

BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

And Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God

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ISSUE 6

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From the President's Desk,

First and foremost, I want to ask that you pray for us as we continue the process of selling our current facilities. In the last month, we have seen more interest than ever before. We must make wise decisions as we walk down the road with potential buyers and accelerate our search for a new home for BBI, and we covet your prayers to that end. I am forever thankful that God is in control and we can trust Him and know that He is in the process and you are standing with us.

I also want to say thank you for your support of BBI each month. In a recent BBI board meeting, we discussed how much of a blessing it is to see the fruit of our ministry in our students, graduates, and alumni, who are actively serving in leadership positions in many areas of the world. This should bring you a great deal of encouragement knowing that the resources you provide are paying eternal dividends in the lives of many, not only in the US but around the world.

In my last "From the President's Desk," I shared with you how each believer has, in their testimony, the ability to lead someone to Christ. Our testimonies give us the tools to share how we came to know Christ and convey to others the hope that we now have in Christ, no matter what is going on around us. We must never forget that people all around us are looking for hope and some sense of security. Those of us who know Christ and read His Word understand that REAL hope and security are only found in a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. As someone has so succinctly put it "Jesus Christ is the answer—now what's the question."

As we interact with friends, relatives, acquaintances, and co-workers, ask the Lord to give you opportunities to share with them the hope that you have in the Lord Jesus Christ. Tell them your story and how the Lord Jesus Christ changed your life and has given you a hope that nothing can take away.

Take a lesson from the Apostle Paul in the Book of Acts. When he found himself in front of a mob (Acts 22) or in front of royalty (Acts 26), he simply shared how the Lord Jesus Christ had changed his life.

May our eyes be opened to the opportunities all around us, and may we boldly and lovingly share the hope that we now have in Christ.

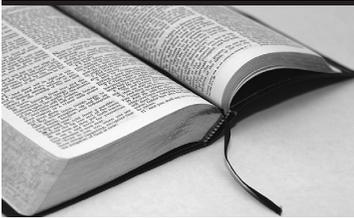
Serving Together,

Dr. Robert E. Nix

President, *Berean Bible Institute*

QUESTION: God promises that if His people who are called by His name [Christians] would humble themselves and pray and seek God and turn from their wickedness, that He would forgive their sins and heal their land (II Chron. 7:14). My question is, how many Christians in a country would be required to humble themselves and pray before the Lord would answer and heal their land? Our country certainly needs healing today.

ANSWER: I don't think there is a set number or certain percentage of the population of a nation that must pray and repent of their wicked ways before God will heal their land. It is more about the general attitude and action of a nation. But, for us living today, it is more important to know that there is only one nation that can claim the promises of blessing



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and restoration that are made in this verse and it is not the United States of America.

This verse has a long history of misapplication by sincere believers who desperately want to see the hand of God at work in their nation. These promises are not general in nature, but are ethnically specific. They are exclusively made to God's Chosen People, Israel, and to Israel only. Eventually Israel was dispersed among the nations because of unbelief and remains so until this day. The Bible tells us that, sometime in the future, Israel will repent and then God will answer Solomon's prayer on behalf of Israel. This promise to heal, or restore, the land of Israel was made in response to Solomon's prayer when the Temple was dedicated (II Chron. 7:12; see II Chron. 6:1-42).

QUESTION: Is the Babylon of Revelation chapters seventeen and eighteen America?

ANSWER: No, the Babylon spoken of in chapters seventeen and eighteen of Revelation is not America, nor is it a reference to Rome as many have been mistakenly led to believe over the years. In the Bible, Babylon means Babylon. It is the second most important city in the Bible and Jerusalem is the first. The term "*Mystery Babylon*" (Revelation 17:5) is used figuratively to illustrate that this city is the fountainhead of all the false religions in the world).

The United States of America is not specifically mentioned in Scripture. However, if it still exists as a nation at the time of Jesus Christ's Second Coming, it will be included as one of those nations that will gather together under the leadership of the anti-Christ (Rev. 19:19, see vvs. 11-21). It will just be another nation that will foolishly oppose God and will consequently be destroyed by the King of kings and Lord of lords when He comes to do battle with His enemies.

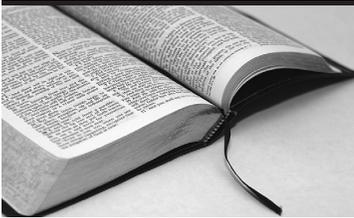
Through Nimrod, Satan tried to establish Babylon (Babel) as his world headquarters (Gen. 11:1-4). The Lord thwarted his purpose by confusing their language, thus forcing the people to scatter throughout the earth (Gen. 11:5-9). Since that time there has been a continuing conflict as Satan has tried to return the people to a one-world religion presided

over by a one-world government. In turn, God chose a land (Canaan/Israel) as His, a people (Israel) as His, and a particular city (Jerusalem) as His. The battle of Armageddon will be the climax of this conflict as the armies of the earth are destroyed by the Son of God (Rev. 17:12-18; 19:11-21). So much more could be said here and volumes have been written on it, but because of the limitations of time and space this brief summary will have to do for now.

Remember, Jesus Christ will one day return to earth to wage war on His enemies, but first He will remove the Church lest any member of His Body taste the wrath of God from which they have been delivered. "*Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him*" (Rom. 5:9).

QUESTION: You have wasted your time by studying the Protestant beliefs that you hold to. These beliefs will bring you down to Hell as no heretics, those who teach heresies, will go to Heaven (Gal. 5:20-21). In writing this, I am trying to help you understand correct beliefs. Try to picture in your mind what Hell is like and why you will end up there, especially since you have never confessed your sins to a priest (John 20:23). That you are a religious leader in your false organization does not make you right in God's eyes, but only in your own spiritually blind ones. For your own good, I want to invite you and all of your followers to join the Orthodox Church in which you would be received with love and care.

ANSWER: I sincerely appreciate your letter, especially as it was written as a warning out of a genuine concern for my soul, which you perceive to be in mortal danger of the everlasting torments of Hell (Matt. 10:28), which is also known as the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10-15). On the other hand, I have a heavy burden on my heart for you as it is obvious from your remarks in this letter and other things you have written to me in the past, that you do not understand what the Gospel of the Grace of God is and consequently you yourself are a lost sinner destined for the Lake of Fire. If you die never having turned from your trust in the Orthodox Church, or whatever else you might be trusting in to save



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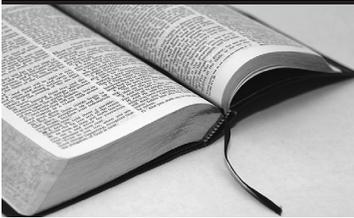
And Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God

you, and put your faith in Jesus Christ **alone**, you will be lost forever. It is not through any church or religious rituals but through Christ's shed blood that a lost sinner is redeemed and forgiven of his/her sins *"according to the riches of His grace"* (Eph. 1:7). To be saved a sinner must first hear the Gospel, and then believe it. And then, having believed, that sinner is sealed by the Holy Spirit who guarantees the believer's salvation and eventual bodily resurrection into glory (see Rom. 8:23; Eph. 1:12-14; Phil. 3:20-21; I Cor. 15:1-4; I Thess. 4:14-18).

Let me explain something. It is not possible for me to go to Hell. And that is true of anyone and everyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. I am pretty sure that what I say sounds like heresy to you, but I say this on the authority of Scripture. Thirty-nine years ago I realized my sinful and lost condition and that I was condemned to the Lake of Fire (Hell), with no place else to turn and knowing that there was nothing I could do about my pitiful plight. Nor was there any other sinner who could do anything for me since the whole human race, including those who call themselves priests, was in the same predicament that I was in, because all have sinned. Having heard the Gospel preached, I looked to Jesus Christ alone believing that He could, and would, do for me what His Word said He would do. He forgave my sins. In fact, He blotted them out completely, redeemed me, declared me righteous, gave me eternal life, and positionally seated me in Heaven *"in Christ Jesus"* (see Eph. 1:13-14; 2: 2-10). I could never live up to the standard of righteousness that God requires to make a man or woman acceptable to Him, and neither can anyone else. But, being a God of love and mercy, He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die for the sins of all sinners that we might be saved through faith *"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him"* (II Cor. 5:21).

What it gets down to is this. As I have been cleansed by the blood of His Son, I have been declared righteous by God and therefore I am justified in His sight through His Son and I am completely at peace with God (see Rom. 5:1, 6-10). And so, it is not in

any way anything good I have done, or could do, but because of my "position," or "identification," with Jesus Christ who did it all for me, there is no sin I can be charged with that can send me to Hell or keep me out of Heaven. And the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit as an *"earnest"* guarantees it (II Cor. 1:22). The rhetorical question is asked in Scripture, *"Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?"* and it is answered with this simple statement of truth; *"It is God who justifieth"* (Rom. 8:33). In other words, what charge could ever be brought against any precious soul that has, by faith, trusted in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins that could overrule God's having declared that person righteous in His Son Jesus Christ, who is the One who not only died for our sins and rose again (see I Cor. 15:1-4), but is now seated at His Father's right hand from where He Himself, the One who died for us, *"maketh intercession for us"* (Rom. 8:34; cf. Eph. 2:4-6). It is a reproach to the Father when sinful man rejects His Son and His sacrifice on the cross as being sufficient and tries to earn his or her own salvation through religious works and rituals, which is impossible for them to do. To confess one's sins to a priest in order to receive forgiveness when the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, has already paid the price of redemption with His own blood and has offered eternal life as a gift to whoever would receive it by faith, is in reality a form of idolatry. To trust in a priest to do what only Christ can do is to exalt the priest over the Savior. That is blasphemous. *"For there is one God, and One Mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus"* and His intercession on our behalf is all we need (see I Tim. 2:5-6). He alone can bring an end to the enmity that exists between all sinners and the Holy and Just God who created them. In His death Jesus made the forgiveness of sins possible, and in His resurrection He made forgiveness of sins available to all who would trust in Him for salvation. Thus, all who have been redeemed through His blood are reconciled to God in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. I implore you, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved today (see Acts 16:31; II Cor. 5:14-21). Tomorrow may be too late.



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INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

“The New England Primer”

A best seller in early America, “The New England Primer” was a textbook, the purpose of which was to teach the alphabet. With entries such as “A—In Adam’s fall/we sinned all and B—Thy life to mend/this book [with a picture of a Bible] attend,” the influence of Puritanism is clearly evident. First published in 1727, this pocket-sized work became very popular and is still used today by some. The prayer, “Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep” is included in the book as well as stories of Christians who were persecuted and killed for their faith in Jesus Christ.

“The Blue and the Gray”

During the American Civil War, the American Bible Society, which had its headquarters in New York, supplied Bibles to both the Union soldiers of the North and the Confederate soldiers of the South. The South also had its own Confederate Bible Society.

“The Bible on the Map”

Throughout the United States there are cities, towns, villages, parks, rivers, etc., named after places in the Bible. Some of these names are Bethel, Berea, Salem, Antioch, Bethany, Goshen, Rome, Carmel, Bethlehem, Athens, Abilene, Alexandria, Lebanon, Smyrna, Zion, and Philadelphia.

COMMON SAYINGS FROM THE BIBLE

“At Wit’s End”

To be “at wits end” is to be so severely perplexed, to be so troubled and confused as to be unable to think of what to do next. To be so troubled and confused as to be unable to think clearly about or decide on a course of action. The Psalmist wrote of Israel under

the chastening of God as being in such great distress that “*their soul is melted because of trouble*” causing them to, “*reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit’s end*” (Ps. 107: 26-27). In the next verse we find the proclamation of hope for a dispersed and despairing Israel, “*When they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, and He bringeth them out of their distresses*” (Ps. 107:28). While this Psalm is prophetic in content and looks forward to Israel’s restoration in the Millennial Kingdom, the underlying spiritual principle is applicable to our present Dispensation of Grace. When in distress, God’s people need to turn to Him that He might give comfort to the soul in all circumstances and situations. Our instructions for today are to, “*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ* (Phil. 4:6-7).

“See Eye-to-Eye”

To see eye-to-eye with someone means to be of the same mind; to be in agreement with them. To not see eye-to-eye is to be in disagreement. The phrase comes from the prophecy of Isaiah who wrote, “*thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion*” (Isa. 52:8). In this passage, the prophet was looking beyond the suffering of the promised Messiah to his glorious second coming at the end of the Tribulation to restore David’s throne in Jerusalem. All of the watchman of Israel will see eye-to-eye in their recognition, understanding, praise, and proclamation of the Person and blessings of Messiah in that day. There will no longer be any disunity among the Children of Israel, but they will be in complete unity in the reign of Jesus Christ during the Millennial Kingdom and beyond.

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