

Questions for Discussion: The Bible

1. (a.) How can we get through to people who call themselves Christians, but who can't understand that the Bible is our only authority?

(b.) How can we get through to people that the whole of Scripture is the Word of God, not just the places where we are told specifically that God speaks?

2. Luke 23:34

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

Acts 7:60

"Lord lay not this to their charge".

(a.) Do these verses excuse the wicked?

(b.) Were these prayers answered?

3. (a.) Was Gethsemane Jesus "wobbling"?

(b.) Does Jesus have two wills?

4. Matthew 16:23

But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

This happened directly after Peter had confessed Christ. How can this be, if:

1 Corinthians 12:3

Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

5. In 1 Corinthians 13, what does it mean that:

(a.) *"charity believeth all things"*?

(b.) *"knowledge shall vanish away"*?

6. 1 Timothy 1:13

Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

Are all unbelievers therefore not responsible?

7. Revelation 19:10

"...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Explain.

8. When was Peter saved?

Matthew 16:16,17

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Mark 14:38

Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

Luke 22:60-62

And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

John 7:39

(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 20:22,23

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

9. For any one Scripture passage, is there only one absolute meaning? We know for example in the prophets there was a near fulfilment and further fulfilment of various prophecies, but, take for example:

Song of Songs 2:14

O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely.

I once heard two equally good, doctrinally sound expositions of this passage within a few weeks of each other, but they said totally different things. Which was right? Is there not one absolute meaning? Were both right? If so, is this not *carte blanche* to interpret any passage of scripture any way we please? e.g. What about finding Christ in all Scripture? When is He definitely in a passage and when is a passage really being twisted in order to find him in it?

10. Genesis 29:30,31

And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years. And when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.

Luke 14:26

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

- (a.) Does the word “hate” mean “love less”?
- (b.) Can ‘love less’ mean anything but ‘hate’?
- (c.) Can / should we love some less or more than others?

11. Questions About Christ’s Burial:

(a.) Matthew 27:62-64

Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

The seal was not put on the grave of Christ until the next day. Could not someone have stolen the body in the meantime?

(b.) Mark 15:42-45

And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

So, Pilate didn’t see the body. He took the word of the Centurion and Joseph of Arimathaea, who were both believers:

Mark 15:39

And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

Pilate marvelled that Christ was dead so quickly. Could these two not have stolen the body?

The only other witnesses to the burial were Nicodemus and several women, all of whom were believers:

Mark 15:47

And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

Luke 23:55

And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.

John 19:39

And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

12. Were all of Christ’s prayers answered?

e.g.

Matthew 26:39

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, **O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me:** nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Luke 23:34

Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

John 17:15

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

John 17:20,21

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; **That they all may be one;** as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

13. Luke 16:9.

“And I say unto you, *Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.*”

Explain this.

14. Matthew 11:11-15

Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

So, up until John, the prophets and the law prophesied. After John, there is no more prophecy, but the violent take the kingdom of heaven by force.

What is this all about?

15. (a.) In what ways is Samson a type of Christ.
- (b.) Can Christian men ever lawfully grow long hair?
- (c.) Mark the graces seen in the life of Samson.
- (d.) Samson was the first suicide martyr. Discuss.

16. Exodus 21:1-6

Now these are the judgments which thou shalt set before them. If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing. If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.

Does this show God's (a.) laxness in marriage? (b.) harshness in slavery?

17. Which of the following leaders had the right attitude?

Ezra 9:3

*And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and **plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard**, and sat down astonished.*

Nehemiah 13:25

*And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and **plucked off their hair**, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.*

18. Most Bibles printed before 1802 contained the Apocrypha. Discuss.

19. Matthew 17:19,20

Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

(a.) Did the disciples have NO faith? Had it not been granted to them by God upon conversion?

(b.) Do we in our regenerate state have faith (as a gift from God)? Why can't we then move mountains?

20. Ezekiel 27:6

Of the oaks of Bashan have they made thine oars; the company of the Ashurites have made thy benches of ivory, brought out of the isles of Chittim.

Where are the elephants in Chittim (often considered to be Cyprus)?

21. Psalm 49:20

*Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that **perish**.*

John 3:16

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not **perish**, but have everlasting life.*

Do these verses teach annihilationism?

22. Hebrews 10:1,2

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

Does this teach perfectionism, seeing that we now no longer need the sacrifices?

23. Philippians 1:15,16

Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

How is it possible to preach Christ “*of envy and strife*”, and “*of contention*”?

24. Where is Rachel’s tomb?

- Genesis 35:19 says “*in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem*”.
- 1 Samuel 10:2 says “*in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah*”.
- Jeremiah 31:15 says “*in Ramah*”.

25. Psalm 104:5

Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.

But I thought it was going to be removed?

26. Christ told Mary Magdalene not to touch Him in his resurrection body, because He hadn’t ascended yet:

John 20:17

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

But He asked Thomas to touch Him in His resurrection body:

John 20:27

Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

And the women (including Mary Magdalene) themselves held Him by His feet:

Matthew 28:9

And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Why did Christ tell Mary not to touch Him, then allowed her to touch Him later? Therefore, “*Touch me not*” must mean, as modern translations have it, “Do not cling on to me.” Discuss.

27. Why is it commonly taught that Paul's imprisonment in Acts 27 is different from his imprisonment in 2 Timothy? Prove it's different, because I can't see it.

28. Hebrews 6:17,18

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

One of the "*immutable things*" is God's oath. What is the other?

29. (a.) Hebrews 12:2

"For the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross."

Is this Christ being selfish?

(b.) John 17:5

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Is this Christ just wanting His own glory?

30. Are there mistakes in Stephen's speech in Acts 7? Two possible, but can be reconciled:

(a.) v.4 Abram left Haran "when his father was dead." But in Genesis 11:26 Terah was said to be 70 when he had Abram, in Genesis 12:4 Abram was 75 when he left Haran, (so if Terah was 70 when he had Abram, he must have been 145 years old). But we're told that Terah didn't die until he was 205 (Genesis 11:32). So in such a case, Abram left Terah (and Nahor) before Terah was dead.

However, if we realise that Genesis 11:26 means that Terah **began to** have children at age 70, and Abram is put first in order of importance not age (like e.g. Shem), then if Terah had Abram at age 130, then Stephen can be correct here.

(b.) vv.15,16 Stephen tells us that Jacob "and our fathers" were buried in Sychem in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem. But Jacob was buried in the field of Machpelah which Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite (Genesis 50:15). Jacob bought a parcel of land from Hamor in Shechem (Genesis 33:19). Joseph, and presumably the other patriarchs, were buried here (Joshua 24:32).

Even if we believe that there is incorrect material in Stephen's speech (which I don't think there is), it is nevertheless an accurate record of the speech itself, so the mistake is not in the Bible, it is in Stephen's speech. So we can learn that even if we make a few mistakes in our speeches, the Lord may still bless what truth there is in it. Notice the Jews didn't scream that he'd got it wrong.

31. Genesis 3:22

And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil....

Before Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil:

(a.) Did they know what evil was? It would never have entered into their heads.

(b.) Did they have free will? No, they were slaves to righteousness, just as true believers are today. God only gave them one external command, not to eat of this tree. The moral law was written on their hearts.

(c.) Did they have a conscience? No, it wasn't necessary.

32. Compare:

Mark 3:11

*"And unclean spirits, when they saw him [Jesus], fell down before him, and cried, saying, **Thou art the Son of God.**"*

Luke 4:41

*And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, **Thou art Christ the Son of God.** And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.*

with

1 John 4:15

*"Whosoever shall confess that **Jesus is the Son of God**, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."*

So, to "confess that Jesus is the Son of God" must mean more than bare intellectual belief.

33. John 10:22

And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

Was this Hannukah (a non-Biblically ordained festival)?

NO! Hannukah is RE-dedication. There was a dedication of the temple in Numbers 7:84,88; 2 Chronicles 7:9; Ezra 6:16,17; Psalm 30:1.

34. Genesis 37:10

"...shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?"

But Joseph's mother had died in childbirth with Benjamin.

35. 1 Chronicles 25:3

Of Jeduthun: the sons of Jeduthun; Gedaliah, and Zeri, and Jeshaiiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the hands of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the Lord.

"*prophesying*" is what the singers do, i.e. give thanks and praise the Lord., i.e. declaring the Lord's attributes. Therefore "prophesy" in this sense is still with us today anytime anyone does this in singing, preaching, speaking etc. Discuss.

36. (a.) Why was Christ allowed to teach in the synagogue, when he was neither a Levite nor a Rabbi?

Matthew 4:23

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

(b.) Why was Paul allowed to preach in the synagogue when he had only been converted a few days?

Acts 9:19-20

And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

37. (a.) Why is Dan missing from the list of tribes in Revelation 7:4-8?

(b.) Why is Simeon missing from the list of tribes in Deuteronomy 33:6-25?

38. In 2 Samuel 12, why did God rebuke David for all sorts of things, but never mentioned his having many wives? Is polygamy allowable (adultery only being to take someone else's wife)?

39. John 19:11

Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Why did Judas have a greater sin than Pilate?

40. 1 Samuel 2:12,17-18

Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.... Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD. But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

(a.) Would you leave your kid alone in the church with such perverse priests?

(b.) Why on occasions did non-priests, such as Samuel, wear an ephod?

cf. also: 2 Samuel 6:14

And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.

41. Exodus 27:1

And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be foursquare: and the height thereof shall be three cubits.

If the altar is made of wood, why doesn't it catch fire when sacrifices are burnt on it?

42. Can holiness be transferred?

Exodus 29:37

*Seven days thou shalt make an atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and it shall be an altar most holy: **whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy.***

Exodus 30:29

*And thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: **whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy.***

Leviticus 6:18

*All the males among the children of Aaron shall eat of it. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations concerning the offerings of the LORD made by fire: **every one that toucheth them shall be holy.***

C.f.:

Haggai 2:11-13

*Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying, If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, **No.** Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean.*

Leviticus 11:31ff.

These are unclean to you among all that creep: whosoever doth touch them, when they be dead, shall be unclean until the even....

43. Leviticus 25:39-46

And if thy brother that dwelleth by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant: [40] But as an hired servant, and as a sojourner, he shall be with thee, and shall serve thee unto the year of jubile: [41] And then shall he depart from thee, both he and his children with him, and shall return unto his own family, and unto the possession of his fathers shall he return. [42] For they are my servants, which I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: they shall not be sold as bondmen. [43] Thou shalt not rule over him with rigour; but shalt fear thy God. [44] Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen and bondmaids. [45] Moreover of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy, and of their families that are with you, which they begat in your land: and they shall be your possession. [46] And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them for a possession; they shall be your bondmen for ever: but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour.

An Israelite may become a “hired servant” and go out in the jubile, but a foreigner becomes a “bondservant” and doesn’t go out in the Jubile. But what about:

Leviticus 19:33,34

And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

[but there’s nothing about not being bondmen here]

44. 1 Samuel 10:6,9,10

*And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be **turned into another man....** And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, **God gave him***

another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day. And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and **the Spirit of God came upon him**, and he prophesied among them.

Saul wasn't truly converted, was he? No, because he was not a man after God's own heart:

1 Samuel 13:14

But now **thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart**, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

45. Did only men eat the Passover?

Numbers 9:10,11

Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any **man** of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD. The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Do these verses speak specifically about men, or is "man" generic for "person"? A woman who was unclean because of her menstruation would also be unclean at the same time of the following month, so this instruction would not help her. Apart from this verse, nowhere else even infers that it was the men only who were to partake.

46. Numbers 12:6-8

And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

What's the difference between a prophet and someone closer to the Lord like Moses?

47. Judges 8:24

And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)

This verse tells us that the Midianites were Ishmaelites. This is confirmed by the fact that when Joseph was sold into slavery the two names seem interchangeable. Yet we do not see Midian in Ishmael's line (Genesis 25:12-15), but rather Midian is a son of Keturah (Genesis 25:2). Explain.

48. Was Jesus a party animal? Discuss.

49. 2 Samuel 6:17

And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

Surely, it was the work of the Levites to set the Tabernacle up, and the work of the priests to make offerings?

50. 1 Kings 18:33-35

And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

Where did the water come from, there had been a drought for three years? Was this wasteful?

51. Compare:

Matthew 16:21-23

*From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, **Get thee behind me, Satan:** thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*

and:

John 13:25-27

*He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop **Satan entered into him.** Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.*

In the first, Satan wants Christ NOT to die, in the second, Satan wants Him TO die.

(a.) What does Satan want exactly?

(b.) Did angels (and therefore Satan, a fallen angel) know God's plan of salvation before Christ's crucifixion and resurrection?

c.f.: 1 Peter 1:10-12

*Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; **which things the angels desire to look into.***

Men could not possibly have known it beforehand:

1 Corinthians 2:7-10

*But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which **none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would***

not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

In other words: The second Christ died on the cross, did Satan think he had got the victory over Him, only to find out later (possibly after the resurrection?) that he hadn't?

52. Job 4:18

Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly:

Job 15:15

Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.

But surely aren't unfallen angels sinless, and heaven clean?

53. (a.) Isaiah 9:1

Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.

- (a.) When was Israel's "vexation"?
- (b.) When was the first "light" affliction of Zebulun and Naphtali?
- (c.) When was the "more grievous" affliction?
- (d.) Galilee is not "beyond Jordan."

We glibly hear this read at Christmas, but what does it mean?

(b.) Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

How can the Son of God be called the "everlasting Father"?

54. Psalm 119:136

Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.

Who are the "they"? The wicked or mine eyes?

55. Should the Song of Solomon be in the Bible? I don't care if the church says it should. The question is: Do our hearts burn within us when we read it?

Luke 24:32

And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

56. 1 Timothy 6:14-16

*That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; **Who only hath immortality**, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; **whom no man hath seen, nor can see**: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*

(a.) But isn't God the Father immortal? And we too (although we had a beginning and God didn't).

(b.) But when Christ was on earth, He was seen by men.

57. Hebrews 12:17

*For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought **it** carefully with tears.*

What does the "it" refer to, repentance or the blessing?

58. John 14:2,3

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

How do we know that these "mansions" are in heaven and not churches on this earth?

59. Habakkuk 2:12-14

Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity! Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity? [14] For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

v.14 begins with the word "For." How do the previous verses explain v.14?

60. (a.) Exodus 3:14

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Here, I AM is in Hebrew *hayah* (היה), so this says "*hayah, hayah.*" So where does JHWH (Jehovah) (יהוה) come from? "*Jehovah*" is the usual name of God. Nowhere else in Scripture is "I AM" used as God's name. Discuss.

(b.) Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

"*Emmanuel*" is Hebrew for "God with us." But the Messiah is nowhere called this in Scripture.

Matthew 1:21-23

And she shall bring forth a son, and **thou shalt call his name JESUS**: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and **they shall call his name Emmanuel**, which being interpreted is, God with us.

How does calling His name JESUS fulfil the prophecy that He shall be called Emmanuel?

Discuss.

61. Exodus 6:2,3

And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

But the LORD did tell Abraham His name, and Abraham used it, e.g.:

Genesis 15:2

And Abram said, **Lord GOD [adonai Jehovah]**, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

Genesis 15:7,8

And he said unto him, **I am the LORD [Jehovah]** that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. And he said, **Lord GOD [adonai Jehovah]**, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?

Genesis 22:14

And Abraham called the name of that place **Jehovah-jireh**: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

62. Matthew 18:10

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

Does this mean we all have “guardian angels”?

63. Haggai 2:7

And I will shake all nations, and **the desire of all nations** shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 53:2

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, **there is no beauty that we should desire him**.

One verse describes Christ as the “*desire of all nations*,” whilst the other says that nobody will desire Him. Discuss.

64. Compare:

Zechariah 11:12,13

And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

Matthew 27:9,10

Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

- (a.) This seems a very loose translation. Discuss.
- (b.) It is from Zechariah, not Jeremiah. Discuss.

65. The two genealogies of Christ in Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38 both clearly describe the genealogy through Joseph.

(a.) Explain the discrepancies.

(b.) Most people think that Mary descended from David, but Scripture does not say so. Discuss.

66. Judges 17:7

And there was a young man out of Beth-lehem-judah of the family of Judah, who was a Levite, and he so-journed there.

How can a man from the family of Judah be a Levite?

67. Compare:

Luke 1:18-20

And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

Luke 1:34,35

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Both Zechariah and Mary were visited by the angel Gabriel. Both feared, but were told "fear not." Both were told of forthcoming pregnancies. Both raised objections "How shall this be?" Zechariah was struck dumb for the duration of the pregnancy, Mary wasn't. Why?

68. Deuteronomy 25:5-9

*If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. And it shall be, that **the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead**, that his name be not put out of Israel. And if the man like not to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, My husband's brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother. Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and if he stand to it, and say, I like not to take her; Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house.*

Matthew 22:24

*Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and **raise up seed unto his brother**.*

Ruth 4:5

Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.

Surely, according to the law of Moses, the firstborn of Boaz and Ruth (Obed) is officially of Elimelech's line (through Chilion), all *subsequent* children being of Boaz's line. So why do we have Boaz and Obed in Christ's genealogy?

69. Luke 5:8

*When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, **Depart from me**; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.*

Luke 8:37

*Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to **depart from them**; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.*

Explain the difference (if there is one) between these two requests for Jesus to depart.

70. Discuss the following:

Revelation 13 shows a beast from the sea which causes the earth to worship the first beast:

Revelation 13:12

And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

The first beast is man. He had a deadly wound at the fall, but it appears to men to have been healed.

Revelation 13:13

And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

The "great wonders" are technology.

Fire coming down from heaven is electricity. Pylons.

Revelation 13:14,15

And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

All men are deceived into worshipping man and not God. We are not looking for “a” man in the future, but this is the number of “*man*.”

Revelation 13:18

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

Revelation 13:16,17

*And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark **in their right hand, or in their foreheads**: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

Mobile phones are the mark of the beast. Discuss.

71. Is Satan “bound” now?

Revelation 20:2

And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years....

72. Luke 9:38-41

And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child. And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him. And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not. And Jesus answering said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither.

Who is the “faithless and perverse generation”, the man or the disciples?

73. Compare:

Isaiah 23:17,18

And it shall come to pass after the end of seventy years, that the LORD will visit Tyre, and she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth. And her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the LORD: it shall not be treasured nor laid up; for her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the LORD, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing.

Deuteronomy 23:18

Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

How can the hire of an harlot be “*holiness to the LORD*” in the light of the prohibition in Deuteronomy?

74. Hezekiah had a serious illness:

2 Kings 20:1-7

*In those days **was Hezekiah sick unto death.** And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for **thou shalt die, and not live.** Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying, I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, **I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD. And I will add unto thy days fifteen years;** and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. And Isaiah said, **Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.***

The Lord added fifteen years to the life of Hezekiah directly after his prayer. So why was it necessary to put the lump of figs on the boil?

75. 1 Chronicles 20:3

And he brought out the people that were in it, and cut them with saws, and with harrows of iron, and with axes. Even so dealt David with all the cities of the children of Ammon. And David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 15:12,13

And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

Were these actions right? If so, why?

76. Job 1:12-19

*And **the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand.** So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD. And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: **And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.** While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, **The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.** While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, **The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.** While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: And, behold, **there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead;** and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.*

Here are four disasters that came upon Job's children. They are all (allowed by God) said to be from Satan. Two of these disasters, the attacks by the Sabeans and Chaldeans, we can understand to be Satan's work as he influences the minds of the people. But the question is:

Can Satan produce "the fire of God" "fallen from heaven," and can he affect the weather and produce "a great wind from the wilderness"? Surely Satan is a spiritual enemy and cannot affect physical things, can he? Discuss.

77. (a.) The Hebrew “*chay nephesh*” is used for both “living soul,” when relating to men, and “living creature,” when relating to animals:

Genesis 2:7

*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a **living soul**.*

Genesis 1:21

*And God created great whales, and every **living creature** that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*

So, do animals have souls?

(b.) In Ezekiel’s visions, the four “living creatures” (identified as “cherubim” in chapter 10) are only described as “*chay*,” which means “living.” They are not described as “*nephesh*,” which means “soul.” However, we read that they have a “spirit,” which is in the “wheels.”

Ezekiel 1:20

*Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for **the spirit of the living creature [chay] was in the wheels**.*

So, do angels have souls?

(c.) What is the difference between “soul” and “spirit”?

78. Genesis 3:14,15

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

This is often referred to as the gospel. Why?

79. Did Jesus eat in His resurrection body?

In the following passages it doesn’t actually say so. Only the disciples are described as actually eating:

Mark 16:14

*Afterward he appeared unto **the eleven as they sat at meat**, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.*

Luke 24:28-31

And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it,

and brake, and **gave to them**. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

John 21:10-13

Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. **Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine**. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. **Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise**.

Also, we are told:

1 Corinthians 6:13

Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but **God shall destroy both it and them....**

But, one verse suggests otherwise:

Luke 24:41-43

And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, **and did eat before them**.

But it was not out of necessity that He ate. Otherwise, where does the food go? Do we defaecate in heaven? Surely not. This was purely to shew that He was more than a Spirit and had a real body, as the previous verses shew:

Luke 24:37-40

But they were terrified and affrighted, and **supposed that they had seen a spirit**. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for **a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have**. And when he had thus spoken, **he shewed them his hands and his feet**.

80. John 10:20,21

And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?

Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?

81. Ezekiel 18:31

Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Is it not the Lord that makes a new heart within us? Surely we can't do this ourselves, can we?

82. Luke 7:8-9

For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Why is being a middle manager spoken of as “great faith”?

83. Christ said:

Matthew 7:1

Judge not, that ye be not judged.

John 7:24

Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

Paul said:

1 Corinthians 2:15

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things....

So how do we judge?

84. Luke 18:29,30

And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

Under what circumstances are we called, if necessary, for Jesus sake, to leave a wife? and children?

85. Compare:

Proverbs 17:22

*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a **broken spirit** drieth the bones.*

Psalms 51:17

*The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit**: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

Surely, a broken spirit is a good thing.

86. 1 Corinthians 2:7-8

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But surely, if they had had the wisdom of God, they would realise that the death of Christ would bring salvation to His people, so they would have crucified Him.

87. Compare:

Matthew 13:55,56

Is not this 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?

Mark 6:3

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?

With:

John 19:25-27

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

If Jesus had other siblings, why didn't He give the care of His mother over to one of those? Does this not prove that Mary was a perpetual virgin?

A. No. At that time, none of her children were believers:

John 7:5

For neither did his brethren believe in him.

John's mother was Salome, Mary's sister. So He was Jesus' cousin, and closest believing relative.

But after the resurrection, Mary's children did believe, as they were found in the upper room with Mary:

Acts 1:14

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

88.