

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Bible Answers to Life's Great Questions

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Philosophers and intellectuals have endlessly debated about life's great questions:

Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? Their answers are long, complicated, and wordy, but they fail to instill inward peace or give guidance. The Bible, on the other hand, provides answers that give men hope and purpose in life.

Where did we come from? Genesis 1-2 recounts the story of creation. Over the first five days of creation, God made root, branch, and twig, fish, and flying fowl, and provided light and moisture to sustain these life forms. Day six saw the beginning of man, a creature made in the likeness of God. Man was formed by God from the dust of the earth and was given a conscience to discern right from wrong. From the rib of man the Lord made woman. The Bible's answer to the question of our origin: **GOD**.

Why are we here? Many wander aimlessly through life. Others have aim, but that aim is temporal and short-sighted. They work to be millionaires; they grasp for fame; they seek to dis-

cover something new. Yet, while their children may benefit from their fortune, while their grandchildren may inherit a respected name, while posterity may enjoy a higher quality of life because of an ingenious invention, what have they gained in the end? They struggle and strain for a lifetime with only the hope of being dead like Rover, dead all over (and they don't even have a tail to flip over). King Solomon, the wise sovereign, sought to find fulfillment in fame and fortune, pleasure and possessions only to conclude “Vanity of vanities! All is vanity” (Eccl. 12:8). He finally decided that “the conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person” (Eccl. 12:13). This is a fitting conclusion; since all creation was formed for God to bring Him honor and praise, all creation should fear Him and keep His commandments (Col. 1:16; I Co. 8:6) The Bible's answer to the question of our purpose in life: **TO SERVE GOD & OBEY HIM**.

Where are we going? King Solomon spoke of a day of judgment, when good and evil deeds will be brought to light for

all to see (Eccl. 12:14). On that great and glorious day when Christ returns, the dead and the living will be given spiritual bodies and will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (I Th. 4:16-17). There, the righteous will be separated from the wicked (Matt. 25:32-33). The righteous will be sent away into eternal life (Matt. 25:46) to mansions prepared for them by Christ in Heaven (John 13:2-3). The wicked, on the other hand, will be sent into eternal punishment (Matt. 25:46) to suffer unquenchable fire in Hell (Mark 9:47-48). The Bible's answer to the question of our eternal destiny: **HEAVEN OR HELL**.

Knowing our origin, purpose in life, and final destiny, what sort of people ought we to be in holy conduct and godliness (2 Pet. 3:11-13)? Knowing that the night is coming when no man can work, should we not serve the Lord while it is yet day (John 9:4)? Let us not lay up for ourselves treasures on this earth, for they will only rust and decay. Rather, let us lay up for ourselves treasures in Heaven (Matt. 6:19-20).