

Important Questions in Life

Commentary for January 17, 2014 — No Answers Outside the Scriptures

What are the important questions in life that most of us ask ourselves at some time during our lives? The answers are found in the Bible. The important questions are these:

- **Who is God? What is God?** What is His nature; what is He like? What is the distinction between YHWH and other Elohim? What is Christ's relationship to God? Is Christ God? The answers to these questions are important. I suggest you start at 1 Corinthians 8:6. Then go to 1 Timothy 2:5. If you keep these passages in mind as you read the Old Testament, your understanding will quickly grow.
- **What is man? Who am I?** What does it mean to be a child of Adam, the first man, as all human beings are (1 Corinthians 2:11). All children of Adam are destined to realize their status as children of God (1 Timothy 2:4, 4:9–11), to become like the last Adam, who is Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:45–47).
- **What is death?** What happens at death? Why did Qoheleth (Solomon) say in Ecclesiastes 7:1: **"the day of death [is better] than the day of one's birth"**? When death occurs, all consciousness ceases. Scripture likens death to sleep (Job 7:21). At death the soul dissolves when the body begins to return to dust and the spirit of man returns to God (Genesis 2:7, 3:19; Job 34:14–15; Psalm 146:4; Ecclesiastes 3:20, 12:7).
- **Is there life after death?** This is the question Job asked: **"If a man die, shall he live again?"** (Job 14:14). The verse that follows shows that Job knew the answer was "yes": **"You shall call, and I will answer you: you [God] will have a desire to the work of your hands"** (Job 14:15). God's desire for His work will bring Job back into existence.
- **Why is there evil? Why is there suffering?** The "problem of evil" has been a question that has puzzled "the wise" since the flood. God creates evil: **"I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I YHWH do all these things"** (Isaiah 45:7),¹ although you will hardly find any theologian who believes what the Bible says in Isaiah. Again, go to the Book of Job, which is about overwhelming and relentless suffering. In spite of God's creation of evil, Job declares:

"For I know that my redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God ..."

• **Job 19:25–27**

¹ I find it fascinating that the common Hebrew word "ra" (evil) occurs more than 600 times, and is translated as "evil" 400+ times in Scripture, yet most every translation renders the word "ra" in Isaiah 45:7 as anything but evil. Why? Because most theologians would say that God's creation of evil would make Him "the author of evil." This is philosophy and not biblical exegesis.

All suffering of every person who has ever lived will be as nothing compared to God's sequel of the good things He has in store for His children (Isaiah 64:4; 1 Corinthians 2:9–10). Yes, that is hard to believe. It is a matter of faith in God's promise.

- **What is the purpose of life now?** Here is the answer: for most every person who ever lived, God's purpose has been for those children of Adam to live without knowing God. God has not been directly involved in their lives. They did not (and do not) know God because He has not revealed Himself to them — yet. He will reveal Himself when they are physically resurrected at the great white throne judgment of instruction and punishment (Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:11–13). Then they will learn about God and His plan for all mankind, which was accomplished on their behalf **“through Christ Jesus.”**

Those to whom God has made Himself known at the present time, their (our) purpose in life is to build character and to be a future witness of God's grace to all mankind — again **“through Christ Jesus”** (Ephesians 2:7 and Philippians 4:7). As an important blessing, we will have at least two millennia in the glorious Kingdom of God. As the apostles were witnesses to Christ's resurrection (Acts 4:33), we, as spirit beings (along with all other glorified believers in Christ's resurrection and redemption), will be witnesses to the earth and heavens as to our own resurrections to spiritual life. At that time we shall be **“like Him”** (1 John 3:2).

- **Will I see my loved ones again?** Yes. When all have been saved and glorified (1 Corinthians 15:20–28), you will see your loved ones again, and even your enemies after they have repented and been saved through Christ's redemptive acts as you have been. You are no better or worse before God than they are. You **“have sinned and come short of the glory of God”** (Romans 3:9, 23). All have sinned, all will be saved (Romans 11:32).

The answers to these major questions in life are found in Scripture and are explained in more detail in Dr. Ernest Martin's online book, [ABCs of the Gospel](#). This book is **NOT** available for purchase. It has short digest-sized articles about these and other important matters of YOUR life. Furthermore, *ABCs* is available in audio format for free on the same webpage. For discussion of these doctrinal questions in detail, read Dr. Martin's 500+ page book [The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#). This book is also available online and for purchase so you can refer to it often. I am sure you will read it more than once over the years.

Read either book with your Bible open. Challenge what Dr. Martin says in these books, along with all the material on the [“Doctrine Articles Index”](#) tab (click on the “Doctrine Archives” button on the ASK homepage).² You need answers to these questions. Ask God to open your mind to His Scriptures so you can fully understand His plan for you and every human being. All will be saved because it is God's will (1 Timothy 2:4–5). Your will is subordinate. His will shall always be supreme. His love shall endure (Psalm 136:1; John 3:16–17).

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² There are also over 100+ articles on prophecy at the [“Prophecy Articles Index.”](#) Note also the 25 articles at the [“Temple Update Articles Index,”](#) all about the Jerusalem Temples.