

Answers to Q&A Questions (Text Line) – Sunday April 12, 2020
By Ryan Jorgenson

1. **What do we know about ' where Jesus was' when he was buried? He was apart from the father, but where was He?**
2. **Where do you think Lazarus went while he was dead? Like before Jesus rose him from the dead?**

I am answering both of these questions together because they have most of the same answer from Scripture.

Jesus spoke of a waiting place before His death and resurrection occurred that is sometimes called Hades in Luke 16:19-31.

It is further described in 1 Peter 3:18-20. Also in this passage we learn Jesus preached a sermon to those waiting there during His three days between His death and resurrection. It tells us, *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh **but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.***

2 Peter 2:4-5 also speaks to God putting the demons who sinned in Noah's day into this place, awaiting final judgment by God.

All this to say, the main interpretation of Scripture among Christian scholars about life after death pre-Christ's resurrection, as well as where Jesus went during those 3 days, was a place called Hades. Hades appears to be split into 2 parts, divided by an impassable chasm. On one side you had people who both believed in God as well as trusted Him to bring a future Messiah. This is called "Abraham's bosom" or "side". When Jesus rose from the dead, He freed these believers from this waiting place and brought them to Heaven with Himself. It appears from Matthew 27:52-53 some of these waiting believers were allowed to raise from the graves in Jerusalem to be witnesses that Jesus is the Messiah. They probably ascended shortly afterwards to Heaven as Jesus later did, but we do not know for sure.

The other side was for unbelievers and demons judged by God at the time of Noah (Spoiler alert! We will be diving into this more in the sermon in a couple of weeks!). This part of Hades still exists. Hades is not the final judgment place called Hell, but a temporary holding place until the end of this age when God first throws Satan and the anti-christ into Hell (Revelation 20:10; 13-15). When unbelievers die today, this is where they go to wait for final judgment.

3. **What is the corroborating physical evidence for an unbeliever who might say the Bible is only one source. Just like the Qu'ran is one source. (We don't agree to believe what the Qu'ran says just because Mohammed and his believers claim it's true.)**

The Bible consists of 66 books written by at least 40 different human authors. So in that sense, it is not one source. But, ultimately all 66 books were written by one source, God Himself using the 40 human authors

like pens in His hand, as 2 Timothy 3:15 which says, “All Scripture is God-breathed...” and 2 Peter 1:20-21 explains.

The next question is, “What books are the Scriptures, then?” There are great resources out there explaining how the Jewish people determined what writings were from God and included in Scripture as well as Christians for the New Testament. It is too long to write here. I will direct you to one book among many, [From God to Us: How We Got Our Bible](#) by Norman Geisler.

If someone is wanting God to come down and tell us Himself that these 66 books alone are all from Him, then they need to listen to Jesus. Jesus is God, came here and treated the 39 books of the Old Testament as all from God. He quoted from 24 of the 39 books directly, and summarized them all as from God in places such as Luke 24:44. And then Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would continue to speak through apostles His words in the future (aka: the New Testament) John 14:26. Therefore, point such a person to consider that Jesus is God who came to save us. Once they accept that, they should accept everything else He said, including His assertions that the Bible has one source, the Triune God.

4. How can you know that the Bible is God speaking to us not just mans writing?

This is connected to the previous question yet has a little further answer to it. The Bible itself claims about itself that it is from God and not man.

2 Peter 1:20-21 ...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Additionally, the Holy Spirit affirms He is speaking to us through reading the Bible in an inner impression or presence. This is described in Romans 8:16 *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

This personal assurance is displayed for us in what happened to Cleopas and another follower of Jesus on the road to Emmaus when Jesus shared the Scriptures with them. Luke 24:32 *They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"*

No other piece of literature in history has as many individuals throughout the ages testify that the writings changed their lives from the inside out such as the Bible has. That is evidence God is the ultimate one who didn't just originally give the Bible, but is still speaking through it today for “those who have an ear to hear.”

5. After the resurrection, Jesus had the scars of the crucifixion. His physical body was raised but had he also received the spiritual body as well?

This is one of the most impactful facts to my walk with Christ. You're exactly right, Jesus has His crucifixion scars even though He has His resurrected body!

1 Corinthians 15:35-54 informs us our new bodies in Heaven will be imperishable with no more sickness, pain or decay forever. Our bodies will be brand new. That means all scars, ailments, deformities, parts not working (like my deaf right ear), etc. will be gone and working perfectly!

So why does Jesus still have His scars in His resurrection body? We do not know for sure, but some believe it is to be a humble reminder to His people throughout all eternity of the extent of His love for us, most displayed on the cross. Wow! Is it Sunday again yet so we can praise Him together? Join you all again Sunday at 9:30a livestream!