

Q & A

**From
Week 4
Autobiography of God**

Q1 Did the Jews in Jesus' time have access to the scriptures like we do?

A1 It has always been important to God that His people know and understand His word. Scribes in Israel were in charge of faithfully making copies of the scripture. God commanded the Jews to have copies available everywhere! They were responsible to teach them and discuss them with everyone!

Deuteronomy 11:18-23

Therefore shall ye **lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.** And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. **And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:** That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth. For if ye shall

diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him; Then will the LORD drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves.

Q2 What is dispensational teaching of the Bible, and why is it so important?

A2 It is extremely important to know that not everything in the Bible applies to us today. (Think about Noah's flood.) Take salvation, for example: Knowing how to be saved is crucial to the believer, yet there are many who do not understand that since Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, the way to salvation has changed.

To illustrate; when a man asked Jesus, "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Jesus' reply was, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."

Matthew 19:16-17

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may

have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but **if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.**

Using this account, many people are still trying to “earn” their salvation by keeping the commandments. Though it was absolutely true when Jesus said it, if you look at it dispensationally, it is not the way to eternal life for us today.

Following is another example of something Jesus said that is sometimes (mis)applied to us today. Jesus told Nicodemus that to see the Kingdom of God, a person had to be “born again.”

John 3:3-5

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be**

born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Jesus defined being “born again” was being born of water and the Spirit. (The Bible will sometimes define itself by repetition. The same passage will be repeated but a different word, or words, will be substituted to offer clarity.)

John the Baptist said the same thing, being born again required baptism by water to prepare for the one coming after him who would baptize with the Holy Ghost. Fire is for the unsaved.

Matthew 3:10-12

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance:** but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:** Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his

wheat into the garner; but **he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**

Being “born again” applied for a short period of time—before and during Jesus’ earthly ministry. After the baptism with the Holy Ghost at Pentecost, there was no more need for water baptism.

What would Jesus tell us that we had to “do” for salvation? He would tell us that our salvation is a free gift, that we cannot “do” anything to “get” it. When we believe in His death, burial, and resurrection for our sins, we are saved.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel which I preached unto you**, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **By which also ye are saved**, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in

vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how 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:**

Salvation is just one example of something that has changed by dispensation. Even though it is so important, most people do not know about dispensational teaching of the Bible. The word “dispensation” does not even appear in most Bibles!

“Dispensation” is translated as “trust.”

1 Corinthians 9:17

KJV

For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, **a dispensation of the gospel** is committed unto me.

NIV

If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, **I am simply discharging the trust committed to me.**

It is translated as ‘to be put into effect.’”

Ephesians 1:10

KJV

That in **the dispensation of the fulness of times** he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

NIV

to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

It is translated as “administration.”

Ephesians 3:2

KJV

If ye have heard of **the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me** to you-ward:

NIV

Surely you have heard about **the administration of God’s grace that was given to me** for you,

It is translated as “commission.”

Colossians 1:25

KJV

Whereof I am made a minister, **according to the dispensation of God which is given to me** for you, to fulfil the word of God;

NIV

I have become its servant **by the commission God gave me to present to you** the word of God in its fullness—

Q3 What evidence is there that animals will be able to speak in the Kingdom of God on the earth and in heaven?

A3 There are accounts in the Bible where animals have spoken in the past and where animals will speak in the future.

Balaam's story

Numbers 22:21-33 page 166

Philippians 2:10-11

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every

tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 5:13

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Q4 How important to God is His word?

A4 God values His word above His name. Psalms 138:2, “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: **for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**”

There are warnings about what will happen to a person who changes God’s word. Paul said, “Let him be accursed.” (Remember, a saved person cannot lose his salvation but will have this deception exposed and can lose rewards at the Judgement Seat of Christ.)

Galatians 1:8-9

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed.** As we said before, so say I now again, **If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.**

Jesus Christ dictated the book of Revelation to John. Revelation ends with this warning.

Revelation 22:18-19

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, **If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:** And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, **God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**

Jesus' warning about what will happen to the man that adds to or takes away from God's word is very severe!

A person who is taken out of the book of life will spend eternity in the lake of fire.

Q5 How much time was there between the creation of the earth and Jesus' birth?

A5 Once again, we need to trust that God has preserved this information in His word as He has promised. Genesis chapter 1 tells us that the earth and everything on it was created in 6 days.

There are a lot of people who want to say that the day in the Bible's creation story is not the 24 hour day that we are familiar with. Jesus, Himself, tells us that there are 12 hours in a "day" which He defines as light enough not to stumble. That means there are 12 hours in a "night" for a 24 hour day. The earth was created in 6, 24 hour days.

John 11:9

Jesus answered, **Are there not twelve hours in the day?** If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

Many people question the truth in the Bible of the extreme age of people before and during Noah's day.

Genesis 5:5

And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.

Some try to explain that those "years" weren't really the same period of time that we know as years. The Bible cannot read like a best-selling novel. It must be studied. The next 3 passages are all discussing the same period of time, but reporting it differently:

1260 days,

Revelation 12:6

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that **they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**

42 months,

Revelation 11:2-3

But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and **the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.**

“Time+times+half a time” (3½ times.)

Revelation 12:14

And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, **where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time,** from the face of the serpent.

These passages tell us that 1260 days, or 42 months, equals 3 ½ times. We can reasonably conclude that a “time” is a “year.” The passages in Revelation are describing about a 360 day year.

Jesus provides the last clue about whether or not the years were 360 days, when people were living 600 - 900 years. He said that everything (in Revelation) will be as it was in the days of Noah

(Noe) during the days of the Son of Man (the tribulation and second coming.)

Luke 17:26

And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

Thinking backward, if the years have 360 days in Revelation, then they did in the days of Noah when people were living to extreme old age.

Q6 What about things that are reported by scientists to be millions of years old?

A6 Nothing on this earth is millions of years old. Noah's flood was not just falling rain (the windows of heaven were opened) but violent upheavals from below the earth (the fountains of the great deep.) The geography of the entire earth was changed. The land was literally "stirred up," with things that were on land ending up in the fountains of the great deep and things found in the great deep ending up on land.

Genesis 7:11

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were **all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.**

Before the flood, it had never rained! The entire earth had been a paradise that was watered by a mist from the earth

Genesis 2:4-6

These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, **in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,** And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: **for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth,** and there was not a man to till the ground. **But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.**

Using the information found in Genesis, the approximate timelines (according to Google) show that Earth is a little over 6,000 years old.

Earth is created ...4128 BC
Noah's flood ...2472 BC
Abram born ...2166 BC
Moses born ...1527 BC
Jesus born ...6 BC

Q7 Was there an easier way to bring Jesus Christ to earth?

A7 Yes, Jesus told His followers that God could raise up children to Abraham from stones.

Matthew 3:8-9

Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that **God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.**

The way that Christ came into the world as one of us and lived among us makes God's love for His people even more amazing!

John 13:1

Now before the feast of the passover, when

Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, **having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.**

Hebrews 4:15

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; **but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

Even though we are not Israel, and do not have a high priest (in this dispensation,) the writer makes it known that Jesus lived a sinless life and died for all people, in every dispensation.

Hebrews 10:10

By the which will **we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

Q8 Did most people think that Jesus got His right to the throne of David from Joseph (from the line of David through Solomon) because they thought he was Jesus' natural father?

A8 They probably did. But Solomon's line was cut off from the throne. King Jehoiakim, from Solomon's line, refused God's final offer of mercy.

Read Jeremiah 36, page 740.

Jeremiah 22:18-19, 24, 30

Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning **Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah**; They shall not lament for him, saying, Ah my brother! or, Ah sister! they shall not lament for him, saying, Ah lord! or, Ah his glory! **He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem.**

²⁴As I live, saith the LORD, though **Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah** were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee thence;

³⁰Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: **for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.**

We know that Jesus got His right to the throne of David from His mother Mary, who was descended from King David's son, Nathan.