

Questions…Questions…Questions!
Answers Sought from God!

"We learn to listen…We listen to learn!"
"People question when they are puzzled at the answers God gives."

Bible Study Series, Questions and Answers in the Bible.

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"The time this semester will be taken by our taking on some questions asked in the Bible and why they are instructive and thought provoking to help us endure the hardships and challenges facing us today."

We want to start our time and study in asking for you to think of a question that you might have for God when you get in His presence as you start your eternal journey?

Sherry will write down these questions…and then we will later see how the Bible might clear up some of those questions before we meet Him in glory? You are all very perceptive and discerning as to whether we are on the right track in our answers. All of you know that if we try to go around the Holy Spirit's leading, then we will find ourselves chasing rabbits…in lieu of chasing after God's heart.

We start our lives on earth with questions? (Speculative… "Really speculative").

We are born. We are wrapped in a blanket and given to a person:

We think, "**Where** in the world am I?" "**What** am I doing here?" "**Who** is that woman holding me? Wait…I've heard that voice before. I feel so close to her already!" "Boy, am I hungry! **Where** is the food?" **"Why** do I feel wet**? When** is someone coming to change me?"

I know…my mind goes way beyond being speculative! Forgive me, please!

While there is no exact count across all translations, scholars estimate the Bible contains **about 3,000–3,300 questions in total**. The **Old Testament** has roughly **2,200 questions**, and the **New Testament** about **1,100**. This includes direct questions, rhetorical questions, and poetic laments expressing grief.

Note: These questions are used by God, humans, and even Jesus to teach, provoke thought, and reveal truth. Isn't "the truth" what is being sought today?

- ✓ *1 Kings 10:1* – The Queen of Sheba came to test King Solomon with "hard questions," and he answered all of them.
- ✓ *Luke 2:46* – Jesus "asked them questions" in the temple.

The Bible contains many questions beginning with "wh" — including "why," "what," "where," "who" and "when."

Why do "WH" questions matter in Scripture?

WH questions often:

- **Invite reflection and dialogue** (e.g., *Genesis 3:9, "Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "**Where** are you?")*
- **Test understanding** (e.g.*, 1 Kings 10:1–3, "Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions. ² She came to Jerusalem with a very great [a]retinue, with camels that bore spices, very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. ³ So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing [b]so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her."*
- **Deepen relationship with God** (e.g. *Jesus, "But **who do you say that I am**?" Matt. 16:15*.

While the Bible does not have a fixed "list" of WH-question-starting scriptures, there are dozens of notable examples, and the total number of WH-style questions is in the thousands across the entire text.

My Reflection: When I really want to have a deep and personal study of the Scriptures (desiring the Scriptures to teach me so I can teach others as best as I know how), I use the **HS 5 W Approach**. This is to prepare me for the "wringing out" of Scriptures so I can get all the juice and nutrients of the Word of God. As all of you know, I am human. I make mistakes. In other words, I get in the way of a special anointing of God and try to do it on my own or read or listen to some Biblical Scholar and think he or she has the answers to life's challenges. Therefore…I must bow and reflect on what I have found to be true…to "***Be still and know that I AM (Elohim/Adonai/Yahweh) GOD!"***

Here is the HS 5 W Approach to a deep study of Scripture:

- HS = Holy Spirit led…asking God to show me what the Scriptures mean.

- **5 W = Who, What, Where? When? Why?**
  - ✓ Who? Who is the author or speaker? Who is the audience? Who are the main characters?
  - ✓ What? What is happening? What are the themes/patterns? What are the principles?
  - ✓ Where? Where does this take place? Where does this fit historically?
  - ✓ When? When did the events happen? When does this event fit on the biblical timeline?
  - ✓ Why? Why was this written/said? Why were there certain details given?

WHY IS THE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO ME AND HOW DOES IT FIT INTO GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN?

Examples of "wh" questions in Scripture:

- **Why? 401 Times**

> Genesis 25:22, But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If *all is* well, **why** *am I like* this?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.
> Exodus 5:22, "So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Lord, **why** have You brought trouble on this people? **Why** *is* it You have sent me?"
> Judges 6:13, Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the Lord is with us, **why** then has all this happened to us? And where *are* all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."
> Job 21:7, "**Why** do the wicked live *and* become old, Yes, become mighty in power?"

Throughout the Word of God…God, Jesus, and Others ask WHY!

Why do you worry about clothing? **Why** do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? "**Why** are you fearful, O you of little faith?" "**Why** do you think evil in your hearts? "O you of little faith, **why** did you doubt?" '**Why** have you been standing here idle all day?' '**Why** then did you not believe him? "**Why** does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation." **Why** do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? **Why**, even

of yourselves, do you not judge what is right? **Why** do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation." Men, you are brethren; **Why** do you wrong one another?'
And now **Why** are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, "**Why** have you made me like this?"

But **Why** do you judge your brother? Or **Why** do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

Now we are getting somewhere. I told you to think of questions you would ask God when you see Him in heaven.

He made it pretty clear to Job when Job was lamenting about the plight he was going through…

Job 38:4 – "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?"

WHO IS GOD TO YOU?



He is my HEALER (Psalm 103:3)
He is my REDEEMER (Isaiah 59:20)
He is my DELIVERER (Psalm 70:5)
He is my STRENGTH (Psalm 43:2)
He is my SHELTER (Joel 3:16)
He is my FRIEND (John 15:15)
He is my ADVOCATE (1 John 2:1)
He is my RESTORER (Psalm 23:3)
He is my EVERLASTING FATHER (Isaiah 9:6)
He is LOVE (1 John 4:16)
He is my MEDIATOR (1 Timothy 2:5-6)
He is my STRONGHOLD (Nahum 1:7)
He is the BREAD OF LIFE (John 6:35)
He is my HIDING PLACE (Psalm 32:7)
He is the EVERLASTING LIGHT (Isaiah 60:20)
He is a STRONG TOWER (Proverbs 18:10)
He is my RESTING PLACE (Jeremiah 50:6)
He is the SPIRIT OF TRUTH (John 16:13)
He is my REFUGE FROM THE STORM (Isaiah 25:4)
He is ETERNAL LIFE (1 John 5:20)
He is the LORD WHO PROVIDES (Genesis 22:14)
He is the LORD OF PEACE (2 Thessalonians 3:16)
He is the LIVING WATER (John 4:10)
He is my SHIELD (Psalm 144:2)
He is my HUSBAND (Isaiah 54:5)
He is my HELPER (Hebrews 13:6)
He is my WONDERFUL COUNSELOR (Isaiah 9:6)
He is the LORD WHO HEALS (Exodus 15:26)
He is my HOPE (Psalm 71:5)
He is the GOD OF COMFORT (Romans 15:5)



(adapted from Power of a praying woman by stormie omartian)
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