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# THE BIBLE TEACHER

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## *EDITORIAL*

### The Hot Place

Here in Delhi during the last weeks of April and the first part of May, it has been very hot. This has been the talk of everyone and each one in his own way has tried to find some relief. But it is not over yet and it will probably get much hotter before it begins to cool off with the coming of the monsoons.

At a time when the heat is so severe, when there is so much sickness and misery with the many other side effects of hot weather, then perhaps this is a good time to discuss the subject. Of course no one enjoys the heat, and all are constantly trying to find ways to cool off. All kinds of fans and coolers are brought into operation. Ice is in heavy demand. Everyone is constantly looking for something to drink. And worlds of people sleep outside at night in search of a little breeze that will enable them to get some rest. Also those who can afford it try to get away to a hill station and to some cooler climate.

This should likewise be a good time to discuss another hot place...HELL. If we don't like the present heat then we certainly will not like the heat of eternal hellfire. If we are trying to

escape this heat, then we most surely will want to escape that which is in store for the wicked.

Did you know that there is such a place as HELL ? This word is translated from the Hebrew word, Sheol, which means the place of the dead. In the New Testament the word is used in two different ways. In one it is translated from Hades which means the same as Sheol, the place of the dead. In the other it is translated from the word Gehenna which means a place of punishment for the wicked. We are using this word in this last sense.

Hell is a real place that was originally prepared for the Devil and his Angels. (Matthew 25:41). It is likewise said to be a place for the wicked, the ungodly, the evil, the unrighteous, the sinner, etc. We read, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone : which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8). Of these Christ says, "where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:44).

As a place hell is described as being a lake of fire (Revelation 21:8), of flames (Luke 16:24). Weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 8:12); torment (Luke 16:28), burning with fire and brimstone (Revelation 21:8), forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10).

This punishment is something that shall take place in the next world. Christ will eventually come again. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). At his coming the world (heavens and earth and all things) shall be burned up and destroyed. (2 Peter 3:10-13). At this time the Lord will gather all of the people of all the world unto him and the judgment will take place. (Matthew 25:31-46). The righteous will be saved but the wicked will be cast into the lake of fire where they will be punished for ever and for ever, for all eternity.

Some argue that hell is not forever, but it will continue as long as heaven does. If one is eternal in nature then the other is the same. (Matthew 25:46). But why would a loving God send a soul to hell where they will be punished forever more? The point is, the Lord will not send anyone to hell. Rather, he would have all to repent and to obey him. (2 Peter 3:9; Acts 10:34,35). He has even provided salvation to all who will accept it. Moreover, he extends his grace to one and all and begs and pleads with man to heed his will, and even warns him of the consequences of refusing him. Therefore, if man goes to hell then he himself will be the one responsible for it.

Do you want to go to hell? If not, what are you doing to keep from going there? Peter says, "For the time is come that the judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator." (1 Peter 4:17-19).

There is only one way to escape hell and that is to obey God now and to prepare to meet the Lord when he comes again. If you go through this life wasting your opportunities to learn the truth, and thus you fail to obey it, there will be no hope for you in the next life. But if you'll become aware of God, study his word and learn his will, and then obey it and be faithful to him, then heaven can be yours one day. Christ has invited one and all to come to him. He says that "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be condemned." (Mark 16:16). If you'll do this, become a Christian and a member of his church, worship him each Lord's day, and live the faithful Christian life, then he'll reward you with a crown of life (Revelation 2:10), which means eternal life.

Surely you don't want to go to hell. It is a terrible place where all the wicked and ungodly will dwell. It is a place where you will never be able to find any relief. The Lord pleads with you not to go there, and we plead with you not to go there. Moreover, if the evil and wicked could come back they would plead with you not to come there. Why then should you go? It is certainly not necessary. You can escape it, and you will, if you are wise.

### *ASSOCIATE EDITORIAL*

## Seriousness of Obedience

Faith is a great principle. The Bible, in Hebrews 11:6, says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him : for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." However, the Bible also clearly teaches that there are two kinds of faith, that is, a dead faith by which no one can be justified or saved, and then there is a living faith by which men are justified or saved from their sins. In the Bible a dead faith is defined as a faith without works, that is, a faith which obeys not the commands of God. In contrast, a living and saving faith does the will of the Lord. James, writing by the inspiration of God, said, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?...Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yes, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works; show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well : the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know O vain man, that **FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD?**" (James 2:14-20). Then citing the example of Abraham he further said, "was not our father Abraham justified by works,

when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by **faith only**." (Vs. 21-24). In verses 25 and 26, conclusively, he further explains, "Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so *faith without works is dead also*".

Then the writer of the book of Hebrews, in chapter eleven, tells us of various people who were justified by faith. But the actual thing that he is trying to show there is that their faith was accompanied with works. For instance, beginning from verse 4, he tells, "By faith Abel *offered* unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and by it he, being dead, yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he *pleased* God....By faith Noe, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, *moved* with fear, *prepared* an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith Abraham when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, *obeyed*; and he *went* out, not knowing whether he went. By faith he *sojourned* in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him in the same promise." Etc. I encourage you to read the whole chapter of Hebrews 11 and James 2.

Now, keeping all this in mind, who would say that one is saved by faith only? It is right that we are saved by faith, but

not until our faith leads us to *obey* God's command to be saved, such as repentance of sins (Acts 17:30), confession of our faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9, 10), and baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Remember, Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **DOETH** the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 7:21). Therefore, no doubt, salvation of your soul depends upon your *doing* the will of God. You can only go to heaven as a saved person if you *do* the will of God. Now what is the will of God for us today? The Bible says, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners-spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." (Hebrews 1:1-2). Therefore God speaks to us by his Son Jesus Christ. So when we do what Jesus says for us to do then we do the will of God. Now, didn't Jesus command faith (John 8:24), repentance (Luke 13:5), confession (Matthew 10:32), and baptism (Mark 16:16)? Remember again that Jesus became the author of eternal salvation but **UNTO ALL THEM THAT OBEY HIM.** (Hebrews 5:9).

## "Win A Prize" Bible Quiz, No. 4

**Quizmaster, Vipul Rai**

**ALL THOSE WHO SEND IN ALL CORRECT ANSWERS WILL RECEIVE A BOOK ENTITLED, CHURCH STUDIES. ACCOMPANY YOUR ANSWERS WITH SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/S**

1. Jesus had brothers in the flesh. True or False.
2. Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light. True or False.
3. Jesus never prophesied his own death. True or False.



4. In Acts, the Philippian jailer heard Paul and Silas preach. He believed in Christ and was baptized the following Sunday. True or False.
5. 2 Timothy 2:10 says that salvation is in Christ. In order to get into Christ one needs to put on Christ. Now can this be accomplished ?
6. The Book of Kings tells us how many proverbs Solomon uttered. Give the number.
7. Who has said in his heart, "There is no God"? Hint: Psalms.
8. How old was Jesus when he began his ministry? Give the reference.
9. Elders of the church must have believing children. True or False.
10. How many mediators are there between God and men ?

**SEND YOUR ANSWERS IMMEDIATELY TO :**

The Quizmaster  
C-22 South Extension 2  
New Delhi 110049

### **ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUIZ, NO. 3**

1. Enoch. Genesis 5:24. 2. King Saul. 1 Samuel 15:22.
3. False. Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18,
19. 4. Jerusalem. Luke 24:27; Joel 2:28-30; Mark 9:1; Acts 2:47.
5. Plurality. Acts 14:23. 6. Atoned. Hebrews 10:1-14.
7. Obey. Hebrews 5:9. 8. Prove Christ Son of God. John 20:30, 31. 9. Time. Matthew 7:21; 25:31-46. 10. Transgression of the Law. 1 John 3:4.

# Evolution VS. Bible

Jess Willis

This is the third of four articles on "evolution."

A study of evolution would never really be complete without bringing out the fact that the Bible stands firmly opposed to it. A Christian cannot remain true to God and His word while holding a philosophy grounded in materialism and which is antagonistic to what the Bible plainly teaches. Some of the basic differences between evolution and the Bible are as follows:

1. Evolution pictures man as evolving from an ape-like beast into a more intelligent animal, whereas the Bible teaches that there was only one original man (Gen. 2:7).
2. The Bible teaches that woman was taken from man's side (Gen. 2:21-23). This leaves no room for evolution.
3. Evolution pictures man as an outgrowth of a primitive beast that is really no different from the lower animals. The Bible teaches that man has an immortal soul (Matt. 10:28; Ecc. 12:7).
4. The Bible teaches that first plants and animals were full grown and whole (Gen. 1:11-12; 1:20-25). This is not the evolutionary concept.
5. The Bible teaches that plants and animals produce after their kind (Gen. 1:11-12; 1:24-25). This is the exact facts that we observe in nature. However, evolution demands that all existing things came from something not its kind.
6. Evolution nullifies the Christian system. If evolution is true then there was no first man, no fall, no sin, no punishment, and no redemption. This makes void the entire redemptive plan of saving man from sin by the blood of Christ (I John 1:7). Thus Evolution says, "Jesus was a fool to die on the cross for you."

7. The Bible teaches that all things were created through Christ (John 1:3; Col. 1:16). How can even the so-called "religious evolutionist" explain the involvement of Christ in evolution?

Beloved friends, from this short examination it is evident that there is no room for harmony between the Bible and evolution. May God grant you the wisdom to believe Him.

## The Bride Of Christ

**Vipul Rai**

Mr. Paul loved Susy very much and married her. Susy too loved Mr. Paul. After the wedding, this is what Susy said to her husband, "Paul, you know I love you very much and that I belong to you, but do you mind calling me Mrs. William instead of Mrs. Paul?"

What a strange tale, you may say. But did you know that this very thing is being done all over the world?

Jesus Christ loved his church so much that he was willing to die for it. Christ's church is the Bride of Christ (Eph. 5:23) because she belongs to him. Christ is the head of the Church (Col. 1:18). Yet today, so-called Christians are telling Christ "Lord, you know we love you and that we belong to you. But instead of showing your ownership and honouring your name, do you mind if we call ourselves by another name, a name you have not authorised?"

The New Testament calls the bride of Christ the following names : the church of God (I Tim. 3:5; I Cor. 1:2), the house of God (I Tim. 3:15), the church of the living God (I Tim. 3:15), the church of the firstborn (Heb. 12:23), the body of Christ (I Cor. 12:27), the church of Christ (Rom. 16:16), or simply, the church (Acts 9:31).

There is only *one* body (Eph. 4:4). The body is the church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23). Hence, there is only one church.

Christ built one church (Matt. 16:18). He himself is its founder. The church began in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2, 3; Lk. 24:47-49; Acts 1:8; 2:38-47). It was built in about 33 A.D. Jesus died to purchase it with his own blood (Acts 20:28). He is the Saviour of the church (Eph. 5:23). Christ said, he would build his church (Matt. 16:18), therefore, the church belongs to him, and must show his ownership and honour him by wearing His name, not anyone else's.

People in the New Testament were saved after they believed in Christ, repented of their sins, confessed Christ to be the Son of God and were baptized (immersed) in water for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 16:31; Acts 2:38; 8:37; Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4). Then the Lord added them to his church (Acts 2:47). Hence the church consists of the saved.

If you have obeyed God's plan of salvation, then you are saved and the Lord has added you to his church, not to any man-made church, and you wear his name, "Christian" (Acts 11:26), and not any human name.

Why not become a part of the church of Christ instead of the church of someone else? Christ is returning one day to take his church with him to heaven. Will you be in that one?

For further help, write to :

New Delhi Bible College

C-22 South Extension 2

New Delhi—110049

## Bible Questions And Bible Answers

Here comes a letter from South India with a series of questions on several subjects. I'll have to be brief. Please bear with me.

### 1. "Baptism of the Holy Spirit."

John said that Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:11). Christ promised the Apostles that the spirit would guide them into all truth. (John 16:13). Then on the Day of Pentecost the Apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2). Only the Apostles received this except for Cornelius and his household, who were Gentiles, to show that the Gentiles were now accepted of God as well as the Jews. (Acts 10,11). No others have received it from that day to this.

### 2. "Laying on of Hands measure of the Holy Spirit."

Since only the Apostles and Cornelius and his household received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, then if anyone received the Holy Spirit it had to be in some other way. For example, the Apostles couldn't do all that needed to be done, and they couldn't be in all the places where they were needed; so after seven were chosen in Acts 6, the Apostles laid their hands on them and they received the power of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 6:6). This proves within itself that all did not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. If they had, then there would have been no need for this. But one of this number went down to Samaria to preach. He performed many miracles there and likewise many believed and were baptized. Then Peter and John were sent for to come down to lay their hands on certain ones. Notice that Philip could not do this but that

<sup>1</sup> on y the Apostles had the power to do so. Furthermore, they did not lay their hands on Simon even though he wanted this power very much and even tried to bribe the Apostles to give it. Read Acts 8. But in studying about the laying on of hands measure of the Holy Spirit, keep in mind that only the Apostles could give it and even though the ones who received it could perform miracles they could not give the power of the Holy Spirit to others by laying their hands on them.

3. "Foreign tongues."

I suppose you have reference here to what the scriptures call unknown tongues, which were foreign tongues. Turn to Acts 2 and read where people from many nations were gathered and they all heard the gospel preached in their own tongue since the Holy Spirit had given the Apostles the power to speak in different languages. When religious people today supposedly speak in other tongues, they cannot understand it, neither can those who hear them, and so they claim that only God knows what they are saying. But the fact is, these people are deceived. They are not speaking in other languages. They are but making meaningless sounds like a baby does before he learns how to talk intelligently. Such people but make a mockery of what God has said.

4. "The Sabbath Day—Jesus observed—the Apostles observed—why not Christians?"

You must understand that Jesus lived under the law and therefore he kept the sabbath. The Apostles also lived under it for a while. However, when Jesus died he took the sabbath day away and since that time God's people have worshipped on the first day of the week. (John 1:17; Matthew 5:17,18; Acts 20:7). Jesus did

not destroy the law but he fulfilled it. We are not living under the Old Testament law but the law of Christ. Read 2 Corinthians 3 and Hebrews 10:9; Hebrews 9:16, 17,

5. "Miracles."

A miracle is something that is contrary to the law of nature. It is not natural. Miracles were performed to convince the people that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and to confirm the word. This was before the coming of the New Testament. After its completion, & it was given to man, there was no longer a need for them and they ceased. Now we go to God's word. (John 20:30,31). Also read 1 Corinthians 13 and James 1:25.

6. (1) "Acts 2:39—Is it for Gentiles too?"

Here the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit are said to be for the Jews, and to those who are afar off, which refers to the Gentiles. By the way, the gift of the Holy Spirit is for every one who obeys God. It carries no miraculous power with it.

(2) "Acts 6:1-6—Laying on of hands. Why not Christians?"

The seven chosen in this case, and who received the laying on of the Apostles hands, were Christians. The Apostles are not here today to lay their hands on anyone, so it is not possible to receive the Holy Spirit today in this way.

(3) "Acts 8:14-17—They received the Holy Spirit. How? Why not now?"

Some of the people in Samaria received the laying on of hands measure of the Holy Spirit from the Apostles, but again may it be pointed out that people today cannot receive this measure of the

Holy Spirit because the Apostles are not here to lay their hands on them.

- (4) "Acts 10:44-47—Why can't we receive the Holy Spirit?"

This was a special case of Holy Spirit baptism to show that the Gentiles were accepted of God as well as the Jews. As Peter relates what happened in Acts 11, he says in Acts 11:15-18 that they received the Holy Ghost as the Apostles did in the beginning. Thus Peter had to go back to the time that the Apostles received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost to find another case of it. If all had received it from the beginning then it would not have been anything special.

- (5) "1 Corinthians 12:13—It says we received the Holy Spirit."

No, it does not. It says we are guided by the one Spirit to be baptized (water baptism here) into one body (church) and have all been made to partake of one Spirit. This has nothing to do with Holy Spirit baptism but shows rather the role the Spirit plays in our obedience. Read also 1 Peter 1:22, 23; John 3:1-18; Acts 2:38, 47; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3,4.

- (6) "Ephesians 5:18,19—Filled with the Spirit."

On obedience one receives the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38) and thus he is to bear the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22,23), ever being directed by the word of the Spirit. (1 Peter 1:22).

- (7) "Colossians 3:16—Explain."

Paul in this case says that we should allow the word of Christ to dwell in us. It is to guide us and direct us.



- (8) "In Revelation there are seven churches; I want to understand about these. Explain."

These are but seven different congregations of the Lord's church. The scriptures clearly show that there is but one body or church. (Ephesians 4:4; Colossians 1:18). But the church is made up of many congregations. (Romans 16:16). Likewise each congregation is made up of a number of members. (1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Romans 16:17,18).

- (9) "Can women preach as men the New Testament teachings?"

No, since they are to keep silent in the church as far as preaching, teaching, praying, and leadership is concerned. (1 Timothy 2:11, 12). In regard to Elders and Deacons, only men are listed. (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1). Women are important in the church, and they have many things to do, but they are not to preach and do other things that men are asked to do when it comes to the leadership of the church.

Send your questions and they will be answered as soon as possible.

## You Don't Think So ?

**Vipul Rai**

"I haven't obeyed Christ but **I don't think** Jesus would condemn me to hell, after all! Jesus is not wishing that any should perish?"

**THE BIBLE SAYS** : "When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting

vengeance upon those who do not know God and upon those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They shall suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord" (II Thess. 1:7-9).

"I believe Christ to be the Son of God and I have repented of my sins but **I don't think** I need do anything else."

**THE BIBLE SAYS** ; "You see that a man is justified by works and **not by faith alone**" (Jas. 2:24). "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins**; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

"I have done all the Bible asks me to do to be saved, but **I don't think** God expects me to meet with the church regularly."

**THE BIBLE SAYS** : "Not neglecting to meet together ....." (Heb. 10:25).

"**I don't think** it is a sin to smoke or drink just once in a while. It doesn't hurt me anyway."

**THE BIBLE SAYS** : "Do you not know that you are God's temple, and that God's spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him." (I. Cor. 3:16-17).

"**I don't think** I am wrong about my beliefs, because my pastor said..."

**THE BIBLE SAYS** : "As we have said before, so now I say again, If any one is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:9). "There are some things in them (Paul's letters) hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures" (II Pet. 3:16).

... ..  
**"I don't think ....."**

What you **think** does not matter anyway, what matters is what the BIBLE says and what GOD thinks !

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord" (Isa. 55:8).

# क्या आप जानते हैं ?

लेखक : सती माई

उस व्यक्ति का जन्म एक छोटे से गाँव में हुआ था व उसे जन्म देनेवाली एक गरीब स्त्री थी । उसका पालन-पोषण एक दूसरे छोटे से गाँव के आदर हुआ । ३० वर्ष की आयु तक वह बहई का काम किया करता था । फिर, उसके बाद के आने तीन वर्षों में उस ने वूम-वूमकर सेवा तथा प्रचार का कार्य किया । जहाँ कहीं भी वह जाता था, वह बहुधा पैदल ही चला करता था । किन्तु जहाँ वह रहता था वहाँ से दो सी मील से अधिक दूर वह कभी नहीं गया ।

किसी भी राजनीतिक संगठन से उसका कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं था । उसने कभी कोई पुस्तक नहीं लिखी । उसने कभी कोई घर अपने लिये मील नहीं लिया । उसका कोई परिवार नहीं था । वह कभी भी किसी स्कूल अथवा कॉलेज में नहीं गया । उसने कभी भी किसी बड़े शहर में कदम नहीं रखा ।

उसका शौक और लोगों की तरह संसार के विभिन्न कार्यों में नहीं था । उसके पास कोई प्रमाण-पत्र नहीं था । संसार व उसमें पाई जानेवाली वस्तुओं से उसे कुछ नहीं लेना था । परन्तु संसार में उसके आने का एक महान् और अद्भुत उद्देश्य था ।

अभी जब कि वह जवान ही था, लोगों के मनो में उस के प्रति ईर्ष्या उत्पन्न हो गई, और बहुरीते उस का विरोध करने लगे । उसके अपने मित्रों ने भी उसका साथ छोड़ दिया । उनमें से एक ने उसका इन्कार किया और एक दूसरे ने उसे पकड़वा दिया व उस के शत्रुओं के हाथों में सौंप दिया । फिर उसे तरहे-तरहे की पीड़ाओं और यातनाओं का सामना करना पड़ा । उसका उपहास व ठट्ठा किया गया । और फिर उसे एक कैम के ऊपर मोटी-मोटी कीलों से जड़कर, दो जकड़ों के बीच में लटका दिया गया । और जब वह कैम के ऊपर मर रहा था, उस समय उस के हृत्कार उसके वस्त्रों को लेने के लिये, जो कि संसार में उस की एकमात्र सम्पत्ति थी, आपस में विटिठ्यां डाल रहे थे ।

उस की मृत्यु के बाद उसे कैम पर से नीचे उतारा गया, और उसके एक दयालु मित्र ने उसकी लीश को एक सुरक्षित कब्र में रख दिया । किन्तु इस घटना के बाद तीसरे दिन वह जी उठा, और कब्र में से बाहर आया और बहुरीते लोगों को दिखाई दिया । फिर, वह लोगों के देखने-देखते स्वर्ग पर उठा लिया गया ।

इस सब को हुए लगभग उन्नीस सौ वर्षों से भी अधिक समय बीत चुका है। किन्तु मनुष्यों के बीच में आज भी उसका नाम बहुत आदर, सम्मान, व भक्तिपूर्ण लिया जाता है। और यह बात सच है व इसे कहने में मुझे कुछ भी संकोच नहीं कि आज तक संसार में जितनी भी सेनाएं हुईं व जितने भी राजनीतिक संगठन हुए, और जितने भी राजा हुए वे सब के सब मिलकर भी संसार को इतना अधिक प्रभावित नहीं कर सके जितना कि उस अकेले व्यक्ति ने किया।

क्या उस के बारे में आप और अधिक जानना चाहते हैं? तो हमें लिखिए। हमारा पता है।

नई दिल्ली बाइबल कालिज

सी-२२, साऊथ एक्सटेन्शन-२

नई दिल्ली ११००४६

## प्रभु यीशु का आना तथा न्याय का दिन

लेखक : एफ़० डेविड

परमेश्वर के वचन, बाइबल में हम पढ़ते हैं कि प्रभु यीशु मसीह इस संसार में अवश्य वापस आएगा। यीशु मसीह जब इस पृथ्वी पर था तो उसने अपने शिष्यों से कहा "मैं फिर वापस आऊंगा" (यूहन्ना १४:३)। जब प्रभु यीशु वापस स्वर्ग में जा रहा था, तो उसके शिष्य आकाश की ओर ताक रहे थे परन्तु स्वर्गदूतों ने शिष्यों से कहा "जिस रीति से तुमने उसे जाते देखा है उसी रीति से वह फिर आएगा।" (प्रेरितों १:११)। पौलूस प्रेरित कुरिन्थुस की कलीसिया को लिखता है, "हमारा प्रभु आनेवाला है।" (१ कुरिन्थियों १६:२२), अतः यह सत्य है कि यीशु मसीह एक दिन वापस आ रहा है।

प्रायः लोग यह प्रश्न करते हैं, कि वह कब आयेगा? बाइबल हमें बताती है कि उसके आने का कोई निश्चित समय नहीं है। अनेक लोग प्रभु यीशु के आगमन की तिथियाँ भी बताते रहते हैं। परमेश्वर के वचन, बाइबल में हम

कोई ऐसा निश्चित समय अथवा कोई ऐसी निश्चित तिथि नहीं पाते जो प्रभु यीशु के आगमन के विषय में बताती हो। यीशु मसीह ने स्वयं अपने वचन में कहा, “उस दिन और उस घड़ी के विषय में कोई नहीं जानता, न स्वर्ग के दूत, और न पुत्र, परन्तु केवल पिता।” (मत्ती २४:३६) तो हमने देखा कि यीशु मसीह जिस दिन वापस आएगा, उस दिन और उस घड़ी के विषय में कोई नहीं जानता परन्तु केवल पिता, अर्थात् परमेश्वर। यदि फिर भी उसके आगमन के विषय में कोई निश्चित समय अथवा निश्चित तिथि बताई जाये, तो यह बड़ी मूर्खता की बात होगी। फिर इसी अध्याय के ४४ वें पद में हम पढ़ते हैं, यीशु मसीह कहता है, “क्योंकि जिस घड़ी के विषय में तुम सोचते भी नहीं हो, उसी घड़ी मनुष्य का पुत्र आ जाएगा।” वह इस प्रकार से आएगा जैसे रात्रि में चोर आता है (२ पतरस ३:१०)। हम जानते हैं, कि जब रात्रि में चोर आता है तो किसी को पहले से बताकर नहीं आता, वह चुपचाप आता है। इसी प्रकार से यीशु मसीह भी आएगा। किन्तु, बहुतेरे लोग यीशु मसीह के फिर से वापस आने में विश्वास नहीं करते। जैसे नूह के दिनों में, जब परमेश्वर एक बहुत बड़ा जल-प्रलय भेजने वाला था बहुत से लोग विश्वास नहीं कर रहे थे, परन्तु अकस्मात् ही परमेश्वर ने जल-प्रलय भेजकर उन सब को नाश किया। और इसी प्रकार जल-प्रलय की भाँति प्रभु यीशु मसीह भी अकस्मात् आ जाएगा (पढ़िए मत्ती २४:३७-३९)।

बहुत से लोग कहते हैं कि यीशु मसीह इस पृथ्वी पर एक हजार वर्ष तक राज्य करने आएगा। बाइबल के अनुसार यह बिलकुल गलत है। देखें, बाइबल इस विषय में क्या कहती है।

यीशु मसीह जब आएगा तो पृथ्वी और उस पर के सब काम जल जाएंगे अर्थात् पृथ्वी नाश हो जाएगी (२ पतरस ३:१०-१२)। अतः यह प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता कि वह पृथ्वी पर राज्य करने आयेगा। फिर बाइबल बताती है कि वह बादलों में आएगा (प्रकाशितवाक्य १:७), तब जीवित और बचे हुए उससे हवा में मिलेंगे (१ थिस्सलुनीकियों ४:१७), जब वह बादलों में आएगा तथा जीवित और बचे हुये उससे हवा में मिलेंगे तब यह कैसे हो सकता है कि वह पृथ्वी पर अपने पैर भी रखे। तो यह कतई गलत है कि यीशु मसीह पृथ्वी पर राज्य करने आये।

अभी तक हमने प्रभु यीशु के आगमन के विषय में देखा कि वह अवश्य

आएगा, कब आएगा। तथा उसके आने के क्या-क्या चिन्ह होंगे। अब हम यह देखेंगे कि वह क्यों आ रहा है, क्योंकि बहुत से लोग यह भी कह सकते हैं, कि आ रहा है तो क्या हुआ? शायद उन्हें इस बात का न पता हो कि वह क्यों आ रहा है।

आइये, इस वास्तविकता को देखें। प्रभु यीशु जब सब से पहले इस पृथ्वी पर आया था, तो वह संसार का उद्धारकर्त्ता बनकर आया था (यूहन्ना ३:१६)। परन्तु अब दूसरी बार वह एक न्यायाधीश बनकर आएगा (प्रेरितों २७:३२) तथा तब वह जगत का न्याय करेगा। क्योंकि न्याय का एक दिन नियुक्त है (इब्रानियों ६:२७)।

यीशु मसीह के आगमन पर सब जी उठेंगे (यूहन्ना ५:२८-२९)। हर एक जीव उसका अंगीकार करेगी (रोमियों २४:२२)। हर एक आँख उसे देखेगी (प्रकाशितवाक्य २:७), और यह न्याय का दिन होगा। न्याय के दिन प्रभु यीशु मसीह क्या करेगा? वह धर्मियों को दुष्टों से अलग करेगा, जैसे चरवाहा भेड़ों को बकरियों से अलग कर देता है (मत्ती २५:३२-३३), जो प्रभु के सुसमाचार को नहीं मानते उनसे वह बदला लेगा (२ थिस्सलुनीकियों २:८) प्रभु यीशु उन्हें जो प्राण देने तक विश्वासी रहेंगे, जीवन का मुकुट देगा (प्रकाशितवाक्य २:२०)।

आज हम स्वयं से यह प्रश्न करें कि क्या उस न्याय के दिन का सामना करने के लिए मैं तैयार हूँ? क्या मैंने प्रभु के सुसमाचार को माना है? यदि नहीं तो आज से ही तैयार होने के लिए तत्पर हो जाएं। हम नहीं जानते हमारा प्रभु कब आ जाए। यदि आप ने अभी तक प्रभु की आज्ञा को नहीं माना है, तो हम आपसे निवेदन करते हैं कि आप प्रभु की आज्ञा मानिए जो उसने नए नियम में बताई है। आप प्रभु के वचन की ओर फिरें, क्योंकि उसका वचन सत्य है (यूहन्ना १७:१७), यीशु मसीह पर विश्वास करें (यूहन्ना ८:२४; इब्रानियों ११:६) अपने पापों से पश्चात्ताप करें (प्रेरितों १७:३०), प्रभु के नाम का अंगीकार करें (रोमियों १०:९-१०; मत्ती १०:३२), प्रभु यीशु के नाम में बपतिस्मा लें (मरकुस १६:१६; प्रेरितों २:३८) तथा प्राण देने तक विश्वासी रहें (प्रकाशितवाक्य २:१०), और अपने को न्याय के दिन के लिए योग्य बनायें।

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