

Question Night

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Introduction: Are we looking for Bible answers to the issues of life?

I. There are many popular books that talk about the rapture and the seven years of tribulation and the second coming of Jesus. Does the Bible really teach the seven years of tribulation or what does the Bible teach about the second coming?

A. Let us first consider what the Bible says about the rapture.

1. While the word is not found in the scriptures the meaning is. (**1 Thess 4:17**)
2. caught up - ἀρπάζω harpazo - catch up 4, take by force 3, catch away 2, pluck 2, catch 1, pull 1; 13 □ 1) to seize, carry off by force 2) to seize on, claim for one's self eagerly 3) to snatch out or away
3. When Jesus returns those who are alive in Christ will be caught up (raptured) to be with Jesus. This is true!
4. Most people who talk about the rapture however believe in a system of teaching called premillennialism that is filled with errors.

B. What does the Bible say about the tribulation.

1. There are numerous tribulations spoken of in the New Testament. (**Mk 4:17; Rev 2:10**)
2. In the premillennial system certain passages are appealed to. (**Mt 24:21,29; Rev 7:14**)
 - a. Matthew 24 deals with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.
 - i. The question was asked about the temple. (**Mt 24:1-3**)
 - ii. This tribulation could be avoided. (**Mt 24:15-22; Lk 21:20-24**)
 - iii. This would occur within the generation that hear Jesus. (**Mt 24:34-35**)
 - b. The struggle in the book of Revelation likely deals with the Roman empire. (**Rev 7:14**)
 - i. The struggle has begun when the book was written. (**Rev 1:9**)
 - ii. These things would “shortly take place.” (**Rev 1:1**)
 - c. Is there yet a future tribulation?

C. What does the Bible say about the second coming?

1. Jesus will come again - (**Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess 4:13-18**)
2. There will be one resurrection of both the righteous and wicked. (**Jn 5:28-29; Acts 24:15**)
3. Every person will witness this and then the earth will be destroyed. (**2 Pt 3:10; Rev 1:7**)
4. Where does this leave the doctrine of premillennialism?

II. Did creation occur over a literal period of one week, that is seven, twenty-four hour days? Or did creation take place over a much longer period of time? How long?

A. From the wording of Gen 1 and other passages I can draw no other conclusion than seven consecutive twenty-four hour days. (**Ex 20:8-11; 31:6-7**)

B. Why would someone draw another conclusion? (**Heb 11:2**)

III. What lessons can we learn from Moses prayers to God that resulted in God's

relenting over His planned destruction of Israel?

- A. After the giving of the 10 commandments Israel entered into an idolatrous worship that caused God to proclaim their destruction. **(Ex 32:7-10)**
1. Moses appealed to God on the basis of His glory and God relented. **(Ex 32:11-13)**
 2. On the issue of forgiveness there was more to be done than just Moses intercession. **(Ex 32:30-35)**
- B. After rejecting the exhortations of Moses to take the land the people tried to kill Moses. God was again ready to destroy them.
1. God again relented from this destruction. **(Num 14:10-19)**
 2. Moses appeals to God on the basis of His glory and His character. In effect Moses quotes God to God!
 3. Also on the basis of His glory God refuses to let this generation enter the land. **(Num 14:20-25)**
- C. What can we learn from this?
1. The prayer of one righteous man can avail much. **(Jas 5:16)**
 2. We need to know our God so that we might properly appeal to Him.
 3. There are some things we cannot accomplish in prayer. **(Jer 15:1-2)**

IV. How did Paul receive the Holy Spirit? Was it the laying on of hands by Ananias?

- A. There is a gift of the Holy Spirit that every Christian receives. **(Acts 2:38-39)**
1. Every Christian received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit but not all had miraculous gifts! **(Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19-20)**
 2. Please do not conclude that there was only one gift of the Holy Spirit. **(Acts 8:14-19)**
- B. Paul was healed by Ananias but did not receive a special gift of the Spirit from him. **(Acts 22:12-13)**
1. Ananias was not an Apostle.
 2. The apostles received their special gift directly from God. **(Acts 2; 2 Cor 12:11-2)**

V. If my friend or family member who has been a faithful Christian at another congregation leaves God for a life of sin, does the Bible teach that I have a personal responsibility to withdraw socially from this person even if an official church withdrawal has not occurred?

- A. There is a process where a local church must “deliver to Satan” one who refuses to repent. **(1 Cor 5:1-6)**
1. As a result there is to be no purely social association. **(1 Cor 5:9-11)**
 2. The goal is the salvation of their soul.
- B. Paul as an individual also delivered one to Satan. **(1 Tim 1:18-20)**
- C. What is the purpose of your association with the unfaithful Christian? Please be careful in how you deal with such a situation.

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