

Bible Answers to Bible Questions

& Interesting Facts About the Holy Word of God

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE, INC.

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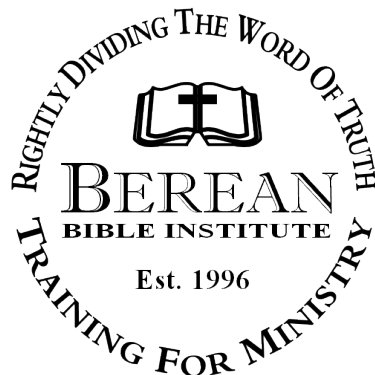
(FINAL ISSUE.)

Issue 6

From the President's Desk

QUESTION: What do the following ministries, churches, and countries have in common?

- Berean Bible Institute, West Bend, WI
- Berean Bible Institute Brazil, Sao Paulo, BR
- Berean Bible Society, Germantown, WI
- Bible Doctrines to Live By, Comstock Park, MI
- Grace Ministries International, Grand Rapids, MI
- Things to Come Mission, Indianapolis, IN
- Word of Grace Mission, IL
- Altoona Bible Church, Altoona, PA
- Collinsville Community Church, Collinsville, OK
- Community Bible Church, Tipp City, OH
- Croton Community Church, Croton, MI
- Falls Bible Church, Menomonee Falls, WI
- First Grace Gospel Church, Ashtabula, OH
- Friendship Bible Church, Friendship, WI
- Grace Bible Church, Beloit, WI
- Grace Bible Church, Oshkosh, WI
- Grace Bible Church, West Allis, WI
- Kettle Moraine Bible Church, West Bend, WI
- Old Bethel Bible Church, Alpha, KY
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Costa Rica
- Ethiopia
- Malawi
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Tanzania
- United States
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



ANSWER: Each church, ministry, or country on the list represents a place where a BBI graduate, an alumnus, or a student is currently serving as either a ministry director, pastor, missionary, or leader standing firm in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and the proclamation of the Gospel of God's Grace given to and through the Apostle Paul.

Your support allows us to continue to impact the world with the Gospel of God's Grace. If you believe in our mission and the ministry of *Berean Bible Institute*, please consider praying for us and supporting our mission financially. We desire to see BBI train leaders well into the future. This can only happen through your prayer and financial support

BABQ on the Move

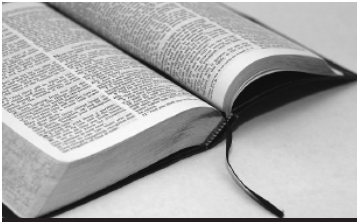
During the last board of directors meeting, it was decided to combine the *BABQ* with our *BBI Bulletin*, which is published four times a year (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). Beginning next month, there will be a section of the *BBI Bulletin* that will deal with questions submitted to the editor. A separate *BABQ* will no longer be sent to our mailing list. This decision allows us to save on costs and redirect our resources so that we might be able to continue to train students for ministry, thereby, fulfilling our mission. Over the years, we have heard from many who have been blessed by this publication, and we hope you will continue to receive a blessing as it appears in its new format, beginning in next month's *BBI Bulletin*.

In His Grace,

Dr. Robert Nix

President, Berean Bible Institute

"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

EDITOR'S NOTE: The desire to be stewards of what God has entrusted to us means we are sometimes faced with difficult decisions. Such is the case with the decision to suspend the printing of the BBI's *Bible Answers to Bible Questions*. We know this small periodical has spurred many people to study the Word as it gave Scriptural answers to questions on the minds of many of us. Rest assured, we will not stop answering questions; we are planning to use the quarterly *BBI Bulletin* to include a "Bible Answers to Bible Questions" section. Of course, we encourage you to always be searching the Scriptures in order to be a workman fully equipped to serve our Lord and Savior. Since this resource sprung from the heart and mind of Dr. Edward Bedore, we can think of no better way to use this issue than to use the space to include a question answered by Dr. Bedore as he was preparing his theology book, which is currently in the proofreading and layout stage. First, allow me to say thank you for your interest and support throughout the year, and we'll see you next month for the *BBI Bulletin*!

QUESTION: What part of the Bible is for today?

ANSWER: When dealing with the subject of the Bible and its authenticity and authority as God's Word, it seems appropriate to address the following questions that are asked by many.

Does the New Testament completely do away with the Old Testament? Are the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) all that we need to pay attention to as they tell of the life of Jesus while on earth? And are the words of Jesus (printed in red in many Bibles) somehow more important than the rest of the Bible?

In answer to these questions, the Bible itself tells us that *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"* (II Timothy 3:16). That every word in the Bible is God breathed is a wonderful truth.

If the whole Bible is God's Word, then isn't it all equally important? Of course it is. However, the entire Bible does not deal with the same subject. The Old Testament confirms Israel as God's chosen

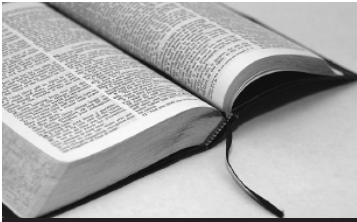
people and promises them an earthly kingdom with their promised Messiah to rule over it. On the other hand, the four Gospels present Jesus as that Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God sent to fulfill God's covenant with Israel, His covenant people. The book of Acts tells us of Israel's rejection of the Messiah (Christ) and that God has now sent His message of salvation to the whole Gentile world.

However, the explanation of why and what God has done in revoking Israel's favored nation status can only be found in the Scriptures written by the Apostle sent to the Gentiles, the Apostle Paul. Paul wrote by inspiration of God just as surely as any other writer of the Bible. It is important to understand that what he wrote was revealed to him directly from the resurrected, ascended, and glorified Lord Jesus Christ Himself. His letters are of full Biblical authority.

In his letter to the churches of Galatia, Paul made an astounding announcement: *"But I certify you, brethren that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ"* (Gal. 1:11-12). Indeed, Paul is claiming here that the message that he preached he did not learn from Peter, John, James, or any of the others who were apostles before him, but that the glorified Lord Jesus Christ Himself personally gave him the message that he was to preach.

In fact, in the next chapter Paul states that *"they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me. But contrariwise..."* (see Gal. 2:6-7). *"Contrariwise"* means "it was just the opposite." Paul did not learn from them, but he did have something to teach them! He went on to note that Peter, John, and James recognized that he had been given the Gospel for the uncircumcised, or to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been given the Gospel for the circumcised, or to the nation of Israel (see Gal. 2:8-9). This did not merely mean that Paul was to go to the Gentiles while Peter went to the nation of Israel. Not at all, for what we have here are two distinctly different messages of Good News, or different gospels. The Scriptures substantiate this fact over and over again.

Now make no mistake, both gospels are centered



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on the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, but there are some distinct differences that must be noted. In Acts we find Peter preaching. Here are his words as recorded in Scripture: *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord, and He shall send Jesus Christ which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began”* (Acts 3:19-21).

Peter presents Jesus as the Christ, or Messiah, and says that when Israel repents of rejecting Jesus as the Messiah, then He will return from heaven, save His people from their sins, and restore the kingdom to the nation Israel, just as the prophets of the Old Testament had proclaimed. His claim is that this has been the message of all of God’s holy prophets since the world began, or since the beginning of time. The Apostle Paul, on the other hand, says, *“Now to Him Who is of power to stablish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began”* (Rom. 16:25). He is saying here that the message of Good News that he preached was a secret that had never been proclaimed before. Until revealed to Paul, it had been kept a secret, a secret since the beginning of time.

Both gospels are centered on the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, but there are some distinct differences that must be noted.

The gospel he preached, which he called *“my gospel,”* was according to *“a mystery,”* or secret, that had been *“kept secret since the world began,”* but had now been revealed to him. If language means anything at all, then it

must be evident that Peter and Paul were preaching something distinctively different. As Peter was preaching something that had been preached ever since the beginning of the world, Paul said his message had been kept secret during the same period of time. These contrasting statements cannot refer to the same thing.

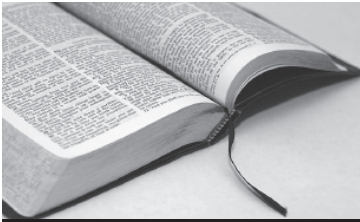
In His message, Peter went on to say; *“Yea, and all*

the prophets, from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold these days.” Search the Old Testament prophets and what you will find foretold over and over is a call for Israel to repent of her rebellion and that a kingdom is promised to her with the Messiah reigning as King when she does. One such prophecy is found in Jeremiah: *“Thus says the Lord: If My covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David My servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them”* (Jer. 33:25-26). In this passage of Scripture, God has clearly stated that only if the sun should cease to shine, then, and only then, would He rescind His promise to the nation of Israel of a Messiah from the line of David to reign on earth over Israel.

Earlier in the same discourse Jeremiah had said: *“Behold, the days come; saith the Lord, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: In those days and at that time will I cause the Branch of Righteousness to grow up unto David: and He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land”* (Jer. 33:14-15).

The language of these verses clearly has the literal earthly nation of Israel in mind. Take note that the writer, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is careful to include the house of Israel and the house of Judah, which were the two kingdoms that the nation had been divided into at the time of the writing of this Scripture passage. Although both nations were taken into captivity, only Judah ever returned. Even then, the nation of Israel has never had a king from the line of David ruling over it. And the *“Branch of Righteousness”* most assuredly has not *“executed judgment and righteousness in the land”* up until even now. But, one day it will come to pass that all twelve tribes, the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, will be reunited as one nation under the righteous rule of their Messiah.

The Branch of Righteousness, the promised Son of David, is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. The very Son of God did come as the Messiah, but



Bible Answers to Bible Questions

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He was rejected and crucified. And even after His resurrection from the dead, Israel's religious leaders refused to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, or Christ, of Israel (see Acts 4:1-22; 5:17-40; 6:9-8:3).

Because of unbelief, God temporarily set Israel aside and raised up a new Apostle. To him He revealed the mystery, or secret, of the grace of God by which both Jew and Gentile can come to God for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus for forgiveness of sins without national distinction. Prophecy has temporarily been put on hold, and today we are living in the Dispensation of Grace, in which all those who trust in Christ for forgiveness of sins and eternal life, believing that Christ Jesus died for their sins and that God has raised Him from the dead, become members of the Body of Christ, Jew and Gentile alike.

God's prophetic program will one day be reinstated and His kingdom on earth as promised through Israel's prophets will come to be. But, for us who are saved today, and all those saved during this present Dispensation of Grace, we look forward not to a prophesied earthly home but to a home in heaven, a heavenly hope.

The Apostle Paul wrote these words to the saints at Philippi: "For our conversation is in heaven, from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20). The believer's position in Christ is a heavenly position. Scripture tells us that: "But God Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are saved) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:4-6). Yes, the hope of the Body of Christ is a heavenly abode, to be seated with Christ in the heavenlies and to reign with Him throughout eternity.

Israel's hope is a kingdom on earth from which they will rule the world as a nation of kings and

priests with Jesus Christ seated on the throne of David as the King of kings and Lord of lords. There is a vital and important distinction between God's prophetic Kingdom program for the nation Israel on earth and the Mystery, or Secret, program revealed to the Apostle Paul concerning the Body of Christ, which is made up of both Jews and Gentiles without national distinction and whose hope is in heaven. While all of the Bible is important for us to learn from, only the part given to us through the Apostle Paul is directly to us and about us. In these are found the calling, promise, and destiny of the Church, the Body of Christ.

The Gospel, or Good News, by which men and women are saved today 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). Only by personal faith in Christ can anyone receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life. What hope do you have beyond the uncertainties of this life?

(The questions in this edition were answered by Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Contributing Editor.)

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and Christian leaders to help
all see what is the fellowship
of the mystery**

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