

Answers to Questions IV

Fred R. Coulter—March 5, 2022

Q—Would you please explain 1-Peter 2:11-17?

This is a good example that when you read something one place, you need to also get other Scriptures from another place to give you an understanding of it that is complete.

1-Peter 2:11: “Beloved, I exhort *you*, as strangers and sojourners...”

That’s what we are; *we belong to God!* We have been transferred to the authority of the Kingdom of God in heaven above through the Holy Spirit by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

“...to restrain yourselves from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (v 11).

That’s simple. Overcome all of the interior lusts that are in your mind. Remember that today we have many things working against our mind almost everywhere you go. So, it’s a big job and that’s why you need to be continuously up on Bible study and prayer so you can overcome.

Verse 12: “Having your way of life honest among the Gentiles so that although they speak against you as evildoers...”

That certainly happened back then in those terrifically pagan societies. It will come against us here in this age, as well.

“...through having witnessed *your* good works, they may glorify God in *the* day of visitation” (v 12). *That will be the second resurrection!*

Verse 13: “Therefore, submit yourselves to every human institution for the Lord’s sake; whether to *the* king, as supreme, or to governors, as sent by him to execute vengeance *against* evildoers, and to praise those who do well” (vs 13-14). *That’s self-explanatory!*

But what are we to do when they infringe upon our faith?

Verse 15: “For so is the will of God, that *by* doing well yourselves, you may put to silence the ignorance of senseless men.”

In other words, people will be educated by how you live your life and behave yourself. That’s why being led by the Holy Spirit is the most important thing that we need to be doing.

Verse 16: “As free, and not using *your* freedom as a cover for evil...”

That’s the way the world does. Look at all of these charities that they have, look what happened

with Black Lives Matter: *they got \$91-million and it’s gone!* Look at all the churches that have done that! Look at all the other organizations. In other words, you have to be genuine and honest all the way through.

“...but as bondslaves of God. Show honor to everyone. Love the brotherhood, revere God *and* honor the king. Servants, submit yourselves to *your* masters with all fear” (vs 16-18).

They had servants! Well, you have a lot of them today. They’re all electrical appliances and things like automobiles.

What happens when they come against you and are resisting you and resisting the faith, causing you not be able to do what your need to do?

Acts 5—here is where the apostles were put in prison overnight, and an angel let them all out and told them to go preach at the temple early. When the captain went to bring them in he couldn’t find them because they weren’t there. Then someone came and said that they’re out speaking in the temple area. So, they arrested them and brought them into the Sanhedrin, which was the governing body of the Jewish community.

Acts 5:27: “And they brought them in... [all the apostles] *...and set them* before the Sanhedrin. And the high priest asked them, saying, ‘Did we not order you by a *direct* command not to teach in this name?... [it was grievous and punishable if you didn’t obey the Sanhedrin] ...And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, with *the* purpose of bringing this man’s blood upon us” (vs 27-28).

That’s not true! They brought it upon themselves! What did they say when Pilate said, ‘I don’t see any evil in this man, He’s innocent?’ They said, ‘We have one king.’ Jesus had said that He was King of the Jews. ‘And that king is Caesar.’ *It should have been **God!*** But it wasn’t! what else did they say?

Pilate said, ‘What do you want me to do? Release this man or Barabbas?’ *They said, ‘Release Barabbas and this man crucify Him!* Pilate said, ‘I wash my hands, I’m innocent of blood.’ They said, ‘Let His blood be on us and on our children.’

That has been upon the Jews until this day! Judgment by the religious leaders who killed Christ! They brought it upon themselves by asking for it.

Verse 29: “But Peter and the apostles answered *and* said, ‘We are obligated to obey God rather than men.’”

Regardless of what the circumstances are, regardless of what the threats are, ***we're obligated to obey God!*** So, you have to balance 1-Peter 2 with what was said in Acts 5.

Q—Jeremiah 49:38: “I will set My throne in Elam, and will destroy the king and the princes from there,” says the LORD.”

Yes, it will probably happen at the return of Jesus Christ!

Q—Isaiah 17:1: “The burden against Damascus: ‘Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a heap of ruins.’”

Parts of that has happened over and over again. The latest time that happened was when the Russians were in Syria and that's what they did with part of Damascus. So, we'll have to wait and see how that goes.

Q—Second resurrection—I'm not clear as to where the Scriptures are concerning those who never had the chance to hear the Gospel.

Understand that the second resurrection ***is not*** a second chance. Why? Because we are all blinded by Satan the devil and this society. So, when God begins to call us, He starts taking away the blindness. When we receive the Holy Spirit and are baptized, something happens in our mind. That's called *the circumcision of the heart* (Col. 2).

2-Corinthians 3:13: “For *we are* not like Moses, who put a veil over his face, so that the children of Israel could not gaze to the end upon *the glory* that is *now* being set aside.... [here's why there's a 2nd resurrection] ...But **their minds were blinded**; for to the present hour the same veil *has not been removed, but remains* at the reading of the Old Covenant... [Old Testament. When you're converted and baptized, what happens?] ...**which veil is removed in Christ**. For to this day, when Moses is read, *the veil* lies upon their hearts. But when *their hearts* turn to *the Lord*, the veil is taken away” (vs 13-16).

What if they live and die and the veil is never taken away? ***They never had an opportunity!*** Since God is not a respecter of persons, He's going to give all of those who have lived and died an opportunity for salvation. We find this in three places.

Rev. 20 is one of those places in the Bible that's a very key thing.

Revelation 20:4: “And I saw thrones; and they that sat upon them, and judgment was given to them...”

That's all of those who were in the first resurrection. Think about this: ***if there's a first resurrection, that means there's got to be more and one!*** If it was **the** resurrection, then they would all be lost.

“...and *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and those who did not worship the beast or his image, and did not receive the mark in their foreheads or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (v 4). *Listen! All of these were resurrected!* Tie in:

- 1-Cor. 15, which says Christ the Firstfruit and after that those who are Christ's at His coming
- 1-Thess. 4:16

Verse 5: “(But the rest of the dead...)” ***Who are all the rest of the dead that are called*** in light of v 4? *Everyone who never had the Spirit of God!*

“...did not live again...” (v 5). *If you live again it is a resurrection!*

“...until the thousand years were completed.) This *is* the first resurrection.... [*everything in v 4*] ...Blessed and Holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection; **over these the second death has no power**....” (vs 5-6).

Those are the rest of the dead who live again. The second death has power over them, meaning they can die again. They will be given an opportunity for salvation.

“...But they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (v 6).

Matt. 12—here we find a very interesting section of Scripture.

Matthew 12:30: “The one who is not with Me is against Me, and the one who does not gather with Me scatters.”

So, there's a dividing line that God has given. That is those who are called now have been given the Holy Spirit, having the circumcision of the heart, so that they can understand the Word of God and having the veil of blindness that is there on everyone who does not come to God in their first life.

Verse 31: “Because of this, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men **except the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit**; that shall not be forgiven to men.”

Why the Holy Spirit? *Because the Holy Spirit comes directly from God the Father!* That means that you have rejected God, Who gave you

the Holy Spirit. That's the unpardonable sin! It doesn't make the Holy Spirit a person. **But if you receive the Holy Spirit and reject the Holy Spirit**, that's what it's talking about!

Verse 32: "And whoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit... [directly to God the Father] ...it shall not be forgiven him, **neither in this age nor in the coming age.**"

What is that coming age? *The Kingdom of God and add on a thousand years!*

Verse 41: "The men of Nineveh shall stand up in the judgment **with this generation...**"

How do you stand up? *You are resurrected!* That's what that means! Now they were separated by about a thousand years. So, when it says in Rev. 20 that **'the rest of the dead live not again until the thousand years are completed'** that means *they didn't commit the unpardonable sin, and they haven't had an opportunity for salvation!*

God left them in their blindness and they lived and died in their blindness. It doesn't matter what age they were when they died.

"...and shall condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah; and behold, a greater than Jonah *is here*" (v 41).

This shows their repentance in the book of Jonah was not unto salvation. It was unto forgiveness of sin so that the judgment of God would be lifted from them.

Verse 42: "*The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation and shall condemn it...*"

Again, the queen of the south was during the days of Solomon; different timeframes.

Ezek. 37 explains about Israel, who were never called to salvation. This is called *the Valley of Dry Bones!* This was a special vision by God to Ezekiel to show what God was going to do with Israel.

Remember the phrase that we read: *if you commit the unpardonable sin it shall not be forgiven in this age, nor in the coming age!*

- What if, even though you're blinded, you do not commit the unpardonable sin?
- Who blinded them? *God did!*

So, if He doesn't give them an opportunity for salvation, then God is a respecter of persons; and He's not a respecter of persons.

Ezekiel 37:1: "The hand of the LORD was on me, and brought me by the Spirit of the LORD,

and set me down in the midst of a valley, and it *was* full of bones."

What does that tell you if you see bones? *Somebody or some thing died!*

Verse 2: "And He made me walk among them all around. And behold, very many *were* in the open valley. And lo, *they were* very dry.... [showing that they have been dead for a long time] ...And He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' And I answered, 'O Lord GOD, You know'" (vs 2-3).

That's a tough question! Here you are and you're looking at all of those bones. I think about that every time I see one of these geological digs and they come across a human skeleton or something. I think about here are the bones, but the spirit has set aside and is going to use in the resurrection.

Verse 4: "Again He said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, "O dry bones, hear the Word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews on you, and will bring up flesh on you..."' (vs 4-6)—*listen to what's being said:*

- breath for human life
- sinew
- bones
- flesh
- skin

"...and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live. And you shall know that I *am* the LORD"" (v 6).

This tells you that ***the blindness will be lifted!*** Even though they were the children of Israel, did they know the Lord unto salvation? *No!* That's what most people in the Protestant and Catholic religions believe, that they had salvation through law in the Old Testament. *That's not true!*

Verse 7: "So, I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a noise. And behold, a shaking! And the bones came together, a bone to its bone. And as I watched, behold the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them above. But *there was* no breath in them" (vs 7-8).

Just like Adam after he was created, ***God had to breathe the breath of life in him!***

Verse 9: "And He said to me, 'Prophecy to the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain that they may live.' [so He did it] ...So, I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly

great army” (vs 9-10).

Notice v 11; this answers the question: How many people will there be in that resurrection at the end of the thousand years. Well, Rev. 20 says that so many that there’s hardly room left for them to stand. Think about it! All the people who have lived and died through all the nations and empires and countries down through history.

Verse 11: “And He said to me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel....’”

He never gave the Holy Spirit to them! They were blinded! But they did not commit the unpardonable sin. Some of them may have, but they’re not in this resurrection. That’s after the Great White Throne Judgment, which we know from Isa. 65 will be 100 years.

“...Behold, they say, “Our bones *are* dried and our hope is lost; we ourselves are completely cut off”.... [God gives the answer]: Therefore, prophesy and say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, O My people, I will open your graves... [that tells us that we’re dead and buried] ...and cause you to come up out of your graves, and will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I *am* the LORD when I have opened your graves, O My people, and have brought you up out of your graves” (vs 11-13).

Notice the purpose. What’s the purpose of the second resurrection; right here in v 14. As we saw in Matt. 12, it’s for Gentile nations, as well!

Verse 14: ““And **I shall put My Spirit in you**, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. And you shall know that I the LORD have spoken it and have done it,’ says the LORD.”

So, they will know! They will have an opportunity for salvation. Those are major Scriptures. That’s why whenever you have the Protestants that say ‘everything in the Old Testament has been fulfilled’....

- Have you ever seen anything in history that Ezek. 37 was fulfilled?
- Have you seen anything in history like in Zech. 14 that God comes and stands on the Mt. of Olives with all the saints?
- *No, it hasn’t been fulfilled!*

Much of the Old Testament is prophecy for the future. A lot of things have happened, and a lot of things have been fulfilled, but this has not. That’s quite a thing!

If you want to know more about it, go to any Day 7 and Day 8 of the Feast of Tabernacles {truthofGod.org}.

Q—Why will John the Baptist be least in the Kingdom of Heaven?

That’s not what it says! It says, ‘Even one of these little ones who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than John the Baptist.’ But John the Baptist’s role is going to be greater above that.

I asked this because John was in prison and he sent messengers to ask these things.

John wanted to doubly make sure that Jesus was the Messiah. The One Whom he said was coming. John wasn’t able to associate with Him. John had his mission and he didn’t know Jesus until Jesus came and was baptized.

Then Jesus went on His way with His ministry and John the Baptist stayed for a while baptizing, then was arrested and put in prison so he sent the two disciples to find out if this what really the One. They probably went back and told John that, ‘Yes, He’s the One’ *because Jesus said*, ‘You go back and tell John:

the Gospel is preached to the poor, people are healed, the dead are raised, the blind see, the crippled walk

Then John the Baptist’s head was cut off. What a thing that was! I am sure that John the Baptist, when he started his ministry, had no idea on how it was going to end.

The questioner says, ‘It seems that John may have been looking for Christ to fulfill all prophecies concerning Him at that time rather than at His return in the future. *Could be, we don’t know!*

Could it be that Christ’s parable among the seed on the rock could be concerning John’s faith in Christ?

No! That was totally different.

It seemed that John lost faith in prison.

No, he didn’t lose faith! He just needed to know what was going on! Here he was in prison and needed to know. He figured he was going to die pretty quick.

Q—I’d like to know why CBCG is so anti-medicine and doctors.

Well, we’re not the only ones. Look at how many people in the world today are against them.

We trust in God to heal us! There are times that we need physicians. But like I’ve said, we’ve got to take care of ourselves. You can’t think that just because you quit eating unclean meats that now you’re never going to be sick. *No!* You have to study about food, study about the various things that you

can take, such as supplements and vitamins, which are concentrated foods.

How many mistakes have been made by doctors? Mistakes in giving medicine? So, there's a good use of doctors, but you don't flip out and go and rely on the doctors for everything.

You have to take care of yourself! So, I hope that helps you.

Q—What is the Mystery of God?

How God calls and converts people; that's part of it. The mystery of God is the message of God in the Word of God that He opens our mind to understand. So, the mystery of God is right in the Scriptures.

When you're studying the Scriptures, you're loving and obeying God, all of a sudden you learn something from the Scriptures. ***That comes from God! That's a mystery how He does it!***

The ultimate mystery is, as Paul writes in Eph. 3, and this is the goal.

- What are we doing with our lives?
- Where are we going?
- Why do we go through what we go through?

Ephesians 3:14: "For this cause... [the cause of the mystery, Paul explains what it is] ...I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power by His Spirit in the inner man" (vs 14-16). ***That's part of the mystery of God!***

- How does the Holy Spirit work in your life?
- How does the Holy Spirit lead us?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us in understanding the Word of God so that God can teach us from His very words?

Verse 17: "**That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.**" *He is there:*

- to lead us
- to guide us

The world doesn't know it! They don't have a clue!

Verse 18: "And that being rooted and grounded in love, you may be fully able to comprehend with all the saints... [we grow in this knowledge and understanding; we don't come to it all at once] ...**what is the breadth and length and depth and height.**"

How great is the plan of God? *Take a good gander of some of the most beautiful pictures of the*

universe from Hubble and James Webb space telescopes! Look at the beauty and grander that God has put in the universe. That's showing you the future of His plan for all of those who will enter into the Kingdom of God. ***That's another part of the mystery! "...what is the breadth and length and depth and height."***

Verse 19: "And to know the love of Christ..."

To understand what Jesus did to take upon Himself all the sins of the world so that He can offer forgiveness and sacrifice to those whom God the Father calls.

"...which surpasses *human* knowledge... [it's a tremendous thing what Christ did] ...**so that you...**" (v 19).

Here is the fullness of the mystery of God. It doesn't come all at once. That's why we ***grow*** in grace and knowledge and understanding.

"...**so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God**" (v 19). ***That's the mystery: to become like God!***

It's a vast thing to understand. I'm sure that after the resurrection we're going to learn that we knew, in this physical life, just a wee, little, bitty bit of what God wants us to know. That's going to be something!

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1-Peter 2:11-18
- 2) Acts 5:27-29
- 3) Jeremiah 49:38
- 4) Isaiah 17:1
- 5) 2 Corinthians 3:13-16
- 6) Revelation 20:4-6
- 7) Mathew 12:30-32, 41-42
- 8) Ezekiel 37:1-14
- 9) Ephesians 3:14-19

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Colossians 2
- 1 Corinthians 15
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- Isaiah 65
- Zechariah 14

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