

Life's Momentous Questions

Mankind has been engaged for many years searching for the answers to questions concerning human existence. He wishes to know how he got here, who put him here, what he is doing here, where is he going and how does he get there? Man has a right to know the answers to these, furthermore he must know them. So, let us consider the Bible answers to these pertinent questions.

"Who Am I?" & "Where Did I Come From?"

You have probably wondered before: "Who am I?" and "Where did I come from?" or "How did I get here?" Let us consider for a moment what some people believe. They turn to evolution for their answers. Life evolved from non-living matter. Life forms evolved from single-celled animals into fish, then into reptiles, then into mammals, and then from there into man. So they believe that man is merely the finest product of the evolutionary process; in other words we are simply highly intelligent animals. We know this cannot be true.

Why isn't it true? Because the Bible gives us the real answers to these vital questions. The very first verse in the Bible tells us, *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"* (Gen. 1:1). In the rest of the chapter it tells us that God created all living things. Then in verses 26 and 27 it says, *"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in His image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."* Again in Gen. 2:7: *"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."* Therefore, we came from God, He created us, and we are in His likeness. What is His "likeness" you might ask? Whatever it is, we know that it is unique to man, because the Bible does not tell us that any of the other items of creation were made in His image. Jesus said in John 4:24 that *"God is a spirit."* The "likeness" or "image" of God is His "Spirit." We are different from the rest of creation because we have a spirit in the likeness of the eternal Spirit of God.

"Who Is Above Me?"

Another important question to consider is: "Who is above me?" It could be answered by simply saying "God." But you might inquire "Why is God above me?" For example, if someone came up to you on the job and started giving you orders, you would stop and ask him, "What gives you the right to tell me what to do?" If he answered, "Because I'm the new boss" then you would understand. So, let us consider why God is above us.

First, because God has all authority. He is the top executive in the universe, because He created it all. He created us, so He is the authority on the way man should live his life. For example, if you created a car that could operate on water, not only would you become very rich, but you would be considered the authority on the water-powered car. If anyone wanted to know something about your water-powered car they would come to you. In like manner, God is the authority to see concerning His creation - man. We cannot determine how to lead our own lives, we must depend upon God for our directions. God says, so we must do as He says. He is the Master Mind of creation. He therefore understands all about it and has all the answers. We must rely upon God, because His ways and His thoughts are greater than ours. *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts"* (Is. 55:8,9). We must also rely on His orders in this life because we do not have the ability to live life our own way. After all, our ways lead to misery and death. *"I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself; nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps"* (Jer. 10:23). *"There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death"* (Pr. 16:25).

Also, God is above us, because He is Holy. What does "Holy" mean? To be holy is to be set apart from the world; to be separated from sin. God is holy in that He is 100% pure from sin. God is so much more holy (separated from sin) than man could ever be. God is so holy that He is never even tempted to commit any sin. As we learn in James 1:13. *"Let no man say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted of God'; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man."* God is so holy that He cannot even be tempted. We are often tempted by the

Devil to do wrong, but God is never tempted. If we found a wallet filled with money we might be tempted to keep it for our own, but God would not be tempted at all.

Finally, God is above us because He is the source of all life. He created all living things. He breathed into man the breath of life. Without God there would be no life. If God went out of existence this instance all of creation would cease to exist. Air is a source of life for us. If you cut off all the air in the world all would die. Thus, God as the sustainer of all life is above us.

Not only do we depend upon God for the existence of physical life, but we also depend upon Him for all spiritual life. Our spirit came from Him, He created it, and gave it life. God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn. 14:8). We must rely upon Christ for all spiritual life now and forever.

"What Am I Doing Here?"

A puzzling question that needs our consideration is one that most men have already given some thought to. The question is: "What am I doing here?" Many men have come up with many different answers, but God through His inspired writers has given us the real answer. Solomon wrote a great deal in Ecclesiastes dealing with the purpose of life. In chapter twelve he concludes by saying, *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."* To "fear" means to "respect." We must have a true respect for your God because He is most deserving. If we really respect Him we will live our lives according to His commandments. That is, we will conform our life to God's Will, for this is what the life of a man is all about. God created us to perform in a certain way. When we exercise our freedom of choice not to conduct ourselves according to His Will, we become useless to His cause. Just suppose for a moment that you were able to invent a gadget that could shave your face in the morning and then you could use it to mow your lawn on Saturday. But let's say that you put it on the market just to find out that after a few weeks it would not work. People would end up mowing their face in the morning (which would be very painful to say the least) and shaving their lawn on Saturday. Because your creation failed to work according to your design it became

dangerous and useless. So is man dangerous and useless when he fails to act according to the Creator's directions.

"Where Am I Going?"

For the atheist there is no place to go. Because there is no life after death according to his belief. As an atheist lamented over the casket of a fellow atheist, "Poor Fred is all dressed up, but has no place to go." Others claim that all roads lead to heaven. But Jesus said that there are only two roads to choose from in this life. One leads to heaven and the other leads to hell. *"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it"* (Matt. 7:13,14). When you think about it, it's not much of a choice. It certainly should not be a hard choice to make for anyone.

"How Do I Get There?"

Well if this question is asked in relation to hell then the answer is easy. According to Romans 3:23 *"all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* Thus, to go to hell just do nothing about your sin. Or better yet, like many people today just plan to do something about it someday. But remember, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 informs us that ignorance and disobedience will cause many to suffer eternal punishment. *"...when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."* Now getting to heaven involves a bit more effort. The extra work is well worth the trouble, especially when you consider the alternative. Jesus tells us in His sermon on the mount that it involves genuine obedience to God. *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"* (Matt. 7:21-23). It involves a lot of devotion to the Lord and a lot of preparation to get to heaven. But God gives you a

lifetime to get ready. Just remember, heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

Summary

In conclusion, the following answers to some of life's momentous questions have been established. 1) We came from God, who is our Creator. He not only created us as a physical being, but we are also an eternal spiritual being in the likeness of God. 2) God is above us, because He has all authority over all of His creation; because He is holy (totally separated from sin); and because He is the source of all life. 3) The true meaning of our existence is to respect God and to live as He would have us to live. 4) We are either going to spend eternity with God in Heaven or spend eternity separated from God in hell. 5) We can reach our eternal destiny by doing nothing about our sinful condition and thus suffer eternal punishment or we can obey the Will of God and share eternal glory with Him.

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by Daniel R. Vess