

Why the Bible was Written

lesson 1

Introduction

The Bible is unique in the world. Its 66 books were written by some forty men from six countries, over a period of approximately sixteen hundred years. These men were separated by time, by distance, by culture and by language; yet the Bible is characterized by unity and harmony.

The Bible contains hundreds of predictions (some made many centuries in advance) which have been fulfilled exactly as predicted.

Research and discoveries continue to confirm the accuracy of Bible references to matters of history, geography and science.

These and other facts are evidence that the writers of the Bible were guided by someone who is far superior to man.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

The Bible claims to be inspired by _____.

Other scriptures to consider: *Galatians 1:8-9, 2 John 1:9, Revelation 22:18-19, 2 Timothy 2:15, Hebrews 9:15-17*

Why was the Bible written?

The Creator reveals Himself

When we consider the vast, complicated universe, reason tells us that a being more intelligent and more powerful than man designed it and created it.

Genesis 1:1

The Bible states that _____ is the creator.

In the Bible, God also reveals what he is like and what he wants us to do.

Man needs a guide

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Is the Bible a complete and adequate guidebook?

Yes_____ No_____

Do we need additional revelations to equip us for God's work?

Yes_____ No_____

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Life's Greatest Questions Answered

Through the ages men have sought the answers to these questions:

1) **Where did I come from?**

Genesis 1:27

_____ created man, male and female, in his own _____.

2) **Why am I here?**

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

The most important thing in life is to fear _____ and keep his _____.

3) **Where am I going?**

- *Ecclesiastes 12:7*

When a person dies his spirit returns to _____.

- *John 5:28-29*

Will both the good and the evil be raised?

Yes _____ No _____

- *Matthew 25:31-33*

When Christ returns, he will sit on his throne and people from all _____ will be gathered before him. He will put some on his _____ and others on his _____.

- *Matthew 25:34*

To those on his right he will say

_____.

- *Matthew 25:41*

To those on his left he will say

_____.

- *Matthew 25:46*

Some will go into eternal _____; others into eternal _____.

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The Truth Concerning Man's Worst Problem

Romans 3:23 How many have sinned? _____.

We sin in thought, in word, and in deed and by failing to do things we should. The average person sins many times a day. If we are better than average and sin only three times a day, we commit more than one thousand sins a year! Think of the sins committed in a lifetime!

Romans 1:18

Does God hate wickedness?

Yes____ No____

Romans 6:23

The wages of sin is _____.

Isaiah 59:1-2

Sin creates a separation between man and God.

Yes____ No____

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

Those who do not know God will be punished with everlasting destruction?

Yes____ No____

The Bible reveals that God is perfect, holy and sinless. Because of his nature, it is impossible for him to allow man with the guilt of sin upon him to live in his presence. If sin's guilt is not removed, this separation will continue in eternity.

Because God loves us, he wants to forgive us and receive us back into his fellowship. However, his holiness and justice demand a penalty for sin - a penalty far greater than we are able to pay. Man's efforts to save himself are all insufficient. For example, it is impossible for us to earn forgiveness by keeping the Ten Commandments, by living a good life, by doing deeds or by being religious.

Is there no hope for us?

Is there no solution to this problem?

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God's Solution to the Sin Problem

Romans 3:20-22

God's righteousness comes through faith in _____ to those who _____.

Romans 5:6-8

God demonstrates his love for us through the death of _____ for us.

Romans 5:9

We can be justified (declared free from sin's guilt) by Christ's blood and saved from God's wrath through him.

Yes____ No____

Romans 5:10-11

Guilty sinners who are God's enemies, can be reconciled to God (made God's friends) through the death of his son.

Yes____ No____

Hebrews 4:14-16

Jesus knows what its like to be tempted.

Yes____ No____

Jesus, though tempted, never sinned.

Yes____ No____

Jesus, the eternal Son of God, once lived on earth as a man under the law of God. While he was tempted to sin just as we are, he never sinned. He took our guilt upon himself and died on a cross to pay the penalty for our sins. His death made it possible for God to forgive us and yet maintain his holiness and justice.

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Man's Response to God's Plan of Salvation

Hebrews 2:9

Jesus died for all yet many will not be saved.

Do You Believe that you are saved? Yes_____ No_____

If yes, upon what do you base your belief?

When? Where? Why? How?

Hebrews 5:7-10

Jesus saves those who _____.

John 3:16-18

The requirement stated here is _____ in Jesus, the Son of God.

Acts 17:29-31

God commands everyone to _____.

This means to decide to turn from sin and serve God.

Romans 10:9-10

Confession of faith in Jesus is a requirement of salvation.

Yes_____ No_____

Mark 16:15-16

Does Jesus promise salvation BEFORE baptism or AFTER baptism? _____

Additional scriptures to consider: *1 Peter 3:18-22, Acts 2:38, Galatians 3:26-27, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 22:16, Romans 6:1-4*

Apart from Christ we are guilty sinners.

Ephesians 1:7

Salvation is in union with Christ.

Yes_____ No_____

Romans 6:3

Is one "in" Christ before he is baptized?

Yes_____ No_____

Is one saved before he is baptized?

Yes_____ No_____

Romans 6:4

Baptism is a burial.

Yes_____ No_____

Would sprinkling or pouring water be a burial?

Yes_____ No_____

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REVIEW: The Bible teaches that in order to be saved, one must

Have you done what the Bible teaches must be done to be saved?

Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Yes ___ No ___

Have you repented? Yes ___ No ___

If not, are you willing to repent now? Yes ___ No ___

Have you been baptized (immersed, buried in water)? Yes ___ No ___

If you have been baptized, was it in order to be saved, or did you think you were saved before you were baptized? _____

Since being saved is so important, do you wish to respond now to God's invitation to enter into salvation through Jesus Christ? Yes ___ No ___

Or do you have any doubts about your previous experience? Yes ___ No ___

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When a person is saved, he or she is “in Christ” and is a member of Jesus’ church.

Romans 6:3

Those who have been saved have been baptized into Christ.

Yes_____ No_____

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27

We are baptized by one Spirit into the _____ of Christ.

God has a unique purpose for each of us in His body.

Colossians 1:18

The body is the _____.

God has a unique purpose for each of us in His church.

When one believes in Jesus the Christ, repents of their sin, confesses their faith in Jesus and is baptized into Christ, one is added to his body, Christ’s church.

Yes_____ No_____

Matthew 16:15-18

How many churches did Jesus promise to build? _____

There are many religions, churches and denominations in the world today. Many of them that claim Jesus Christ have doctrines and practices contrary to the teachings of the Bible.

If a person does what the Bible requires in order to be saved, what church will they be a member of? _____

Matthew 16:24-25

Will God be happy with being a small part of your life?

Yes_____ No_____

Matthew 28:18-20

Besides doing what is required by the Bible to enter “into Christ” and have salvation, we are to continue learning everything that Jesus has commanded.

Yes_____ No_____

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Can we be sure about our SALVATION?

1 John 5:13

Does God want us to know we have eternal life? Yes____ No____

We can know if we are saved by comparing what we have done with what the Bible teaches we must do in order to be “in Christ.”

Yes____ No____

Do you know that you are saved and that if you die today you will go to heaven?

Yes____ No____

If not, do you want this assurance?

Yes____ No____

What must you do to be saved?

We do not know what time we have on earth to decide for Christ.

James 4:13-14

Do you know that you will have a future opportunity to obey God and be saved?

Yes____ No____

Remain faithful to Jesus and Walk in the Light.

1 John 1:3-10

Hebrews 6:1-6

Ephesians 2:1-22