is the antithesis of rational thought, sound reasoning, and common sense. It is entrenched in the hallowed halls of academia from which, year after year, illustrious professors with a Politically Correct/New Age mindset are more interested in indoctrinating than educating students, students who, when they leave school, carry what has become their worldview into the workplace with them. From there they are able to influence others. Especially if they become part of the educational or mainstream media communities.

While there are some marked differences between New Age and Political Correctness, PC continues to move ever closer to full blown New Ageism. One aspect that makes this obvious is the denial of the existence of any absolute right or wrong. This is expressed by the idea that each person can determine what truth is for themselves. This means that they are, in effect, determining what is right or wrong for themselves as well. In other words, they are not bound by any absolute standard of right and wrong because right and wrong only exist in how a person feels. This New Age concept is vigorously promoted by PC. It is a concept lifted right out of Hinduism, which denies the reality of good and evil or right or wrong or the existence of any such thing as sin.

Hinduism, New Age, and PC all espouse contradictory beliefs which they strangely ignore when confronted with them. One of them is the open minded "tolerance" for all people and their various viewpoints. PC proudly proclaims its

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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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open-mindedness and lavishly grants tolerance to all points of views held by PC adherents, but deny it to any and all who disagree with them and their agenda. New Ageism and its child, Political Correctness, are built on the spiritual delusion of Hinduism that denies the existence of the Personal, All Powerful Creator God who is revealed in the Bible in favor of Pantheistic beliefs (God is in all). They have *“changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen”* (Rom. 1:25). See Romans 1:18-32 for a vivid picture of how God views the Yogic philosophies, beliefs, and practices of Hinduism, her New Age daughter, and her Politically Correct granddaughter and those who embrace, practice, and teach them. They can deny the existence of the Creator God and claim that all is god, but they cannot change the reality of the Eternal God who is their Creator and by whom they will one day be held accountable for willfully believing this lie of the Devil (Gen. 3:4-5; Rom. 1:21-25). Those who die in their unbelief will finally be judged and cast into the everlasting Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15). Their only hope of escaping the judgment, that they know full well in the depths of their heart that they are worthy of (Rom. 1:32), is to turn to the Creator God and trust in His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for all sinners, was buried and rose again the third day. In Him they can be forgiven of their sins and be redeemed through His blood (Eph. 1:7; Rom. 3:22-25; 5:8-11; 6:23; I Cor. 15:3-4).

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 the believer's hope?**

**ANSWER:** Most people look forward to something. They have a hope for what the future will bring. One's hope can change with time and circumstances. If one is seriously ill or has been injured, they will hope to get better or be healed. Someone who is having financial problems might hope for a better paying job or increased profits in their business. Many people hope to find someone to love them and to love and share their life with, while others hope to get out of a relationship that has not turned out as they had hoped. Others hope and plan to meet certain goals in education, or life achievement. Some actively pursue their hope of fame and riches. The list could go on and on.

While planning, goals, and achievements are important, all of man's hopes that are built on self and worldly things are uncertain at best. The rich can become paupers overnight, disease or injury can strike down the strongest at any time, the most trusted friend or family member can turn hostile and the list can go on and on.

The Bible tells us that, for the believer, the Lord Jesus Christ is *“our hope”* (I Tim. 1:1). We are also told that our hope in Christ will never cause us shame or disappointment (Rom. 5:5). The only sure hope that is available is God's promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus. He is faithful and true and He loves you! Are you a believer or are you without God and without hope in the world (see Eph. 2:12)? Trust in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins and a sure hope of eternal life and an assured destiny of heaven.

**QUESTION: Sometimes it seems like the word “soul” is used in more than one way in the Bible. What do you think?**

**Answer:** I think that you are right. It is used in reference to that particular immaterial part of man that consists of his personhood, such as in I Thessalonians 5:23 and Hebrews 4:12. It is also

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used in reference to people in a general sense as when Peter spoke of Noah and his family as “*eight souls*” who were saved from dying physically in the Great Flood (I Pet. 3:20; cf. Acts 27:37; Rev. 16:3).

**QUESTION: Do BOTH the soul and spirit continue to exist after physical death? Or does only one of them live on after a person dies? In other words, when a believer dies is it only his spirit or only his soul that goes to Heaven? Or do BOTH his spirit and soul go immediately into God’s presence in Heaven?**

**ANSWER:** Some claim that man is only a dichotomous (two-part) being consisting of a body and spirit with the soul being made up of the two. In other words, the conscious part of man, the soul, only exists while the body and spirit of man are in union. They say that when the body dies the soul dies, or sleeps, with the body. In other words, they think that when the spirit is separated from the body the soul simply ceases to exist in any viable sense. However, that is not what the Bible teaches. In His commission address to the twelve men called the apostles, the Lord Jesus told them that they had no need to fear other men as they could only “*kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul*” (Matt. 10:28). If, in fact, the soul of a man dies when his body does, then this straight forward statement of the Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples could not be true, as by putting another person to death physically, a murderer would be killing that person’s soul as well. According to the Lord Jesus Christ, this is simply not possible, and it is unthinkable that He was in error, or worse yet, to imagine that He was lying to them. Both the soul and spirit of man are immaterial in nature and, although the two are intricately tied together, there is a difference between them. In Scripture, they are clearly shown to be two different parts of that which makes up the whole man. In his first letter to the Thessalonians the Apostle Paul says; “*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly;*

*and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (I Thes. 5:23). Without a doubt, this verse teaches that man is a trichotomous (three-part) being. Man is a triune being created in the image of God who, in a limited way, reflects the Trinity of God.

This passage would make no sense if the soul was only the result of the union of the spirit and the body. Also, if this dichotomous teaching were true, then the body would necessarily have to be considered as part of the personal conscious existence of man rather than as the tabernacle or dwelling place that the Scriptures say that it is (see II Cor. 4:7; 5:1-4; II Pet. 1:13-14). As a dwelling place, or tent of residence, the body is not a part of the soul and the soul does not depend on it to exist. When believers experience physical death, they, in both soul and spirit, leave their bodies and go to be with the Lord in Heaven (II Cor. 5:6-8) to await their resurrection of life in glorified bodies (I Cor. 15:51-54; Phil 3:20-21). At death, unbelievers go into Hades (Hell) to await their resurrection of condemnation after which they will be judged at the Great White Throne and then cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10-15) to be tormented forever.

It should be noted here that between their physical death and resurrection, neither the saved or the unsaved are in a disembodied state. During this in-between time, they have temporary bodies suited to existence in their respective places of residence (Heaven or Hades), while they await their resurrection.

## COMMON BIBLE SAYINGS

*“God Works in Mysterious Ways”*

This popular saying is not found in the Bible, even though it is often used as if it were. It is usually said when things have unexpectedly worked out in a positive way even though it didn’t seem possible according to the circumstances. It is

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the acknowledgement that God is at work in mysterious ways that are not understood by man. Although the exact wording is not there, the concept expressed in this saying is definitely taught in Scripture. God is indeed working behind the scenes to bring to pass all things according to His will. Theologically, this is referred to as the "Providence of God," which can be defined as; "God's continual maintenance, divine guidance, and unceasing involvement with creation." This, of course, has to do with God's plans and purposes for mankind in general and individual lives in particular. While it is found throughout the Bible, the clearest statement of it is found in the book of Romans where we read. "...that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). The premier example of this is found in the story of Joseph who was maliciously sold into slavery by his wicked brothers and then unjustly imprisoned, but later, through "circumstances," became the prime minister of Egypt (see Gen. 37:1-36; 39:1-48:22; 50:1-26). In the end, God having put Joseph in this high position in Egypt, enabled him to save his family from the effects of a great famine.\* Fearing reprisal after their father died, Joseph's brothers pleaded for mercy. Joseph's response demonstrates God's providential working in the affairs of men. He said to them; "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive" (Gen. 50:20). Ultimately, God is in control and, in the end, His purposes will be brought to pass.

\*This also kept Jacob and his sons in a protected and isolated area away from other nations where they would multiply into a great company that became the twelve tribes of Israel.

## INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

*"Miles Coverdale and the English Bible"*

When William Tyndale was arrested and executed before he could translate the entire Bible into English, Miles Coverdale (1488-1568) completed the work. Tyndale had translated the whole New Testament but only part of the Old Testament. Coverdale finished the Old Testament, but, unlike Tyndale, he did not translate from the Hebrew. Instead, he did his translation work from the German Bible of Martin Luther. It was published in 1535 and was the first Bible printed entirely in English. It seems strange, but it contained a dedication to King Henry VIII, who had ordered Tyndale's execution.

## QUESTION FOR THE READER

In the Gospel According to John, which of the apostles doubts Jesus's resurrection until he sees Jesus with his own eyes?

**Answer** to the December question: (Which prophet secretly anointed David as king?) **Samuel.** David was born in Bethlehem, the youngest son of Jesse of the tribe of Judah. The prophet Samuel, after revoking Saul's designation as king, secretly anointed David as Saul's successor.

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