



## Jan-Feb 2022 *Lamplighter*

### (Questions from page 16)

The goal of our recurring “Digging Deeper” Q&A section in the *Lamplighter* is to drive readers to the Word of God. While our publication offers articles and insights to stimulate thought and reflection, the Word of God is the real source of wisdom.

We hope that you were inspired to dig deeper. And we pray that the Holy Spirit has given you insights as you’ve read His Word and meditated upon it.

As promised, we provide the following answers merely to continue the dialogue. Our answers are not exhaustive. For in depth articles dealing addressing each question, we’d encourage you to explore our [christinprophecy.org](http://christinprophecy.org) website. Using our search tool, you can find a treasure trove of material to enhance your studies!

We pray that this feature in the *Lamplighter* always serve to illuminate God’s Word so that it may be ‘a lamp to your feet and a light to your path’ (Psalm 119:105).

- Tim Moore

**Question 1) Dave Reagan’s new book is called *America’s Suicide*. What is the greatest threat to our society today?**

1) Many destructive trends are swirling in our world today. But Dave zeroes in on the ideology driving so much abandonment of our Christian heritage and Christian faith itself: Humanism.

Humanism represents a willful rejection of the divine in favor of a man-centered worldview. That word is imprinted on the gun featured on the cover of the book—indicating humanism’s deadly lie.

Once again, this lie harkens back to the Garden when Satan lied and told Eve that by disobeying God, “you will be like God” (Genesis 3:5). Sin’s corrosive effect on humanity was so great that within 10 generations the LORD determined to blot out mankind from the earth. “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD” (Genesis 6:8).

Noah’s descendants also succumbed to the lure of sin and the ambition to be elevated to godlike status. They built a great tower to reach into the heavens. Humanism has led to tragedies throughout human history. Even Israel’s demand for a human king speaks to the siren song of humanism. God told Samuel, “they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them” (1 Samuel 8:7).

Today, the rejection of God has accelerated and become a widespread stain on our culture. America’s rejection of God has already resulted in Him lowering His hedge of protection (see Romans 1). The inevitable result will be the collapse of our nation. In short, America is choosing to worship mankind rather than God, guaranteeing its own suicide.

**Question 2) How many times was Joshua told to be “strong and courageous”? Why?**

- 2) The LORD told Joshua to be strong and courageous three different times (Joshua 1:6, 7, and 9)

In addition, Moses had emboldened him with similar words in Deuteronomy 31:7, and the people of Israel reiterated that encouragement in Joshua 1:18.

God’s admonition is clearly meant to be a command—one that gave Joshua a charge to lead the people and move boldly into the Promised Land. The Lord clearly wanted to assure Joshua that He would guide and direct his path, just as He had Moses. Following in the footsteps of a great leader can be a daunting challenge. That is why God’s admonition is actually a gracious affirmation of Joshua’s calling and purpose.

The fact that Moses’ charge to Joshua echoed the Lord’s, proves that he was both in communion with the LORD and discerning. Furthermore, Moses recognized the challenge Joshua faced and offered his own encouragement, much like a father offering a word of blessing to a son.

Finally, the people’s acknowledgement of Joshua’s leadership offered him clear evidence that they would follow him as they had Moses. They too echoed God’s own commandment, leaving Joshua with confidence that his leadership would be respected and followed.

There is a reason the writer of Hebrews commands us to assemble together and encourage one another. Just as fighter aircraft never fly solo missions, we too need the “mutual support” of wingmen to be more effective in our service to the Lord. We are to co-labor with others, offering encouragement and admonition as reflects our role in the body of Christ. And, we are to do so all the more “as we see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:23-25).

**Question 3) How does the book of Judges sum up the problem in Israel during that period?**

- 3) Four different times, the writer of Judges comments, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25).

The writer of Judges is very candid in describing the cycle of disobedience, oppression, and deliverance that Israel experienced following the death of Joshua. The judges themselves were raised up by God to deliver His people when they cried out to Him—turning time and again to the true and living God they should never have abandoned in the first place.

The observation indicts the Israelites because they did not honor or obey the LORD their God as their true King and Deliverer. Had they done so, they would never have been oppressed by the Canaanites among and around them. But the comment is also meant to contrast the unification that came when God’s anointed king rallied the people to live as a nation instead of a collection of disparate tribes.

Today, our culture emphasizes being yourself, listening to your own voice, and following your own dreams. Our leaders speak of “your truth”—as if what Francis Schaeffer describes as “true truth” does not exist. But we know that our own consciences are corrupted by sin. Even believers are prone to wander from the Lord we love, and reprobate sinners have no external compass whatsoever. So it is no wonder that they fall into the pit.

Doing what is right in your own eyes is a recipe for disaster. We find meaning and purpose only by yielding to the One who made us and wants to redeem us from our helpless state. Saint Augustine famously wrote in his *Confessions*, “You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in You.”

**Question 4) Name some unlikely exemplars in the lineage of Jesus Christ?**

- 4) Recorded in Matthew and Luke, the lineage of Jesus contains the names of men and women. We know about some of them from the narrative recorded in the Bible, but others are known only by their name.

Suffice it to say that none of Jesus' forebears was without sin. Even his blessed mother, lauded for her faithful submission and obedience, recognized her own need for a savior. If Mary was not sinless (and by her own testimony, she was certainly not), then we know that all of Jesus' ancestors fell short of the glory of God.

Having said that, there are a few that stand out to us:

- Rahab – who was a Canaanite harlot from Jericho until she trusted in the God of Israel and was grafted into the nation
- Ruth – a Moabitess who married a Jewish man (technically in violation of God's command to the sons of Israel), but who showed great faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and was redeemed by her husband's kinsman, Boaz
- David – the greatest king of Israel was also a documented adulterer, murderer, and woefully undiscerning father; yet he is called a "man after God's own heart" because he was contrite and relied on the mercy and grace of God instead of his own righteousness

We could certainly add other names to this list, but the point is that all of us fall short of the glory of God. The people listed above, and all the others in Jesus' lineage, were blessed to be His ancestors not because of some inherent worthiness, but by God's grace.

Similarly, all of us who have been grafted into the family of God are not worthy in and of our own character or deeds; we are joint heirs with Jesus by His grace and because of His finished work on Calvary.

**Question 5) What does the world consider to be the "Great Reset"? What is the greatest reset?**

- 5) The secular elites of the world are touting the coming "Great Reset". By that, they mean a complete overhaul of the institutions and structures of human civilization. They have in mind social, economic, cultural, and governmental changes that harken to a humanist ideology.

A hundred years ago, educational elites like Woodrow Wilson were promising a future without war or want. His proposal for a League of Nations was meant to usher in a period of unprecedented prosperity and international cooperation. The hope was that individual nations would be subsumed into the global order. Such an idea was unacceptable to most Americans, which is why Congress never ratified the treaty that would have ensured the involvement of the United States.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century demonstrated the folly of such utopian thinking. Neville Chamberlain, a believer in trans-national relationships, famously assured the British people of “peace in our time” based on his negotiations with Adolf Hitler. World War II dashed those hopes once again.

Despite repeated evidence to the contrary, the intelligentsia think they can create such a utopia on earth—as long as mankind is freed from the shackles of outdated religious adherence. This is the same mentality that led to the construction of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.

Lamb & Lion Ministries recently hosted a Conference focused on “The Great Reset”. You can access all the presentations illuminating that topic on our [Christ in Prophecy Youtube channel](#).

While the world fixates on a godless “great reset,” Christians have already experienced a much greater reset. When we put our trust in Jesus Christ and embrace Him as Savior and Lord, He takes away our heart of stone and gives us a heart of flesh. His Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us, leading us into all righteousness. And, He seals us as His for all eternity.

As miraculous as that reset is, Christians eagerly anticipate the greatest reset of all. When Jesus comes for His Church, Scripture tells us that we will be changing “in the twinkling of an eye” (1 Corinthians 15:51-53). First, the dead in Christ will rise; then, we who are alive will rise to join them in the air, where we will receive our glorified bodies. That means that our minds will also be glorified.

You can find a wealth of information about the greatest reset that awaits followers of Jesus Christ during at the Rapture by browsing through our website by [visiting our website](#).

**Question 6) According to the Scripture, what is the role of a prophet?**

- 6) We tend to think of a prophet as someone who foretold the future. That is indeed one aspect of what many prophets proclaimed. Prophets like Daniel were given visions of

future events and faithfully communicated what they had seen and been told—even if they did not understand the prophecies themselves.

But, more often, their words and writing dealt with issues contemporary to their listeners. They often opened their pronouncements with the words, “Thus saith the LORD,” demonstrating that their statements were not mere opinions. At times, even those proclamations indicated a divine revelation. Nathan, for example, confronted King David over his grievous sin with Bathsheba.

Other prophets were gifted at simply proclaiming the existing Word of God—relating it to events and situations. Such prophetic discernment coupled with boldness in teaching and preaching led to clarity.

We believe that the Word of God is finished and complete in the entirety of the Bible. So, while God still appears in visions and gives insights to individuals, the office of prophet no longer exists with regard to men called to foretell future events (just as the church has no need for priests). But He does raise up prophetic voices who exercise the other prophetic aspects, including teaching and preaching from the Word of God with discernment and boldness.

The prophets of old teach us something else applicable to our contemporary age. While some people question our focus on national rulers and international political trends, many prophets in the Bible interacted extensively with kings and rulers in their day and age. Reflecting God’s concern over the affairs of man, they encouraged or called out the leaders of Israel (and even pagan nations) as the Lord directed.

### **Question 7) Are there any prophets today? (Yes or No)**

- 7) No. At least not in the plain meaning of the word. The office of prophet is no longer filled today because God’s revelation has been made complete in the Bible. He has already revealed all we need to know regarding future events.

However, God does raise up prophetic voices who speak truth into modern societies and culture. We refer to this as forthtelling and have highlighted several examples over the past few years.

Actual prophets were held to a much higher standard by God. The Bible says that anyone claiming to be a prophet must never speak falsely, lest their life be forfeit (Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 18:20-22). Can anyone alive today claim that level of accuracy?

Although some individuals claim the title of “prophet” and some denominations and ministries use that term casually, doing so reflects a disregard of weight of responsibility that goes with the office of prophet.

Once again, does God raise up prophetic voices still today? Certainly, He does. They urgently present Biblical truth to warn society of God’s impending judgment and proclaim His salvation. Does He still call forth recognized prophets to be His mouthpiece today and foretell future revelations? No. The distinction between foretelling and forthtelling is nuanced, but critical.

**Question 8) David is called a “man after God’s own heart” because he was more blameless than most. (True or False)**

8) False.

As we described above, David was an adulterer and murderer. He was not a model father. At times he feigned mental illness among his enemies instead of trusting in the Lord for his deliverance (similar to Abram’s fear when he lived with Abimelech and the Egyptians).

David was certainly not blameless before God. And there is no indication that he was any more “blameless” than most of his contemporaries. Seeking to compare him (or ourselves) to others misses the more important point that we all fall short of the glory of God.

David’s greatness stemmed from his passionate faith in God and his determination to love and honor Him. His failures merely highlight his contrite heart. Certainly, his sins had repercussions, but David was not cast away from God.

Similarly, God does not call any of us to be grafted into His family because we are “more blameless than most”. Such a mentality leads to a works-based religion, not the grace offered through Jesus Christ. It is only because of God’s amazing grace that we are called, justified, and sanctified.

David’s great Psalm 51 demonstrates the blessing that awaits those who pour out their contrite heart before the Lord: a clean heart and a steadfast spirit.

**Question 9) How do Genesis and Revelation represent “epic battles of the Bible”?**

- 9) The book of Genesis is foundational to all that follows in the Word of God. Without Genesis we would not know about the perfection of God’s created order, the fall of man that led to the curse of God, or the call by grace of a man named Abram.

Similarly, Revelation offers us insight into the “things to come.” It pre-records the culmination of human history, promising Jesus’ victory over the forces of evil and coming Kingdom on the earth.

Both Genesis and Revelation stand as recorded testimony of the only One who was there at the beginning and can see the end. We either accept His testimony by faith or we reject His Word altogether. That is the bottom line that has led to epic battles where the world wants to undermine and discount God’s testimony. The insidious doubt sown by Satan in the Garden (“did God really say?”), has morphed into hostility toward His Word and dismissal of His account of the beginning and end.

In our upcoming [Epic Battles of the Bible: Genesis vs. Revelation streaming conference](#), we will highlight four aspects of the epic battles raging over these two books. Join us for our Streaming Conference on February 5<sup>th</sup>!

**Question 10) In Revelation 21, He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” When will that happen?**

- 10) Once again, any of us who have put our faith in Jesus Christ have already become new creations. We have been given a new heart. We are being transformed by the renewing of our minds as the Holy Spirit molds us into the image of Christ (Romans 12:2). We are promised a new future of eternal blessing in the presence of God. And yet, these promises also have an “already, but not yet” aspect.

We know that in this life we will have trouble. We do not yet have the mind of Christ, which is why our flesh wages war against our spirit. We long for the culmination of our faith when we see face to face, instead of through a glass dimly. That time will come when we go to be with the Lord upon death—or when He gathers those Christians still alive to Himself at the Rapture.

I can hardly wait for either event, because both represent the glory that awaits me. As I’ve long said, “I can’t wait until I learn to have patience!”

If we live out a normal lifespan, none of us has more than a handful of decades to wait. The signs of the times indicate that Jesus is at the gates of heaven, poised to come for His Bride but waiting for the Father to say “Go”. That could happen any day, any moment.

In the long run (and Christians realize that the long run lasts for all eternity), our wait will be short indeed. We will look back on this period of anticipation as a mere blink of time. All we can say is that soon and very soon, Jesus will come for those who have put their trust in Him. He will wipe away every tear and He will make all things new.

**Hallelujah and Maranatha! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!!**