



Digging Deeper Answers to Questions

Jul/Aug 2022 Lamplighter

(Questions from page 25)

By Tim Moore, Sr. Evangelist, Lamb & Lion Ministries

Dig into God's Prophetic Word as you watch our weekly television program, *Christ in Prophecy!*

The following answers address the "Digging Deeper" questions posed in our July/August 2022 *Lamplighter*. Much more information regarding these and other prophetic topics can be found throughout the Lamb & Lion Ministries website: christinprophecy.org.

If you have additional questions or would like to engage in an online dialogue, contact our Internet Evangelist, Nathan Jones, at webminister@lamlion.com.

1) Dave Reagan's new book is *What's the Difference in a Millennium and a Millipede*. How many times does the Word of God say Jesus will reign for a Millennium?

Hints of the Millennium are scattered throughout Scripture. For instance, Isaiah 24 prophesies, "The moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and His glory will be before His elders."

Zechariah 14:1-9 also refers to all the nations being gathered against Jerusalem to battle, when suddenly the LORD appears to destroy them in battle. Then, the prophet describes the LORD returning to stand on the Mount of Olives. He foretells, "And the LORD will be king over all the earth, and His name the only one."

God revealed also revealed to Ezekiel that He would reign in Jerusalem: “Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell with the sons of Israel forever” (Ezekiel 43:7).

Clearly, unless we spiritualize those promises away to meaninglessness, none of those promises have yet been fulfilled.

But Revelation 20 tells us six times that this period of when Jesus reigns upon the earth will last one thousand years—or what is known in Latin as a millennium (thousand years). As Dr. Reagan has asked, “What would God have to do to convince us that He’s talking about a reign of a thousand years? Maybe put it up in the sky in neon lights?!”

We’d simply assert that He’s made it abundantly clear in His Word that Jesus will reign for a thousand years. What a glorious time that will be!

2) According to the book of Job, who still has access to heaven?

Job 1:6 says, “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.”

This mysterious passage indicates that Satan has access to God—in a manner that is unfathomable to us. God is holy, and those who have come into His presence have been overwhelmed by their own unworthiness and sin (Isaiah 6:5). But, somehow, Satan is able to come slinking before the Almighty.

Zechariah reveals a similar scene, with “Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him” (Zechariah 3:1). God’s response is telling: “The LORD said to Satan, ‘The LORD rebuke you, Satan!’ ” (v. 2). Satan’s tiresome deceptions and accusations never cease. Revelation also reflects this truth by pointing to a day when it will be said, “the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ has come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night” (Rev. 12:10).

We all look forward to that day. Until then, our “adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Like Job, Peter and the other Apostles were the targets of Satan’s attack and accusations. Prior to his crucifixion, Jesus told Peter, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat” (Luke 22:31).

Demanded? Permission? Clearly, we recognize that “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). But

how exactly those dynamics play out in the heavenly realm we cannot completely understand.

We do know this: “greater is He (Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit) who is in you than he (Satan) who is in the world (1 John 4:7). That blessed assurance enables us to resist the devil (James 4:7).

We also know that in the fullness of time Satan’s access to heaven will be cut off. He will be finally cast down and recognize that his time is short (Revelation 12:7-12). When that occurs, he will indwell the Antichrist and turn with seething hatred upon the Jewish people and the rest of those who still hold to the testimony of Jesus.

For now, recognize that one of Satan’s most effective tactics is to undermine your confidence in Christ by accusing you of past failures. When I served as a hostile interrogator in an Air Force Prisoner of War training scenario, I was taught to trick students into making a foolish error and then repeatedly accuse them of cowardice and failure. Such a tactic typically broke down a trainee’s resistance very quickly—or at least led to them making additional errors. (Our goal was to teach them how to resist more effectively and return with honor.) Satan’s accusations are meant to wear us down and trick us into greater failures and eventual despair. If we keep our eyes upon Jesus, the Holy Spirit will not allow us to be worn down even if we are sifted.

Thanks be to God, our Lord gives us strength to endure. He not only knows our limits, He also promises that we will never be tested beyond what we are able (1 Corinthians 10:13). Do you trust in that promise?

3) Who drew attention to Job and touted his obedient faith?

It seems counterintuitive, but God called Satan’s attention to Job. “Have you considered my servant, Job?” (Job 1:7).

God personally testified that there was no one else on earth like Job, “a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.” It’s as if God challenged Satan to a duel using Job—and Job’s persevering faith—as the arena.

I try to imagine myself in Job’s place, witnessing this scene in heaven unfold. I’d be inclined to say, “No! Please, Lord! Don’t single me out for Satan’s nefarious schemes.” But the reality is that Satan will seek to target anyone who puts their trust in Jesus Christ. He loves to attack those whose downfall would devastate the faith of others. While we do not relish spiritual attacks, those of us who are in Christ have all the power we need to overcome such adversity.

God's confidence in Job was not misplaced. Even in his traumatic affliction, Job did not curse God. His faith did not fail, although he dared to "darken counsel" by uttering "words without knowledge" (Job 38:2). How many people have we heard exclaim, "God's got some explaining to do to me when I get to Heaven!" As if Almighty God must explain Himself to anyone! Job 38-42 demonstrates the foolishness of such a statement.

You can be assured that God does not allow any attack or any suffering to come into your life without giving you the strength to endure. And, He has promised that just like Job, those of us who overcome—submitting ourselves to His will and allowing the power of God to flow through us to His glory—will receive a multitude of blessings (Revelation 2-3).

If He has called you out, He is giving you an opportunity to excel!

4) What does the Psalmist say the Lord does as the nations and the kings rebel against Him?

Psalm 2 says, "He who sits in the heaven laughs, the Lord scoffs at them" (v. 4).

God does not laugh because the rebellion of His creatures is funny. He does not scoff because He is taunting or teasing them. He laughs because the very idea that mortal man can thwart the will of God is ridiculous. All the kings of the earth taking counsel together to stand against the LORD is like a child screaming at the wind or shaking his fist at a hurricane—ineffectual and pathetic.

This great Messianic Psalm points to the humanistic sin in the heart of man. Determined to be liberated from God's sovereignty, men and women since the Garden have been endeavoring to "tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!" (Psalm 2:3). The Psalmist recognized that such an attitude was directed at the LORD and His Anointed—the Messiah.

All the strife in the world today is summed up in that rebellious attitude. Our society is casting itself adrift from all moral truth, let alone the Truth of biblical Christianity, in an effort to tear invisible fetters and cast away unseen cords. Some rebels are bold enough to declare, "Not Your will be done, but my will be done!" Whether those words are stated overtly or not, the attitude is obvious throughout our culture.

Just recently the Supreme Court ruled on a case regarding state funding flowing to parents in such a way that they could choose to send their children to a religiously oriented school. (* See Carson v. Makin, released on June 22, 2022.) While our religious liberty enshrined in the First Amendment was upheld in this case, the dissenting opinion written by Justice Stephen Breyer expressed revulsion at any acquiescence to faith in God—especially

Christian faith. Such a worldview is reflected by a growing portion of the American population.

Zechariah tells us that in the end times, all the nations will come against Jerusalem. In fact, they will be gathered together because of their collective and complete rebellion against God (Revelation 16:13-14). He will go forth and destroy them with the breath of His mouth (Revelation 16:11-21, 2 Thessalonians 2:8).

Do not be deceived. All those who reject Jesus Christ are in rebellion against Him. The choice is yours.

5) T/F: God is not present in the book of Esther.

False. God is the ever-present unseen character that weaves the narrative of Esther's life together.

Some critics like to point out that God is never mentioned by name in the book of Esther. The same is true of Song of Solomon. But, does God's absence as a named character lessen His role in the narrative?

Consider this analogy. If you go and watch a play, you will see characters come and go throughout the performance. Some will be on stage frequently or for extended periods of time. Others will make only fleeting appearances. If the cast is listed in the program, some will receive higher billing than others. In a very large production, some may not be mentioned by name at all.

But whether they ever appear on stage or not, the director is integrally involved in producing the play. Without that individual's guiding hand, none of the activity would flow in a logical manner. And since the director typically chooses the actors and actresses, a play literally would not happen without their involvement.

God's "behind-the-scenes" involvement in Esther is obvious to anyone with spiritual discernment. While scoffers will attribute fortuitous coincidence or "venomous fate" (to cite Rush) as the explanation for all we experience, God is always engaged.

The narrative in Esther moves from one apparent happenstance to another, but those with eyes to see recognize that God's hand was at work throughout Esther's life. Her willing submission allowed her to be the instrument God used in what Mordecai called "such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

Your life is also being woven into a beautiful tapestry by the Master Weaver. While you may not see the completed picture yet, if you will trust Him (loving Him and believing that

you are called according to His purpose), you can be assured that He will work everything in your life together for good—and for His glory (Romans 8:28).

6) Tim, what are some of your favorite Messianic Psalms?

(Psalm 2, 14, 22, 24, 34, 46, and 118)

There are many Messianic Psalms and others that have Messianic references and overtones. Here are a few favorites:

Psalm 2 – As described above, it tells of the age-old rebellion against the LORD and against His Anointed. In the end, it advises the kings and judges of the earth—and each of us as well—to “worship the LORD with reverence and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath may [will] soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!” (vv. 11-12).

Psalm 14 – David wrote, “Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion!” (v. 7). His prophetic hope was fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 22 – Jesus cited this Psalm as He hung on the cross at Calvary. From His first anguished cry (“My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?”) to His dying words (“It is finished” or “He has performed it.”), He likely recited the entire Psalm as His life ebbed away.

Psalm 24 – This is perhaps my favorite Messianic Psalm because in it David poetically charges the ancient gates of Zion to be lifted up that the King of glory may come in! He asks, “Who is this King of glory?” and answers his own question with the exuberant testimony of praise: “The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle... The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.” Amen and amen!

Psalm 34 – Multiple references in this Psalm point to Jesus Christ and His death by crucifixion. For instance, v. 20 says, “He keeps all his bones, not one of them is broken.”

Psalm 46 – This Psalm of the sons of Korah points to the final conflict when Jesus will return to earth to reign over the nations. While He was due praise and honor and glory when He came before, we are looking forward to the day when His prophecy will be fulfilled: “Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth” (v. 10). Soon and very soon...

Psalm 118 – Most of us are familiar with verse 22: “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone.” Anyone who understands architecture may wonder how a rejected stone could be re-inserted as a “chief corner stone.” That is because we envision the stone as the foundational corner stone. The context would suggest that this

corner stone is the capstone—the most beautiful and prominent stone placed last in a structure.

My Israeli pilgrimage guide, Erez Bar David, makes another good point. It is also possible that the psalmist was referring to a keystone—the final stone inserted in an arch that holds all the other stones in place. Without this critical stone, the entire structure would collapse. Either way, we know that Jesus was rejected, but that He has been lifted up on high to be glorified forevermore.

There are many other Psalms with Messianic overtones. What are some of your favorites? We'd love to hear from you!

7) What did the Psalmist Asaph realize might be the result from “running his mouth”?

In Psalm 73, Asaph testified that he grew despondent and began to despair as he witnessed the apparent prosperity of the wicked. Despite their mocking of God, they seem to thrive. At the same time, he considered himself “stricken all day long and chastened every morning”—to the point that he wondered if he had kept his heart pure in vain (v. 13-14).

But Asaph wisely realized, “If I had said, ‘I will speak thus,’ behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children” (v. 15). In other words, had he run his mouth, mindlessly expressing the dark thoughts of his heart, he would have undermined the faith of others—including younger generations. That is a powerful and convicting realization.

Asaph is saying that although doubts were plaguing his heart, he had no business pouring doubt and fear into others. Especially with regard to younger listeners, such careless words would have been devastating to God’s children. Jesus echoed a similar warning: “But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36). When Asaph “pondered to understand this, it was troublesome in [his] sight” (vs. 16). Indeed.

The Lord put this Psalm before me over the past couple of years and challenged me to consider whether my expressions of frustration or anxiety were influencing my own children and grandchildren in a positive or negative way. Witnessing the chaos and violence, the political upheaval and wickedness, the rampant ungodliness infecting our own nation, am I giving voice to dark thoughts or declaring unshakeable faith in Jesus Christ?

Christian pollsters tell us that young people are growing ever more despondent and nihilistic. Even within the Church, the youngest generation is being exposed to a constant dose of hopelessness and doom. We must do better.

I am not advocating putting on rose-colored glasses. And I am certainly not encouraging us to stop calling out sin and rebellion. But we need to be careful that we do not feed our children with stones and snakes when what they need are loaves and fishes (Matthew 7:9-10).

In the end, Asaph came to see the world from an eternal perspective. He understood the inevitable end for all those who rebel against God. That happened when he came into the sanctuary of God—when he “got his mind right.” Right minds, carefully chosen words, and exemplars of Christian faith: those words should apply to all who follow after Christ.

8) What is “the beginning of wisdom”? By extension, what is the culmination of wisdom?

Proverbs 1:7 says “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge/wisdom.”

We live in an era when knowledge is multiplied but wisdom is lacking. An explosion of information (both real and “fake”) can leave our heads spinning. The insidious infiltration of critical theory into every sphere has society questioning truths that were once accepted as self-evident. Echoing Pontius Pilate, many people scoffingly ask, “What is truth?” (John 18:38).

The entire book of Proverbs points to the transcendent value of wisdom. In his writing, Solomon frequently personifies wisdom, offering his son word pictures to encourage him to court and covenant with godly discernment (Proverbs 8-9). Coming from the wisest man in Scripture before Christ, that advice still resonates.

Pilate did not discern when he asked Jesus about what is the truth that he was speaking to Him who is Truth personified (John 14:6).

Similarly, while some climb mountains or make pilgrimages or seek gurus in pursuit of wisdom, Jesus is the culmination of wisdom. He is “the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end” (Revelation 22:13). If you seek wisdom, find Christ. You will gain wisdom—and eternity as well.

9) God is said to hate 6 things. What are they?

Proverbs 6:16-19 tells us there are “six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him”:

1. haughty eyes
2. a lying tongue
3. hands that shed innocent blood

4. a heart that devises wicked plans
5. feet that run rapidly to evil
6. a false witness who utters lies
7. one who spreads strife among brothers.

Isaiah 5:18-22 calls down “woe” on people for other wickedness, including “calling evil good, and good evil.” Jesus made it clear that we do not run afoul of God’s Law merely by committing overt acts of sin, but by sinning in our hearts (Matthew 5:21).

All of us have fallen short of the glory of God and are worthy of His wrath. Yet, for those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, there is now no condemnation (Romans 8:1).

We should ongoingly allow the Holy Spirit to purge us of the leaven of sin, even as we praise the Lord for the forgiveness that is ours in Christ. And, before we are quick to recognize the shortcoming of others in the lists mentioned above and elsewhere in Scripture, we should remember with humility that while *we* were still sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Oh, what a Savior!!

10) Jeremiah—the “prophet of doom” who witnessed great horrors—never wavered in his faith. How did he advise the Jewish exiles to live in the midst of a pagan society?

In Jeremiah 29:1-7 he advised them to “build houses...plant gardens...take wives and become fathers...” Summing up this word of encouragement, God told them to “seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare” (v. 7).

Christians find themselves living as exiles in an increasingly hostile culture today. Surely, this message applies to us. We are not to insulate ourselves from society or celebrate its looming downfall. We are to ongoingly be conduits of blessing to those around us. Jesus said, “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

There is no denying the trends in America and the world. Humanism and paganism are on the rise. Apostasy is growing within the Church. The remnant of those faithful to the true and living God seems to be shrinking. But just as in the day of Elijah, God will preserve a remnant for Himself (1 Kings 19:18). The question is not whether such a remnant will endure, but whether you will put your faith in Christ and remain faithful to the end.

The writer of Hebrews got it right: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful...” (Hebrews 10:23). He went on to urge us to

stimulate one another to love and good deeds, “and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

We see that day right upon us. Do not lose hope; be encouraged!

Lamb & Lion Ministries’ more detailed answers to these questions can be found across many of our articles and videos on our Christinprophecy.org website.