

# BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

*And Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God*

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ISSUE 3

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### *From the President's Desk,*

As I sit at my desk in our new location at **204 South 7th St., West Bend, WI 53095** to write the "From the President's Desk" portion of the *Bible Answers to Bible Questions*, I am rejoicing for God's guidance and provision. In two hours I will be signing the paperwork to finalize the sale of our property in Slinger Wisconsin. I am forever thankful to all of you who have been praying for us and for those who have been giving to our *Building Relocation Fund*. Through your prayer and support, we have the needed resources available to get our new home in good order for years of ministry.

I also want to thank several other groups of people who have been working closely with me in the process. First, the *Berean Bible Institute Board of Directors* who saw the need to move on from our Slinger location and, when another building was found, acted quickly to ensure that we could purchase our new facilities. Secondly, I want to thank our building committee who have been working throughout the months on the sale of our Slinger property and were also involved in securing our new home. Throughout the last two years, it has become evident to me over and over again how important it is to work as a team to accomplish a common goal. Each member brought their expertise and wisdom to the table to see that the ministry of *Berean Bible Institute* continues for many years to come.

The final group of individuals I want to thank is our *Berean Bible Institute* staff. Upon purchasing our new location, every staff member immediately shifted into "moving mode." Each worked tirelessly to ensure that nothing went undone in the course of our move, and worked tirelessly to make our move a success. BBI is extremely blessed to have a staff

who is first and foremost dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ and to seeing that the ministry of *Berean Bible Institute* remains strong into the future.

Please continue to pray for us as we continue the moving process. As many of you know, when you move to a new location there remains much work to be done. Offices need to be outfitted, our library has to be put in place, our kitchen needs to be remodeled, and a list of other odds and ends need to be done. However, while there is still work to be done, we will forever rejoice in how God has worked to bring us to our new home.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We look forward to continuing our ministry of training Pastors, Missionaries, and Leaders for the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the proclamation of the gospel of the grace of God given to and through the Apostle Paul.

Rejoicing together,

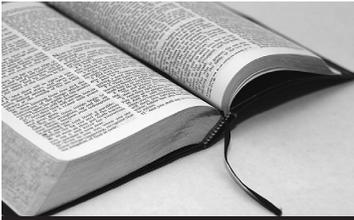
Dr. Robert E. Nix  
President, *Berean Bible Institute*

### **QUESTION: What are the doctrines of Universalism and Annihilationism?**

**ANSWER:** These are two false and deadly beliefs that are promoted by cultists to lure the unsaved away from the Gospel of Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone and into the horrors of Hell. Universalists wrongly believe that everyone will eventually be saved regardless of what they believe. The logical conclusion of this kind of thinking is that there is no vital reason to trust in Christ as Savior or to live a godly life. Those that believe in Jesus,

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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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according to them, might have a better life, earn heavenly rewards, etc., etc., but in the end both believers and unbelievers will receive eternal life and live in Heaven forever.

On the other hand, Annihilationist's believe that any punishment they may or may not have to suffer will only be temporary. There are different ideas among those in this camp, but they all believe the unsaved will endure the punishment they deserve and then simply cease to exist. Both are wrong as any sin against the Eternal God of Creation demands eternal punishment. The only means of escape from such a fate is through the shed blood of a sinless Savior and Redeemer who gives the gift of Eternal Life to any and all who trust in Him for the forgiveness of their sins (Rom. 3:24-26; 6:23; I Cor. 1:18; 15:1-4; Eph. 1:7, 12-14).

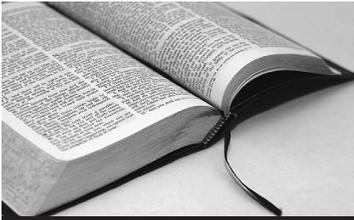
Universalism is built around the unbiblical premise that because God loves the whole world, every human being will eventually be saved from the penalty of sin to live eternally in personal communion with God. Annihilationism, on the other hand, believes that those who die in their sins will at some point completely cease to exist as their entire person, spirit, soul, and body, will be completely obliterated after suffering the appropriate punishment for their sins in Hell. While these two views seem to be complete opposites, they have much in common in regards to the basic supposition that they are built on. Proponents of both views claim that a God of love would never condemn anyone to everlasting punishment in such a horrible place as the Lake of Fire. One has chosen to believe that eventually everyone will be saved, the other that the souls of unbelievers will eventually be eradicated, thus completely ending their existence of personal consciousness. Both deny that the Lake of Fire, or Hell, is a place of everlasting punishment. However, when I read the Scriptures, I find that their denial of God's eternal wrath that will be poured out forever and ever on those who have rejected His Son to be in vain. Hell is a real place whether they believe it or not. The Holy Scriptures, God's inspired and infallible Word, says so and so it is. The overriding message of the Bible is that every sin-cursed son and daughter of Adam's fallen race must flee the wrath to come by trusting in the Son of God, *"Who is the Savior*

*of all men"* [His salvation is available to all] *"specially of those that believe"* [His salvation is applied only to those who believe] (see I Tim. 4:9-10). A person can believe it or they can reject it, but they cannot change it. Everyone who dies in their sins will one day be required to stand before the Great and Almighty Creator to be judged, *"every man according to his works..."* and all those whose names are not found written in the Book of Life will be cast into the Lake of Fire, the place of everlasting torment (see Rev. 20:10-15; cf. Ref. 14:9-11; Matt. 13:42, 25:41-46).

**QUESTION:** I will be speaking to someone who supports/and believes in "Annihilationism." I do not believe it, but this person is heavily influenced by a well-known promoter of it. Do you have any suggestions of Scripture that would help the person see the truth? They do acknowledge that the soul is not ceasing to exist, but they believe that in Matthew 10:28 Jesus was "teaching that the soul will be destroyed." I plan on emphasizing the different definitions of Apollymi (destroy) and demonstrating that the context is how a person may kill someone physically BUT in contrast only God has authority over the soul and the body. The context in the latter part of the verse refers to the resurrected body that will be condemned...thus the soul and body are "destroyed" in the sense that the original purpose of the soul and body is for men to enjoy eternal life, but instead, the unbeliever's soul and body will suffer the torments of Gehenna in the Lake of Fire...any thoughts? Thanks.

**ANSWER:** You asked if I had any suggestions from Scripture to help someone see the truth about Annihilationism. My first thought when I read that was Matthew 25:46. In answer to your question, the following paragraph was excerpted from my book, *"The State and Place of the Dead: What Happens After We Die"* which is available from Berean Bible Institute.

"In the book of Matthew, we find the Lord Jesus pronouncing everlasting punishment on the wicked and ascribing eternal life to the righteous in the same verse. *"And these shall go away into everlasting (aionios) punishment: but the righteous into life eternal (aionios)"* (Matt. 25:46). The same Greek word, *aionios*, is used of both the punishment and the life given by the



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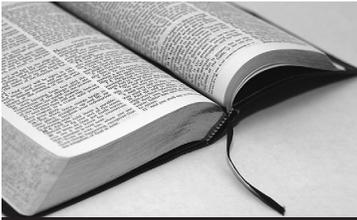
Lord here. Since the punishment of the lost is set in direct contrast to the blessing of the saved, the same duration of time must be assigned to both. In other words, if the life given by God to the believer is everlasting, so will the punishment of God on the unbeliever be everlasting, as both are described by the same word in what is undeniably the same context and are set against each other as absolute opposites." This being true, Annihilationism must be considered a false and dangerous doctrine.

**QUESTION:** Revelation 21:8 says *"the fearful, and unbelieving...shall have their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone..."* Does this mean that those who have fear in this life from adverse situations will face the Lake of Fire? Please explain this verse. Thank you.

**ANSWER:** This verse is not about the kind of fear that we are confronted with when we find ourselves in difficult and stressful situations in our normal day-to-day lives. When we take note of those that the fearful will be in the company of, we find they are not simply "fearful" but are the "fearful" identified with the "unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars" (Rev. 21:8). In contrast are those that the will be given to drink "of the fountain of the water of life freely" (see Rev. 21:1-8). Verses one through seven list those who will share in the eternal bliss of dwelling in the New Jerusalem on earth in the presence of He who is the Alpha and Omega. Verse eight lists those who have once and for all time forfeited their opportunity to gain access to the Holy City and will forever be consigned to "the Lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Having feared man rather than God, the unsaved dead of all ages will join Satan, the anti-Christ, and the false prophet in the Lake of Fire, where they will be "tormented day and night forever and ever" (see Rev. 19:19-20; 20:10-15). They are identified as "the fearful" because when they stand before the Great White Throne at the final judgment, they will know that they are about to be cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10-20). Up until this time they, along with all the other unsaved dead of all the ages will have been suffering because of unbelief in Sheol/Hades. But now they will be judged for their works, their evil deeds, and sentenced accordingly

and cast into the Lake of Fire where they will suffer the everlasting torments of God's wrath that will be far worse than anything they experienced in Sheol/Hades.

Here we should take a moment to remind ourselves that the Book of "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" is a book of yet unfilled prophecy concerning the Kingdom of God and the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not written directly to or about the age we are living in today which is the Dispensation of Grace. In "this present evil world" (Gal. 1:4) we are living in, the only legitimate Gospel, the only Gospel by which anyone can be saved is the Gospel of the Grace of God, which is that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3-4). Faith is all it takes to activate this most wonderful message to the saving of one's soul. Indeed, the main thrust of Paul, "the Apostle of the Gentiles" (Rom. 11:13), is that whosoever would "preach any other gospel" than the Gospel he preached would fall under a curse, the curse of a false gospel with no saving power in the present Dispensation of Grace in which, "the preaching of the cross [the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ] is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1:18). To the world, proclaiming the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as Good News is folly, an absurd thing to do, a message without purpose or power. But it is the only message with the power to save sinners. Thus Paul preached nothing more and nothing less than "Jesus Christ and Him crucified"; that the faith of those who believe "should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (I Cor. 2:2,5; see I Cor. 1:18-2:5; 15:1-4). But when the Dispensation of Grace has run its course and the Lord has removed the Body of Christ from this evil world, the only message with the power to save lost sinners will revert back to the Kingdom Gospel; the Gospel that John the Baptist preached (Matt. 3:1-12), the Gospel that the Lord Jesus Christ preached; the Gospel that Jesus' followers preached (Matt. 10:1-7; 28:16-20); which was the same Gospel preached by those who heard them (Acts 1:1-11; 2:13-47; 6:1-7:60; 8:4-8; etc., etc.). But to Paul, and Paul alone was the Gospel of the Grace of God revealed, and it was the only Gospel he preached.



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Furthermore, it is a vitally important truth that it is in the Apostle Paul's letters, and in his letters alone that the Mystery of the Grace of God and the Body of Christ is revealed and explained. In other words, it is only in Paul's letters, Romans thru Philemon, that we have the explanation and means of appropriating the sure hope of salvation and the instructions for the Church, the Body of Christ for today.

Those who look to the Gospel of the Kingdom to find hope for today will find themselves mixing Law and Grace in a perverted gospel and under what we might call the curse of Paul (Gal. 1:6-9). As for the proper understanding and application of the Book of Revelation, Pastor Sadler of the *Berean Bible Society* has said it well.

"Again, the Book of Revelation will be used in the future Tribulation period. It reminds the reader of the certain consequences of not believing in Christ. Universal salvation is not taught in God's Word. But as we see in this chapter of this Book of the Bible for people in the Tribulation period, there remains a universal invitation for all who thirst to drink the water of life by faith in Christ. In that day, the gospel of the grace of God will not be valid. The gospel of the kingdom will be what saves their souls. If they will trust the gospel of the kingdom and repent, confess their sins, get water baptized, and believe that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matt. 16:16), they will be saved from their sins and hell."<sup>1</sup>

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved today.

1. Sadler, Kevin J. and Paul M. Sadler; Revelation, Volume 4, pg. 147. Berean Bible Society, Germantown, Wisconsin.

**QUESTION:** Thank you for your explanation of Sheol. Would you happen to know if the Catholic belief in Purgatory stemmed from this place of waiting?

**ANSWER:** Whether or not the Catholic teaching on Purgatory grew directly out of the Biblical account of Sheol/Hades is hard to determine, but it seems very likely that it did. At any rate it was the sale of

indulgences by Catholic priests that led Martin Luther to challenge the teachings of the Catholic Church, a move that sparked the Reformation.

According to Hodge and Patterson the doctrine of Purgatory was:

"Formulated by the councils of Florence (1439) and Trent (1563). This doctrine says that when the Catholic faithful died in an imperfect state, he must undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of Heaven.<sup>1</sup> To help those in Purgatory, the Roman Catholic Church promotes praying for the dead as well as almsgiving, indulgences, and penance on their [the dead] behalf."<sup>2</sup>

By twisting what the Scriptures actually teach about the place called Sheol (in Hebrew) and Hades (in the Greek), it is conceivable that the Roman Catholic teaching of Purgatory was drawn out of what the Bible actually teaches about Sheol/Hades, which is that it is a place of incarceration, where the souls of the unsaved dead are held while they await the final judgment of the Great White Throne, where they will be judged for their works (Rev. 20:1-15). Having died in unbelief, they are not being "purged" of their sins with the help of their family and friends who pray for them, give alms on their behalf, by indulgences, or anything else. Their fate is sealed. Christ died for our sins and the only way to be purged of one's sins is through faith in Him (I Cor. 15:1-4; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:12-14). The moment a sinner trusts in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, they are forgiven of all their sins and made clean by the blood of Jesus Christ and declared righteous in God's sight. No believer in Jesus Christ needs to be purged of sin because they "are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood..." (see Rom. 3:23-26). Those who die in their sins will forever be separated from God and will suffer the torments of the Lake of Fire, "the second death" (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:10-15).

1. Bodie Hodge and Roger Patterson, World of Religions and Cults, Vol.1, pg. 104-105; Master Books, Green Forest, AK 2015.

2. Ibid.

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