

Have One Mind (in Christ) - Philippians 2:5

A Monthly Magazine

PO Box 301, Boiling Springs, PA 17007
(717) 460-7881

What Did Adam and Eve Really Do? - Jerry O'Donnell

When people start off with wrong beliefs, wrong foundations, wrong premises, they then develop further wrong thought processes and even wrong doctrines. When the average Christian is asked, "What did Adam and Eve do that caused them to be expelled out of the garden?", the reply is that "God forbade them eating from the tree of knowledge for good and evil and they did it anyways." Although that is an accurate description of the details, it does not take in the seriousness involved.

The same could be said of Satan. What got him cast out of Heaven? Many Christians think it was a physical revolt over the throne of God and that it took the special forces under the angel Michael to physically cast them out. First, Michael is no angel, and secondly, especially pertaining to this message, it was not so much over the physical aspect as it was the spiritual.

Now, let us start explaining where we are going with this article. There is a wrong premise regarding the Ten

Commandments. Most Christians believe the Ten Commandments were given to Moses for the Israelites and eventually the Jews to keep. They also believe that salvation was only for the Jews during the Old Testament, leaving all others without hope, despite the number of converts along the way. For instance, "Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent [them] out another way?" (James 2:25).

The false premise is the foundation regarding the commandments prior to Moses. Despite the Bible saying, "Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws" (Genesis 26:5), it cannot be taught that the commandments existed back then or even prior because then that would mean the commandments are for everyone. Instead, they want to believe that people were saved in various ways over a number of time segments. Basically, from Moses until Jesus, a

person was to keep the commandments to be saved, which meant that everyone was lost because every single one of them, including Moses, broke them. Again, those who promote the commandment keeping theology for Jews only do not explicitly believe that they were lost. They try to figure other ways to save them because Moses, indeed, is in Heaven. To them, I say, "Do not try to sell us on the idea that those sacrifices did anything!" "For [it is] not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4). That same group then thinks that from Jesus to the present moment we are simply saved by grace, with permission to be careless when it comes to sinning, though they do not state that explicitly, however, all of their practices encourage it hence why so many Christians can have foul mouths, be fanatical when it comes to sports, drink alcohol, watch filthy movies, and we are not talking only about "adult" movies either, etc.

**A Publication By Bible Believing Christians
For Bible Believing Christians**

In revisiting the Adam and Eve story, the truth of the matter is that they did not simply eat the fruit of the forbidden tree, and Satan did not simply launch a physical battle for God's throne. In both cases, it is because God's Ten

Commandments were in existence and they broke them.

Adam and Eve disobeyed their parent, God. God said, "of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the

day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). They in turn, "when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Genesis 3:6).

The fact that "the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired" (Genesis 3:6) made it an idol and something to covet, especially when the thought was "to make [one] wise" (Genesis 3:6). So, there are the second and tenth commandments. On top of that, being told "ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5) meant that they were treading on the first commandment. Of course, we can add in there the fact that when God laid down the rule "thou shalt not eat of it" (Genesis 2:17) implied that the fruit on that tree was His and to take from it and eat of it was that of stealing, breaking the eighth commandment. Oh, and let us not forget that they both hid themselves from God and did not respond to His calling, downplaying that they heard the voice along with hoping to stay hidden laying the foundation of lying, which is the ninth commandment. And it was out of character, not having a godly character, to try and pass off the blame (Genesis 3:12-13), breaking the third commandment of taking on God's name, being a child of God, while acting sinfully.

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I Am Come to Deceive The Whole World



**I Am Come to
Deceive the
Whole World**

***How Satan, from his
perspective, is
distracting so many
Christians while his
agenda marches on.***

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**Do you think the
attack on gas stoves
is by chance?**

**Do you think high fuel
prices are typical of
up and down prices?**

Do you think inflation is just the normal highs and lows over the economic timeline?

While people are distracted by sports, politics, Hollywood idols, etc., the march towards the agenda is already upon us and increasing in intensity.

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Editor and Founder

Jerry O'Donnell

About Have One Mind (in Christ) Ministry

This ministry is founded upon the necessity of raising the standard higher and higher. It is a non-profit, volunteer group of Christians who love God's Word and love people so much so that we do not want to see a single person lost.

Subscription and Donations

Although we are volunteers, the cost of this publication is challenging to provide to everyone for free. So, we are asking for a subscription of \$19 annually for 12 issues, and if the Lord impresses you with the means to be able to provide a donation, we definitely would welcome such and put it to proper use, including helping to pay for subscriptions of those who cannot afford the cost. The publication is free online in PDF format.

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The Bible clearly states, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12). By Bible definition, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). Therefore, the Ten Commandments indeed have had to exist at the time of Adam and Eve before they fell, for only “by the law [is] the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20). And, “where no law is, [there is] no transgression” (Romans 4:15), meaning, if the Ten Commandments did not exist at the time of Adam and Eve, despite eating from the forbidden tree, there is still no transgression and we should not be in this mess. The fact is that we are in this mess of a sinful world and that is because the Ten Commandments did exist and still do.

The same is true then for Satan. He could have done nothing wrong if the Ten Commandments did not exist from before the first created being, there would be no transgression. There would be no reason for the Devil to be “cast

out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9). Again, if there is no law, there is no transgression. The fact that punishment did follow the acts of Satan means that the law existed beforehand, and we know it existed because God told Moses, “let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, [after] the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make [it]” (Exodus 25:8-9). That includes the Ten Commandments. In other words, Moses was not given an original set of commandments, have them broken by throwing them down in protest of the golden calf worship (Exodus 32:19), and then receive another set (Exodus 34:1). In both cases, they were copies of the original, for the originals are in God’s temple in Heaven and in the ark as practiced on earth repeating the pattern seen in Heaven. “And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail” (Revelation 11:19).

Now, it is a sad reality how dangerous a wrong premise can be. It leads to having to conclude falsely about other matters. There is absolutely no consideration that Adam and Eve broke the Ten Commandments nor even Satan as well because of the initial false premise that the commandments began at the time of Moses. So, other reasons have to be brought in to cover up the error of the first wrong premise, which leads to more false premises, of which leads to where we are today – Christians justifying disobedience to the Ten Commandments, more specifically, disobedience to God.

Even Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love” (John 15:10). “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:2-3).

They sadly cannot see that they are simply echoing Satan’s position, “We do not need any law to guide us. We ought to live by the freedom to do whatever we want.”

Sad to say, even these ministers that teach this false gospel will not escape.



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Heavenly Health

How are we to take supplemental vitamins?

We have received this question which was triggered by last month's article, *What Can I Take*, in which we touched on the topic of how food is to be introduced to the stomach. The reader's specific question is based on the fact that she takes some vitamins in pill form and is wondering if that violates dietary law. In checking one label recommendation, it suggests taking the product with a glass of water "at least ½ hour before meals", which does create a problem since that will begin the process of digestion with something that is not actually food, but only a small element which was extracted from food, or possibly even worse, was manufactured by man, then the real food was to enter the stomach later. That brings us back to the condition of food needing to be thoroughly masticated before being swallowed – first of all, the substance has to be food, and second, I do not know anyone who would chew up a vitamin pill to get it down.

This situation brings to mind some of the same problems with using juicing to cure some ills, the main issue being why not just use the whole fruit or vegetable you are juicing to get all of the nutrients, enzymes, and fiber you need, instead of just one element which is not designed to work in the body alone? Also, with juicing there is far more liquid entering

the body than should ever be taken in, rather than in just plain water. Our bodies are designed by our Creator to take in and process whole food, not just isolated nutrients. Can you imagine having to eat one food item for every nutrient you need as in the idea of taking vitamins? We would need food stacked to the ceiling in our kitchen every day! God is much more efficient than that! He placed everything we need in a beautiful variety of fruit, nuts, grains, and vegetables in proper measurements so we can be assured to keep our human machinery operating efficiently and safely. I do not see one place in scripture when it is good for man to cut anything asunder, or take it all apart, that God has given in whole form. We cannot mix God's ways with man's and expect good results, though we might see some temporary change which could appear to be improvement, it will not stand the test of time.

If we have failed in keeping our body operating smoothly, do we really have to resort to taking any kind of supplementation? Well, yes, there are times of sickness or accident that we might need to fill in for a time to meet our requirements. Please know we are not attempting to address situations involving birth defects that may require more drastic measures, or even results of prior surgeries, or other medical interventions that are out of our realm, but rather things that are under our control.

So how are we to get extra needed nutrients into our systems for a time? In this publication we offer a section titled *Natural Vitamins* each month now which covers an amazing spectrum of possibilities, though not comprehensive, for learning which foods provide which vitamins and minerals without having to resort to substitutes. By studying this handy little section each month, you might be surprised at how some simple food additions to your diet, or combinations of different foods will probably clear up any deficiencies you are experiencing if adhered to diligently. Our intention is to provide natural ways for us to get our bodies in good working order and keep them that way. God did not need our help in providing nutrition to these bodies in the form of pills, and any "improvements" man has attempted to make in this line is an insult to God. Are His ways not enough for us? Every function of our bodies has been wisely and carefully designed to operate just as it was intended to, and should be powered with the proper fuel as per the Owner's manual – the Owner being God Himself, since our bodies are simply on loan to us. Let us always remember that we are "...fearfully [and] wonderfully made..." Psalm 139:14, and provide proper care for these temples in which we live.



Healthy and Delicious Recipes

Vegan Baked Oatmeal

(Recipe is very customizable to your preference. Substitutions and suggestions at bottom)

Ingredients:

- 1 medium ripe banana (about ½ cup mashed)
- 1 ¾ cup dairy free milk
- ½ cup maple syrup
- ¼ cup almond butter
- 2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups rolled oats
- 1 Tablespoon ground flax seed
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ⅔ cup pecans, roughly chopped
- ⅓ cup carob chips + more for topping

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.

2. Grease a 9-inch square baking dish and set aside.
3. In a large mixing bowl, mash a ripe banana with the back of a fork until no large chunks remain.
4. To the same bowl, add dairy free milk, maple syrup, almond butter, and vanilla.
5. Whisk well to combine, breaking up any clumps from the almond butter.
6. Into the same bowl, oats, flax, lemon juice, salt and nutmeg and whisk to combine.
7. Then add pecans and carob chips and stir together evenly.
8. Pour the oat mixture into the prepared baking pan.
9. Using a spatula, gently pat down the oats to make an even top.
10. Sprinkle additional carob chips across the top (another ¼ to ⅓ cup).
11. Optional - add some turbinado

sugar on top for a bit of crunch and extra sweetness.

12. Place into the oven and bake for 40 to 45 minutes until the top is nice and golden.
13. Remove from the oven and let it cool for 5-10 minutes before cutting.
14. You can serve as-is or with toppings of your choice, and can be served warm or chilled.

Store leftovers covered in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.

Substitutes:

Banana with 1 c applesauce

Almond Butter with Peanut, Sunflower or Cashew Butter

Pecans with Walnuts

Add dried cherries, cranberries, blueberries

Omit carob chips if you prefer



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Be Ye Holy — 1 Peter 1:15

The fact that in 1 Peter 1:17-21 we are told that the “redeemed” (1 Peter 1:18) and those that “believe” (1 Peter 1:21) are still going to be subject to “the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work” (1 Peter 1:17), we ought to realize that there is more to salvation than just being forgiven. That judging of our work is not to determine a certain placement level in Heaven as there is only one placement – we are either in Heaven eternally, or we are lost. Therefore, as we are told, “let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18). Our actions reveal if

we are saved or not. “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:9). We are, therefore, compelled to not sin. It is like being saved from a slave marriage. Let us say that our first husband was abusive and murderous, and in rightful action, the person that would become our second husband would kill the first husband right at the moment that first husband was about to kill us [based upon Romans 7]. If we truly love our second husband, would we do those things that are pleasing to the first husband, which would upset the second? Of

course not! But that is what many Christians do today – “Thank you Jesus for saving me from the devil, now let me continue to excuse sin in my life.” So, by your works, who do you show you are married to? Are you “espoused ... to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:2)? Or are you still married to the dead husband, the devil?

1 John 2:5 says, “But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.” The Keeping of God's Word is the holy

and sanctified life for Jesus even said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings" (John 14:23-24). With Jesus' statement, we clearly see that it is not a degree of love to be perfected, but rather having love for God or not. So, do you "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37) showing it by obeying God's Word?

2 John 1:10-11 states, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into [your] house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." Therefore, the unification of religions is not of God. There is a difference between respecting someone of another faith and accepting their beliefs. We do not all serve the same God, especially they that worship multiple gods. To incorporate some of their beliefs, like yoga, meditation, trance, etc. into Christianity is evil. Therefore, we are to "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines" (Hebrews 13:9) for we are living in a time "when they will not endure sound doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:3). To hold to the Christian doctrine and practice is the holy and sanctified life that is expected of a Christian. To accept other practices is not the expected life of a Christian and is actually a betrayer to Christ and therefore will be lost. So, do you have and practice just the Christian doctrine, or have you

been deceived into accepting other practices from other religions?

Jude 1:20-21 states, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." To "keep yourselves in the love of God" is the holy and sanctified life, of which if we do not do this, we shall fall away and be lost. Daily we are to keep ourselves in the love of God. And Jesus said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" (John 14:21), and "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23). So, do you keep God's Word and His commandments by the grace and mercy of God and especially by the divine power keep yourself in the love of God, or do you not look into His Word, not keeping His commandments by loving self, or do you please others instead?

Revelation 2:23 states, "And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works." The fruit or works of a person determines the destination. How people cannot see this is just sure madness. People just want to go to hell. The

Bible does not contradict itself – people do. Many Christians believe that they are saved while being stuck in their sins because the other option they believe is to work one's way to Heaven. Given only two options, it is easily seen why the theology of "once saved, always saved" has come about, but the error is not in correctly rejecting working one's way to Heaven. The error is in believing in only two choices. There are actually three choices. The first is to be careless, believing that no one can become perfect despite the numerous verses that says it is possible to stop sinning and expected (Matthew 5:48). The second is to earn salvation which is not possible at all and correctly rejected (Galatians 2:16). But the third and neglected option is to produce the works from a saved relationship (Galatians 5:22-23). Therefore, after one believes they are saved by the merits of Jesus Christ and continue sinning, they actually "in works they deny [him], being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16). Instead, "the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). So, are you lost in your sins, or saved by the fruit of the Spirit?

Matthew 5:13 not only reveals that we are expected to live a holy and sanctified life, it also reveals that it is possible to give up to the relationship with Jesus and be lost, rebuking the thought that once we are saved, we are eternally saved.

That is not true. "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." The way Christians become salt to be trodden under foot, which is a lost state, is to claim to be saved but live like the world, especially being indifferent towards religious matters. "Hey, you want to study the Bible?" "No thanks, my favorite show is on TV." "Hey, you want to go to church?" "No thanks, I have tickets to go watch my favorite team." In other words, all of the Christians that live like worldly people are not influencing the world to Christ, hence, they lost their savor. Only those that

retain the savor by the grace of God are the true Christians. They resist temptation instead of giving in. They do not do the things that unconverted friends do. So, are you salt that has savor to it, or have you lost your savor, the influence?

The message from Jesus, from the apostles, and what should be from preachers today is found in Mark 6:12 – "And they went out, and preached that men should repent." Repentance is a sorrow for sin and not the fact that one was caught in sin. It is something determined between the sinner and God, not a potential loss of earthly recognition. But, if one

truly repents, we are told, "Repent, and turn [yourselves] from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin" (Ezekiel 18:30). It is the same in the New Testament by reference made in Acts 26:20: "they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance." Basically, the works that show repentance is to stop doing the sin. Too many Christians either do not repent or they say they repent but continue excusing sin in their life. So, have you truly repented and stopped doing the sins, or are you not truly repentant?

The famous words of Peter are found in Acts 5:29: "We ought to

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Who Is the Real Antichrist?

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obey God rather than men". The word "obey" is the holy and sanctified life, which is the expectation of every Christian, otherwise they are Christian in name only and will be lost. To obey God rather than men is beyond the walls of a council or courtroom. If man allows "little lies", a Christian will not lie. If man allows a bit of nudity to be viewed in movies and suggestiveness in TV programs, a Christian will not view it. If man changes the day of the Sabbath, a Christian will keep to the seventh day – Friday night until Saturday night – as God's Sabbath. In other words, it is man that has changed or done away with the commandments even by the disguise of being a minister, but it is up to the Christian to follow or stick with God's Word. So, do you stick with God's Word?

Romans 2:3 clearly teaches that any who think they are "saved" yet do the same sins as those that are not "saved", are not going to escape the judgment of God, in other words, they will be judged as lost. "And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?" Therefore, to stop being like the rest of the world is to live the holy and sanctified life. We are not to participate in or be entertained in prideful things, such as sports. We are not to open ourselves up to listening to violence, bloodshed, and sexual content. There are many things the world finds acceptable and justifiable in the content that we are not to be part of, else, our minds shall be

conformed, and we shall be lost. So, are you doing or enjoying the same sins of the world, or are you "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:18)?

If in 1 Corinthians 3:3, Paul is condemning the church members living carnal or worldly lives, then the expectation of a Christian is to stop living such worldly lives. "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas [there is] among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" In fact, "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:6). "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). This clearly puts the contrast between real Christians and "in name only" Christians. Every Christian entertained by the world through its sports, TV, movies, music, political agendas, fashion, foods, drinks, even slang and hand gestures, and much more are not true Christians. And "in name only" Christians are not saved despite proclaiming it. So, do you walk as the world or as Christ?

2 Corinthians 5:11 states, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences." Being manifest unto God and even

forming a conscience approved of God is the expected holy and sanctified life. Anything short is a dead relationship with God. When we are justified, freely forgiven and freely offered eternal life, every day is to be a growing experience. What we hated of sin one day ought to strengthen today and the next day. What righteousness we love one day ought to be strengthened as well. Our conscience does not instantly become perfect. It takes time. Some people who were into television initially cut out the real raunchy content. Eventually, the little allowances for other programs containing mildly objectionable content will cause the conscience to form to the point where they do not want that either. And over time, they may form a conscience that declares that they do not even want TV anymore. If we are not manifesting a conscience like this in all aspects of our lives, we are merely Christian in name. As Jesus said, "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear" (Mark 4:28), referring to Christian growth, we are to keep growing. If we are not growing, we then will wither and die. So, are you becoming manifest unto God and manifesting a good and righteous conscience formed by being in God's Word daily, or are you lax and dying spiritually, thinking, "What does it matter? I'm saved anyways!?"



Study to Shew Thyself Approved Unto God—(2 Timothy 2:15)

Imaginations Leads to End Time Events

1. Those without God in their life, where do the imaginations head towards? **Genesis 6:5**
2. At what age do they tend into that direction? **Genesis 8:21**
3. What aids the world in accomplishing a lot of that evil? **Genesis 11:6**
4. What shall this unification lead to? **Psalms 140:2, Revelation 12:17**
5. What does this unification resist? **Jeremiah 11:8, Exodus 34:28, Hebrews 10:16**
6. What do they refuse to do? **Jeremiah 16:12**

7. What will they choose to follow instead? **Jeremiah 18:12**
8. What specifically will be involved? **Jeremiah 13:10, Revelation 13:16**
9. What lie shall be taught? **Jeremiah 23:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:3**
10. When all nations are gathered outside the Jerusalem, the New Jerusalem that is, what will the result be? **Jeremiah 3:17, Revelation 20:9, Revelation 21:2-5**

May 2024

Jesus in the Old Testament

1. What did Jacob dream, and what were the angels doing? **Genesis 28:12** “a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven” and “angels of God ascending and descending on it”.
2. Who did Jesus say the ladder applied to, and what were the angels also doing? **John 1:51**

“the Son of man” and “the angels of God ascending and descending”.

3. What was the name God used when He spoke to Moses? **Exodus 3:14** “I AM THAT I AM”.
4. What did Jesus call Himself? **John 8:58** “I am”.
5. What was Moses to strike? **Exodus 17:6** “the rock”.
6. What did it symbolize? **1 Corinthians 10:4** “that Rock was Christ”.
7. What was Moses commanded to make? **Numbers 21:8** “Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole”.
8. What did that symbolize? **John 3:14-15** “the Son of man be lifted up”.
9. What did the builders refuse to use? **Psalms 118:22** “The stone”.
10. What did that represent? **Luke 20:17-18** “head of the corner” and “Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder” (referring to Jesus), **Ephesians 2:20** “Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]”, and **1 Peter 2:6-7** “the head of the corner” and “he that believeth on him shall not be confounded” (referring to Jesus).



Questions & Answers

QUESTION:

Was Joseph previously married or is that just tradition?

ANSWER:

There was no doubt in the discussion that Jesus had siblings. This is biblically evident in Mark 3:32, which says, "Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee", and more specifically in Matthew 13:55-56, "Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this [man] all these things?"

The belief is that Joseph had all the other siblings with a prior wife, who probably died, and then he remarried by marrying Mary giving birth to only Jesus.

Now, if Joseph only had Mary to wife, that would make Jesus the eldest son, even the eldest child. And that would mean that Mary gave birth to the additional children, which is possible, as Joseph waited until after the birth of Christ to "know" her (Matthew 1:25). That verse is also what declares Jesus to be the oldest.

The deciding verse is at the cross and not where people would think to search, which is typically around the verses regarding Jesus' birth and everything leading up to it. According to John 19:26-27, it tells us, "When Jesus

therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own [home]." Upon the death of Jesus, the care of His mother was not left for Him to decide. According to family practice, the care of Mary would automatically fall upon the eldest brother seeing that Joseph had died before Jesus became thirty years old. Jesus would have no right to take that responsibility away from His brother or brothers and place it upon John, a non-relative.

Therefore, at least all of Jesus' brothers have to be step-brothers because even one brother born of Mary would place the responsibility upon that brother automatically without the allowance of Jesus to just give her away to someone else. To have step-brothers means that those boys were connected to Joseph at the very least. That exact connection allows for only one other possibility, and that is the fact that Joseph indeed was previously married. Step-brothers are not responsible for the elderly care of a step-mom. They can care for a step-mom if they choose, but they are under no obligation to do so. Jesus could have asked ahead of time but did not. He assigned the responsibility, being the only Son of Mary, to John. This act of giving

Mary away to, technically, a stranger, John, proves that Joseph was previously married and brought step children into the family mix.

QUESTION:

Is cremation an acceptable practice as nothing is stated explicitly in the Bible?

ANSWER:

That is a very good question. Those who die through burning have no choice. So, that leaves the choice to the living, whatever their final wishes for the deceased would be. Many choose cremation because it is less expensive, does not clutter a plot of land, etc. The Bible is silent on the matter, also on the word cremation. This does not mean that silence gives permission, nor does it mean forbiddance.

However, if Joseph gave specific instructions to the care of his dead body, as many other examples in the Bible also declaring what to do with the body after death; and seeing that John the Baptist along with Paul, both being beheaded, had their bodies carried off for burial, and likewise all other deceased bodies, seems to indicate that burial would be the directed method of care, we conclude that there is strong implication that burial is the way of God.

God said that we would return to the dust, but ashes of the cremated would already be burnt up dust. Then to really get deeper into the subject, it appears that God is the one who does the burning (Sodom and Gomorrah, Hell, etc.). I do not read in scripture of a saved person's body being burnt while I do see King Saul's body being burnt along with his sons (in a general sense), although that may have included Johnathan, presumably saved, but it was not his choice. The reference to King Saul's sons may not have been all of his sons, but then again, it may have. There is no mention in the Bible of a saved person's body being burnt by his own directive.

Now, let us investigate the origins of cremation. According to *How Stuff Works*, "Burning a corpse as a final rite of passage has been in practice. In the western Roman empire, cremation was the standard until the first century A.D., often associated with military honors. With the spread of Christianity, cremation was frowned upon and disappeared for the most part in Europe by the fifth century A.D., except in unusual cases such as epidemics or war. In Asia, cremation became popular in areas of Buddhist influence under certain dynasties in China and Korea until about A.D. 1300."

According to *Britannica*, "The practice of cremation was introduced to the Western world by the Greeks as early as 1000

BCE. They seem to have adopted cremation from some northern people as an imperative of war, to ensure soldiers slain in alien territory a homeland funeral attended by family and fellow citizens. The Iliad makes plain how elaborate and important cremations were. In that, Zeus himself forced Achilles to surrender Hector's body to his father so that he, King Priam of Troy, could have it cremated royally. The greater the hero, the greater was the conflagration. Achilles set the pattern in providing a pyre 100 feet (30 metres) square for his friend Patroclus. Achilles himself was incinerated even more gloriously after his death—in 'raiment of the gods' after 17 days of mourning. After the flames were quenched with wine, his bones were bathed in oil and wine and placed in a golden urn with those of Patroclus. Lavish funeral feasting and funeral games followed, and a great tomb was erected for him on a headland above the Hellespont. The pagan Scandinavians favoured cremation, believing that it helped free the spirit from the flesh and also that it kept the dead from harming the living. These pagans' practices paralleled the Greek and Roman epic cremations. After the Icelandic conversion to Christianity in 1000 CE, cremation was rare in western Europe until the 19th century, except in emergencies. During an outbreak of the Black Death in 1656, for example, the bodies of

60,000 victims were burned in Naples during a single week."

According the Catholic resource, *New Advent*, "The burning of heretics was first decreed in the eleventh century. The Synod of Verona (1184) imposed on bishops the duty to search out the heretics in their dioceses and to hand them over to the secular power." The Catholic Church turned the act of cremation into a punishment. By burning heretics at the stake, it was a form of condemning the soul to the flames of hell (*Journal of Medieval History*). Additionally, since Christianity, by large, did not practice cremation, recognizing that the pagan connection and disrespect to the body, by burning the heretic, it was meant as an insult, an ultimate disrespect, and even to go as far as to believe once a body has been reduced to ashes, it is forever considered lost. Of course, that is not true for "the LORD looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Of course, accidental burning does not constitute cremation, meaning, if a person were to die in a house fire, or a factory setting involving flames, etc., they are not automatically lost. It was not their choice. But overall, we ought not follow any of the reasons today for cremation as none of them have biblical connections approved of God.



News and Comments

April 9

Local 10 News

Woman shoots interstate drivers, says God told her to because of the eclipse, Florida police say

Anyone claiming that God speaks to them causing them to act or to teach in the manner directed by God, that person becomes a mouthpiece for God, even known as a prophet. In this case, "many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). To randomly kill people because it is the eclipse makes no sense whatsoever. The voice she heard was not from God, but "no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14).

April 26

Penn Live

New Bible chapter found after 1,500 years of remaining hidden

The article states, "This discovery has provided a 'unique gateway' into how the Bible has changed over time." Therefore, even if the find is something notable and not another attempted trick to justify modern translations, it already undermines people's belief in the Bible. To state that the Bible basically is in constant change means that even Christians who do not want to believe in the Bible, now have reason to disbelieve. "Thy word [is] true [from] the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments

[endureth] for ever" (Psalms 119:160).

April 28

New York Times

After Period of Chastity, Hollywood Movies Embrace Sex Again

Christians who justify these types of movies thinking that they are not influenced by them are working against what the first counsel stated that Christians ought to practice: "But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and [from] fornication, and [from] things strangled, and [from] blood" (Acts 15:20).



Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? John 18:38

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Galatians 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into

him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ:

Ephesians 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit [is] in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Colossians 1:5-6 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as [it is] in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as [it doth] also in you, since the day ye heard [of it], and knew the grace of God in truth:

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received [it] not [as] the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

2 Thessalonians 2:12-13 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

1 Timothy 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a work-

man that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, **James 5:19-20** Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, [see that ye] love one another with a pure heart fervently:

2 Peter 1:12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know [them], and be established in the present truth.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1 John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

1 John 3:18-19 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

1 John 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

1 John 5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, [even] Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

2 John 1:3 Grace be with you, mercy, [and] peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.



Natural Remedies

Fenugreek Seeds for Managing Blood Sugar Results

Fenugreek seeds, known as methi dana, are good for managing diabetes. Packed with fiber, they work by slowing down carbs' breakdown, helping control blood sugar levels. Studies show they

can reduce fasting glucose and HbA1c levels.

These seeds also have other benefits, like lowering the glycemic index in diets with rice or wheat, and they are rich in vitamins and antioxidants. You can

enjoy them soaked in hot water overnight, in salads, or roasted, ground and sprinkled on for adding a nutty flavor to your meals.

