

# Bible Answers to Bible Questions

& Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE, INC.

August 2023

PO BOX 735, WEST BEND, WI 53095

Volume 14

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

Issue 5

## *From the President's Desk*

### *Berean Bible Institute - Producing Leaders*

I praise the Lord for those who have taken courses from BBI over the years and those who have served on our faculty. Recently, I was looking over the Berean Bible Fellowship summer conference brochure and realized that out of the seventeen Bible teachers thirteen had received training from BBI. Our students and graduates are actively serving the Lord in many different ways such as pastors, missionaries, church board members, presidents and directors of ministries, youth camp ministries, and in many other Christian ministries. We are blessed at how God has seen fit to use the ministry of *Berean Bible Institute* over the years and look forward to seeing how God will use BBI in the future.

### *Wisdom Needed*

On August 18th and 19th, the *Berean Bible Institute* Board of Directors will be holding a planning meeting. During this meeting, we will be discussing what God is doing through the ministry of BBI and how we are continuing to grow. Over the past five years, BBI has seen significant growth in training more pastors, missionaries, and leaders than we have ever before. As a result of this growth, we have had to add faculty and staff to meet these needs. While we celebrate these blessings, it has put a significant strain on our finances. The irony of our situation is that the more we grow in students the more difficult it becomes because our student tuition only covers a small fraction of what it takes to operate BBI.

At this next board meeting, we will also be looking at areas where we can make needed adjustments to offset our financial shortfalls. This may include changes in our publications and personnel while

also increasing tuition. In the past, BBI has been blessed with special gifts and estate giving that have allowed us to supplement the monthly giving of our partners. However, as these funds are used, it puts a significant strain on our finances when they are no longer available. Please pray for us in this regard. Since the founding of the institute we have never found ourselves in such a difficult situation. Even as I share this with you, I am reminded that BBI is the Lord's ministry, and we are trusting Him to provide us with the wisdom and resources needed to navigate this difficult time.

### *Leaving a Legacy*

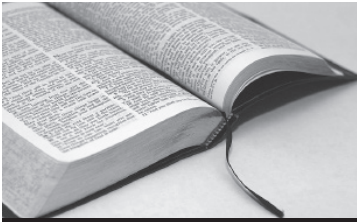
As I travel sharing the ministry of BBI, many of you share how much you believe and support the mission and ministry of *Berean Bible Institute*. I often hear how important a school like BBI is for training pastors, missionaries, and others who will stand strong for the Gospel of Grace. If this describes how you feel about the importance of *Berean Bible Institute*, I would like to ask that you consider BBI in your estate planning. Please note that there are also various Trusts and or Charitable Annuities that may allow one to give while also receiving some tax benefits through their giving. If you have any questions about this process or need more information about *Berean Bible Institute*, don't hesitate to call us.

### *National Grace Believers Conference in Brazil*

At the end of September, I have been invited to speak at the National Grace Conference in Brazil. The theme of the conference deals with addressing the challenges of church growth as the church fulfills its mission to spread the Gospel of Grace. I will be accompanied by Pastor Justin Lynn, who will be working with Mariana Craesmeier, our office administrator for BBI Brazil. Please pray for

---

*"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*



# Bible Answers to Bible Questions

& Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God

this wonderful opportunity to meet fellow Grace believers and current BBI Brazil students, and promote BBI Brazil. Please also pray for Pastor Lynn as he works with our BBI Brazil office administrator on the technical and administrative issues needed to support future growth. If the Lord leads you to help offset the cost of the trip, you may send your gift to BBI and designate it as "Brazil Conference." Any support would be appreciated.

### *Fall Classes Moving Forward*

By the time you read, this our Fall First Term courses will be getting ready to start. However, our Fall Second Term is also just around the corner. If you are new to BBI, make sure you apply for acceptance by September 28th and apply for your Fall Second Term courses by October 5th. Courses offered for our Fall Second Term 2 are: **211-Bible Counseling 1, 106-Basic Bible Doctrines 2, 102-Apologetics, 207-The Major Prophets, and 201-Pastoral Ministries 1.**

In His grace,

Dr. Robert E. Nix, President

*We couldn't do it without you!*

**Berean Bible Institute receives no money from the government, just dedicated partners who believe in our mission!**

**[BereanBibleInstitute.org/Donate](http://BereanBibleInstitute.org/Donate)**

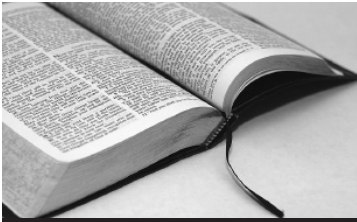
**QUESTION: I have read you and others says that there is no prophecy for the Age of Grace. But did not Paul give revelation of events that remain to be fulfilled in the future?**

**ANSWER:** The Gospel of the Grace of God is not part of Israel's prophecy. Today's economy, the Mystery, was hidden in the mind of God while the Kingdom program was in operation; therefore, it cannot be found in Israel's Scriptures because it is untraceable (Eph. 3:8; KJV "unsearchable"). The Mystery (the message for the Church, the Body of Christ) is not hinted at in the Old Testament Prophetic Scriptures; it was completely unknown until God chose to reveal it to Paul (Eph. 3:5). It was brand new when Paul began to deliver it to "you-ward" (Eph. 3:2-3). God's plan for the earth had always had known prophecies and progressive revelations, and the fulfilment of many of these prophecies and revelations remain yet to be fulfilled (i.e., the events of Revelation). In contrast, you cannot read of the Church, the Body of Christ, in the Old Testament Scriptures or the Gospel records, and we should not try to read the Body of Christ into future, prophesied End Times (e.g., the church will not go through part or all of the Tribulation). The Dispensation of Grace is an interruption of the Prophetic timeline, and all End Time prophecy has been paused while God currently works in this parenthetical program; thus, **there is no prophecy (concerning the promised, covenanted Kingdom to Israel) being fulfilled today.**

However, this does not mean that those under Grace exist in an alternative dimension where what came before (the Prophesied Kingdom program) has no bearing on God's Grace program in operation today. Even further, this does not mean that Paul was not inspired to foretell of future events (prophecy) for the Dispensation of Grace.

Oftentimes, when highlighting the distinction between this current Age of Grace and the Prophetic Kingdom program, a statement is made similar to "there is no prophecy being fulfilled today." This is often true in the context in which it is used, but it can be misleading as there ARE Grace prophecies.

First, God reserves the right to use the Prophetic



# Bible Answers to Bible Questions

& Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God

Scriptures to verify His workings under Grace. This does not mean that prophecy is being fulfilled, but that God is doing something that aligns with His eternal desire and character. Paul uses such Prophetic Scriptures often in the book of Romans as he is making God's case for the inclusion of the Gentiles under Grace (e.g., cf. Rom. 1:17 w/ Hab. 2:4; Rom. 9:25 w/ Hos. 2:23; Rom. 10:19 w/ Deut. 32:21). Paul is not stating in these verses that this is what God originally intended in these Prophetic Scriptures, but is using these words of God in a different context as he appeals to God's plan for the past to open the way to accept what He is now revealing. When writing to an audience with a potential for Jews to be present, Paul kept this in mind and appealed to the Jewish Scriptures to verify his statements, even using "*as it is written*" on several occasions (e.g., Rom. 3:10; 4:3; 9:15,17, 25).

Next, some of the blessings of Grace, while applied differently, are based upon prophetic events that were fulfilled. For example, it is no secret that God has always had the world in mind when it came to eternity (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 49:6; John 3:16). This is true today even as He is reaching the world in a different way under Grace (Rom. 10:12; 11:30-32). Another example is the redemption of Jesus Christ. Christ did not come twice – once to die for Israel and another to die for the Body. He died once for all (Heb. 7:25-28). Though redemption is being applied in a different way today, it is still based upon the prophesied redemptive work of Jesus Christ (Isa. 53:4; II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 2:24; cf. Deut. 21:23 w. Gal. 3:13).

Finally, Paul was given unique prophetic words for the Age of Grace to record in his epistles. These prophecies remain to be fulfilled in the future. The most obvious prophesied event we all look forward to is the Rapture (I Cor. 15:51-52; I Thess. 4:13-18). It hasn't happened yet, BUT IT WILL in God's perfect time. Similarly, the anti-Christ will not be revealed until a "*falling away*" occurs (II Thess. 2:3), and we will be delivered from "*the day of the Lord*" (I Thess. 5:1-10). Paul foretold of events that have already been fulfilled, like the passing of the sign gifts (I Cor. 13:9-10), and speaks to Timothy of "*latter times*" (I Tim.

4:1) and the "*last days*" of Grace (II Tim. 3:1). He also assures that, although Israel is currently set aside, God will restore and complete His program with them one day (Rom. 11:25-27). Other prophecies given to Paul are: a departure from truth (II Tim. 4:3-4), the receiving of our future, eternal bodies (Phil. 3:20-21), and that God will sum up all things in Him (I Cor. 15:22-28).

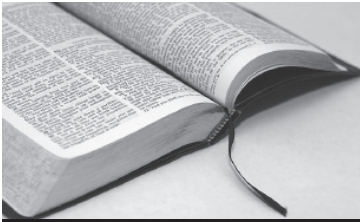
So, while we do not want to confuse ourselves with looking for the fulfillment of Israel's prophecies in this current Dispensation of Grace, God has graced us with and foretold of a future we can look forward to enjoying.

**QUESTION: Will there be a gap between the time the Body of Christ is raptured and when the Tribulation begins.**

**ANSWER:** Only God ultimately knows how He is going to work the time between the Rapture and the official start of the Tribulation. There may be a gap in time, much like there was in the book of Acts between the Cross and the Commission of Paul, as God transitioned away from the Kingdom program to the Mystery program in the period of Acts. However, there is nothing leading me to believe that circumstances cannot be put in place for the Tribulation to begin fairly quickly after the Body departs. Just because End Times prophecy is not being fulfilled in the Age of Grace does not mean that the pieces cannot be in place. The anti-Christ will be born, although we will never know who he is (so stop guessing) "*for except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition*" (II Thess. 2:3). The Jerusalem temple (II Thess. 2:4) may be rebuilt before the Tribulation happens, but it doesn't need to be. The already occurring trend toward embracing everyone's choices and beliefs helps our understanding of how the anti-Christ will unite people under a one-world government and how the False Prophet promotes a one-world religion. Even Paul says the "*mystery of iniquity*" is already at work (II Thess. 2:7).

Gap or no gap, a period of time until the Tribulation clock begins or not, what we do know is that no part of Tribulation will begin until the





# Bible Answers to Bible Questions

& Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God

Church departs to be with the Lord. This is a known truth in which we take comfort (I Thess. 4:18; 5:11). Yet, we are implored to be zealously involved, active in sharing the Gospel of Grace in order that others may be delivered from this time of the outpouring of God's wrath (I Thess. 5:1-8), for if they don't believe it now, God is going to send a "*strong delusion, that they should believe a lie*" (II Thess. 2:11).

**QUESTION: Why does the Bible give so many details about the New Jerusalem and no description about Heaven?**

**ANSWER:** Revelation 21 does indeed give us a somewhat detailed description of the New Jerusalem. For example, we know there will be twelve gates of pearl that bear the names of the twelve tribes of Israel with twelve angels standing at the gates (v. 12). We are told that these pearl gates (v.21) will never be closed. Inside, the city will be streets of gold (v.21). The city wall will have twelve foundations bearing the names of the Twelve Apostles (v. 14). We are told the city's base is square (v.16) and are given the dimensions (v. 17). The twelve stones decorating the walls are listed for us (vs. 19-20). The city will be pure and bright (v.11; 22:5). In the next chapter of Revelation, a clean river will flow from the throne (22:1). Present within this city is the tree of life, which bears twelve kinds of fruit (v. 2). While it is hard for us to fathom the magnificence of this city, we have perimeters and descriptions to give us a glimpse into what the New Jerusalem will look like.

Aside from Revelation giving us descriptions into the throne room of God (Rev. 4), we don't even have an attempt to describe the visible attributes of Heaven. Why is this? I think there are a few reasons. First, we understand earthly things. We see them and experience them every day. We know gems and gates and walls and rivers and fruit. But

the heavenly is a different matter. I have never seen angels or spirits or...whatever particles and atoms Heaven consists of, if anything. We just don't have the relative experience to comprehend it, other than the Holy Spirit bearing witness to the glory of it.

Second, it may be that there are no words in our language to describe Heaven. It is literally beyond words. This seems to be what Paul was referring to when he wrote about a "*man in Christ*" caught up into the Heaven of heavens who "*heard unspeakable [possibly "inexpressible"] words, which it is not lawful [this word has interesting Greek root words – origin and existence – and this form is usually used for public proclamation] for a man to utter*" (II Cor. 12:2-5). While I understand this is speaking of words that were not to be spoken (e.g., Dan. 12:9; Rev. 10:4) and not of sight, it still speaks to me that the things of the Lord are wonderful beyond words.

I can tell you what I DO know about Heaven. Our Lord is there, seated at the right hand of the Father, and we are in Him (Eph. 2:6). I know we will receive eternal bodies made to enjoy our home in Heaven (Phil. 3:20-21). I know it is glorious and we can anticipate it eagerly (Col. 2:1-4). I also know that nothing in this world will be as wonderful as the day we get to Heaven (Rom. 8:18). I think that when we place our eyes on Heaven for the first time, we may initially find ourselves as speechless as we are right now trying to describe it. That, my friend, should make us look forward to being there all the more.

*(The questions in this edition were answered by Matthew Ritchey, BBI Editor.)*

**BEREAN**  
**BIBLE INSTITUTE**

*Bible Answers to Bible Questions* is published by **Berean Bible Institute** of West Bend, Wisconsin. All rights reserved. *Bible Answers to Bible Questions* is sent free of charge to all who request it. **Berean Bible Institute, Inc.** admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

President/Executive Editor: Robert E. Nix, Ph.D. | Managing Editor: Matthew Ritchey, M. BS  
Theological Consultant/Contributing Editor: W. Edward Bedore, Th.D.

**BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE** 204 S. 7th Ave., PO Box 735, West Bend, Wisconsin 53095  
Phone: 262-644-5504 | Fax: 262-644-5507 | E-mail: [bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org](mailto:bbi@bereanbibleinstitute.org)