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West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

“Bible Answers to Honest Questions”

As a pastor, I have always enjoyed being asked questions about the Bible – questions which, when answered, engender greater faith in God and His Word and bring understanding to some of the tough issues of life and faith. Sincere Christians and non-Christians alike have questions about the authority and inspiration of the Bible, about death, and heaven, and hell – about who Jesus was/is and how His life and death makes a difference in where a person spends eternity – or not!

Recently a couple of questions were posed to me by people I love – good questions, and perhaps questions which need answers as a condition of faith in Christ. These questions are:

Honest Question: If humans have a sin nature, how was Jesus not born a sinner?

Bible Answer*: Because He was conceived in Mary of the Holy Spirit, unlike any other human being (Matthew 1:20).

Comment: If Jesus had not had a sinless nature, He would have been unable to be our Savior. But He was not only sinless (nature), He never acted (behavior) outside of the parameters of the God’s immutable Law . He was not only sinless, but He was the epitome of righteousness in all He did (Hebrew 4:15; 7:46 1 John 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21). The beautiful part of this story is that because He was truly human, born of Mary, He had a solidarity with us, in the same way we have a solidarity with Adam and assume his sin nature. He became the “second Adam” (Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:17-23), **without sin!** And because of that, He was able to assume the guilt of our sin on Calvary (sin which was not His own) so that we could be reckoned as righteous through faith in Him (with a righteousness that is not our own) and thus be “worthy” of heaven. Paul says, “God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” 1 Corinthians 5:21.

Honest Question: Why did Jesus’ human body (since bodies go away when you die) come back?



Pastor Darrell Chilson

“We are living in the season of Christ’s return.”

Jesus said, “Watch and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The mission of West Valley Ministries is to help Christ’s followers recognize the signs of His approaching return and be prepared for that Great Day.

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Our Instructor, Jessica Lindsey

John 15 NIV

The Vine and the Branches

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other.

The World Hates the Disciples

18 “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. **19** If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. **20** Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. **21** They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. **22** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. **23** Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. **24** If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. **25** But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’

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Our Instructor, Jessica Lindsey

The Work of the Holy Spirit

26 “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. **27** And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.



- Who is the vine, who is the gardener and who are the branches? V1, V5
- What caused Jesus’s disciples to be clean? V3
- What is the greatest form of love?
- Can you think of ways Jesus showed love to his disciples?



Bible Answer*: Because He was resurrected from the dead by His Father (Acts 2:32) and by His own authority as the Giver of life (John 10:18). The prophecy of David said that His “body would not see corruption” (Psalms 16:10).

Comment: The Bible tells us that when Jesus comes, those who are asleep in Jesus will be resurrected from the dead and join those who are alive and waiting for the return of Christ. And together, they will ascend into the clouds to meet Jesus in the air and be taken to the home He has prepared for us (1 Thesalonians 4:13-17; John 14:1-3).

Honest Question: How can a physical body go to heaven?

Bible Answer*: In the same way Jesus, in His resurrected human form, ascended to heaven after His death and resurrection (John 20:17; Acts 1:9).

Comment: At His resurrection, Jesus came forth from the tomb with a physical body – likely the same kind of physical body we will have when we ascend to heaven when Jesus comes, and no doubt with some attributes we do not now physically have. When He came to His disciples who were gathered together after His resurrection, Jesus “showed them His hands and His side” (John 20:20) as proof that it was Him. Then a few days later when He was again with His disciples, Jesus said to Thomas, “Place your finger here, and see My hands; and take your hand and put it into My side: and do not continue in disbelief” (John 20:27). And finally, when Jesus ascended to heaven, He did so physically in the presence of His followers (Acts 1:9).

One Final Thought: The incarnation of Jesus Christ is one of those mysteries of the Bible — how God could become a man. But He did. Likewise, it is a mystery to these finite minds of ours as to how Jesus could take on human flesh without its stain of sin. But He did, and He had to in order to save sinners like us. But when you think about it, almost everything God has done is beyond our understanding. His universe is as infinite as He is — without boundaries! Yet our eyes can see enough to know that He made it all. And the intricacy of the human body with all the functions of each part is truly beyond human comprehension. Yet our eyes behold the magnificence of His creation and recognize that only an infinite, omnipotent God could have made it all. This is the same God who gave us His Son, that we might be reckoned “worthy” of heaven. It’s all hard for us to fathom — yet the Bible tells us it is true, so I must believe God’s Word and look forward to more answers when we meet Him face to face.

If you have questions you would like answered from God’s perspective as revealed in the Bible, please send your questions to Pastor@wvetm.com and I will address them in our newsletter — or privately if you wish.

*** IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Bible is the inspired Word of God and must be the only rule of faith and practice for any truth loving person. Any serious question about God, life, death, eternity, or personal doubts can only be answered or resolved by the Book that God has given us to reveal to humanity the truth about Himself and about us, His creation. Anything of this nature that can’t be answered from the Bible is either unimportant or a decoy of the Devil to shake our faith in God. So on that basis alone must I answer “honest questions”.



“REVELATION IN REVIEW” — Part 11

In our last study, we discussed **who** the 144,000 of the first five verses of this chapter are. The next eight verses, continuing the continuity of the previous verses, tell us **what** the message of these special messengers of God is going to be. It's important for us to know, so we will recognize them when they show up on the stage of the final drama ahead. That will be the focus of this study.

We begin with a quick review of a three important principles of prophetic interpretation which we learned early on in this series on Revelation:

- 1) The story of the end times (eschatology) is just one story with just one cast of characters. I have called the characters representing the forces of evil in this story “the axis of evil”, and they are three – the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. They are the powers identified in Revelation 16:13 that are eventually cast into the lake of fire. They are the powers which rally the kings of the earth to go to battle against Jesus Christ and His armies in the Battle of Armageddon. The Dragon is the Devil; the Beast is the Papacy; and the False Prophet is Christianity, corrupted by false doctrine and corrupt government as manifested in America (the two-horned beast of Revelation 13:11-18) at the end of time.
- 2) The characters of Revelation are symbolic – “masked”, but their actions are very literal.
- 3) Most of the characters of Revelation have more than one name – different names revealing different aspects, or perspectives, of their nature and roles in prophecy. One example of this principle is “the great Dragon”, “that serpent of old”, “called the Devil and Satan” (Revelation 12:9) — different names for the same evil mastermind. Other characters of prophecy also have differing names, depending on the scene of the drama.

Revelation 14:6-13

In the next eight verses of this chapter, the **144,000** of the previous five verses are represented as **three angels**, “flying in the midst of heaven” — **same human messengers**, described in a different way to emphasize their powerful voice throughout the earth, proclaiming their messages with the unquenchable power of the Holy Spirit to a world facing eternal doom. The “two witnesses” of Revelation 11 are another portrayal of these same messengers from the perspective of their source of authority, “Moses and the Prophets” (or the Scriptures), the unstoppable power of their ministry, and the consequences of their witness. Here we have another example of characters with different names, set in different contexts.

The First Angel

The first angel is seen by John “flying in the midst of heaven...” (Verses 6 and 7). His mission is to announce to the world:

- 1) That “the hour of God’s judgment HAS COME”
- 2) That “the everlasting Gospel” is man’s only hope of redemption/salvation at this hour, AND
- 3) That the worship of the Creator, Jesus Christ, is a necessary expression of ones allegiance to God – IN CONTRAST TO THE MANDATE OF THE FALSE PROPHET OF THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER TO WORSHIP THE BEAST – THE FALSE CHRIST! These two chapters, Revelation 13 and 14, are parallel accounts of the mandates to worship Antichrist OR Christ – the Beast or the Lamb.



The Second Angel

The mission of the second angel is to announce the fallen and corrupt nature of the religion of **Babylon** and its imminent fall from power over the nations with which she has had adulterous relations. We see the reality of this “fall” in great detail in the 18th chapter. In chapter seventeen, she is a “harlot” and the “mother of harlots,” and “she has made all nations drink of” [and drunk with]...her intoxicating fornication, which will bring upon her the wrath of God at the end. Her adulterous relations with the kings of the earth has brought upon her the wrath of God. She has used kings and rulers to benefit herself, enriching her own treasury and achieving her uncontested power over the earth. And the kings with which she has traded in corrupt religion for material gain will witness her doom, as indicated in the eighteenth chapter.

“She glorified herself and lived luxuriously, ...saying in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’ Therefore, her plagues will come in one day – death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her” Revelation 18:7, 8.

The Third Angel

The mission of the third angel in this passage is to call God’s people out of Babylon, out of their affiliation with this blasphemous power before the same judgments that are about to fall upon her fall upon them. The prophet wrote,


“If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand [a reference to the previous chapter], he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation” Revelation 14:9, 10.


Do you recognize the language of Revelation 13 here — “worship of the beast” and “the mark of the beast”? And where are the sincere, deceived saints within this evil pretense of Christianity to go for refuge at this time? **To the camp of God’s people – to “those who keep the commandments of God [all of them] and have the faith of Jesus [the Gospel of Scripture]” (Revelation 14:12) – those who “worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water” (Revelation 14:7).** This language is an important illusion back to the fourth commandment of the Decalogue – the Sabbath “commandment” of the Ten Commandments:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day [is] the Sabbath of the LORD your God. [In it] you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who [is] within your gates. For [in] six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that [is] in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it” Exodus 20:8-11.

“Babylon”

Once again we find another term in this passage which describes the corrupt religion of the Beast — “Babylon.” Because of the importance of this “city” (as it is called in this prophecy) in the final chapters of Revelation, we must clearly identify this term and the role Babylon plays at the end of time.





"Babylon" is just another name for the Papacy, the Roman Catholic system of corrupt Christianity. Peter, who spent the last days of his life in Rome, is writing to the greater Christian Church of his day from **Rome** when he says, "She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you, and so does Mark my son" 1 Peter 5:13. In this text, Peter is referring to the congregation of Christ's followers in Rome. Even the Early Church was calling Rome "Babylon." The Babylon of Daniel's day no longer existed. Rome is "that great city" of Revelation 14:8 — "fallen, because she has made all nations drink of [and drunk with] the wine of the wrath of her fornication". Babylon in Revelation is the apostate Church of Rome, specifically in this context Vatican City, the papal system. And in the coming chapters, Babylon is identified as such by its characteristics. Babylon is the religio-political expression of the Beast! She is also called "the great harlot", "the mother of harlots", "the woman sitting on the scarlet beast", and "that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth" in Revelation 17. So, when the three angels of Revelation 14 "flying through the midst of heaven", literally circling the earth and reaching every human being with the warning of the fallen character and the imminent doom of Babylon, it is the Church of Rome in its religio-political cloak they are speaking of that is being identified by John.

Next week we finish our study of this important chapter of Revelation as we witness John's description of the final harvest of the earth – the harvest of the wheat (the righteous) and the tares (the wicked), as Jesus describes the harvest:

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' " ... Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked [one]. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear! Matthew 13:24-43.

Stay tuned!