

# Great Adventure Questions: Updated May 27, 2010

## 1. Descendants of Adam and Eve:

- This is the record of the descendants of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God;
- 5:2 he created them male and female. When they were created, he blessed them and named them "man."
- 5:3 Adam was one hundred and thirty years old when he begot a son in his likeness, after his image; and he named him Seth.
- 5:4 Adam lived eight hundred years after the birth of Seth, and he had other sons and daughters.
- 5:5 The whole lifetime of Adam was nine hundred and thirty years; then he died.
- The Jewish historian Josephus wrote that, "The number of Adam's children, as says the old tradition, was thirty-three sons and twenty-three daughters.

## 2. Cain's Wife:

- Since it is ordinary Catholic teaching that all men and women descend from Adam and Eve, Cain's wife likely was a descendant of Adam and Eve. If so, that means that Cain's wife was his sister. Adam and Eve had more children than those who are named in the Bible, as is recorded in [Genesis 5:4](#)
- In those early times, the defects and disorders that could later possibly occur in children from such marriages, from recessive genes, would not have been as likely, since recessive genes would have had little time to develop. The children could actually have been much healthier than humans are today, as evidenced by the far greater life spans of the earliest humans (e.g. Genesis 5:1-32).

## 3. Origin of the Nephilim:

- The etymology of the Hebrew word נְפִילִים (*nephilim*) means "fallen ones"
- Violence and lawlessness and immorality began to fan out on the face of the earth until finally it infects the "sons of heaven," that is the children of Seth (see Genesis 6:1-4). What happens in Genesis 6 is that Seth's descendants, seduced by the beauty of the daughters of Cain, take them as wives. Worse yet, they took more than one wife - "as many of them as they chose." The sons of Seth violate the sanctity of the marriage covenant instituted by God in the garden.
- The fruits of the "intercourse" of the sons of Seth and the daughters of Cain were men of even more violence and wickedness - "men of

renown," which Scripture elsewhere calls "proud giants...skilled in war" (see Wisdom 14:6; Baruch 3:26-27).

- The "sons of God" were the Sethites (the line of men from Seth, the son of Adam), and that the "daughters of men" were the Cainite women. (Scott Hahn)

#### **4. Melchizedek**

- According to a long tradition - Jewish and Christian - the mysterious Melchizedek is actually Shem, the great patriarch, the righteous inheritor of the blessings promised by God after the Flood.
- Shem/Melchizedek kept the blessing for over 400 years before passing it on to Abraham. Once the blessing was conferred, the father continued in his position as elder of the family, but the one who received the blessing assumed the responsibility for the well-being of the family.
- This family priesthood blessing is the same blessing which was bestowed on Jesus. The genealogy of Jesus goes from Adam to Seth, to Noah, to Shem, to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, to Judah, to Perez and so on to Jesse, David, Solomon, and eventually to Jesus the High Priest of the family of God and Eternal King. It is called the "order of Melchizedek" because it is different from the Levitical priesthood. Shem/Melchizedek is the first priest mentioned in the Scriptures and he was also king of righteousness and King of Salem (later known as Jerusalem); a "type" of Christ.

#### **5. Why did the seed line to Jesus go through Judah and not Joseph, since Joseph was so righteous?**

- Joseph is a type of Jesus. What happens to him foreshadows not only what will happen to children of Israel, but also the sufferings and the salvation won for us by Jesus.
- As Joseph explains to his brother, his story shows us that even what men plan as evil, God can use for the purposes of His saving plan
- Judah: 4th-born overall. Perhaps the most famous of Jacob's sons, it was from Judah that the Jews are descended. Jesus Christ and most Christians in the earliest days of the church were descended from Judah. A vital element for understanding Bible Prophecy is that while all Jews are Israelites, not all Israelites are Jews (just the same as all Belgians are Europeans, but not all Europeans are Belgians). There are many millions of people around the world today who are Israelites, but are not Jews.
- The Bible's first book ends with Israel on his deathbed giving his blessing to his children. To one - Judah, he promises a royal dynasty

that will be everlasting (see Genesis 49:9-12). He will rule over all peoples of the world - a Scripture that the Church interprets as a promise of Jesus, the Messiah-King. The line of Judah is the line of the kings David and Solomon

- Ephraim and Manasseh did become great tribes. At one time, Ephraim was used as a synonym for the kingdom of Israel. However, in the long run both tribes would fall away from God. Consequently, the tribe of Judah would take on the mantle and ascendancy.

## 6. **What was the Blessing given to Joseph children at end of Genesis?**

- When Jacob felt that his days were near, he blessed Manasseh and Ephraim, the sons of Joseph, giving them equal inheritance with his own sons. However, despite protests by Joseph, Jacob blessed Ephraim the younger first above Manasseh. He also gave his blessing upon all his sons. (Genesis 49) Though he blessed them in order by their age, the blessing he gave Joseph was greater than the others:
- Jacob is giving Joseph the double blessing that is generally reserved for the firstborn (Reuben). In the future, 48:6 states that Joseph's other children would be incorporated into the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh.
- 'Jacob adopted Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, as his own. Anticipating his death, he blessed each of his 12 sons with varying blessings he deemed appropriate. It has been understood that Judah, the fourth born, received the primary blessing, due to Reuben's incest and Simeon's and Levi's betrayal.
- Joseph had 2 sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were themselves made into individual tribes of Israel to bring the number back to 12 - the priestly tribe of Levi was not counted separately, but was absorbed among the other tribes.
- Ephraim: Younger than Manasseh, he was never the less ranked higher in the family structure (Genesis 48:19). His descendants were to become a great future group of nations.
- Manasseh: 1st-born of Joseph, he was prophesied to become a great single nation.
- "Manasseh will become a father of a people and become great, but Ephraim will become greater than his older brother and become a group of nations to offer blessing and salvation to the nations." The right hand of blessing, the birthright of the first-born, meant that Ephraim would get a double portion of the family inheritance along with the honor of one day becoming the family's leader (see also

Deuteronomy 21:15-17). Jacob took the blessing that belonged to his first-born son Reuben and moved it to Joseph's second born son Ephraim, as it would later be stated in 1 Chronicles 5:1-2, Reuben defiled his father's bed.

7. **Matriarchs:** What is role of women in Bible, as it seems so diminished? - Why is that? Why men so prominent and women are are not?

- In Genesis 12-50, we read about the 3 Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Their wives are secondary not only in their culture, but also in the story found in Genesis. From 2,100 to 1,800 BC women are viewed as property: first of the fathers, then of the husbands. There were laws that protected women at the time (i.e. The Laws of Eshnunna, The Code of Hammurabi), but even then these laws had a patriarchal perspective. For example, rape was a crime against the father, not the woman, as it deprived him of his “bride price.” Marriage was legal document transferring ownership of the woman from the father to the husband. While these laws seem very sexist to us, many of them were intended to protect women.

- Their primary wives – Sarah (wife of Abraham), Rebekah (wife of Isaac), and Leah and Rachel (the wives of Jacob) – are known as the Matriarchs. Thus, Judaism has three patriarchs and four matriarchs.

- Despite the restrictions of the day, women were respected and valued by God and the matriarchs were respected and valued by their husbands. The personal relationships involved in these stories transcend the cultural expectations of women and their place in the family.

- Women's Lives In This Era

It was probably in this period that women enjoyed greatest freedom and prestige. The stories in Genesis and Exodus show them as independent and strong, smart and tough. They display leadership and initiative. They almost always get their way when they want something.

This was probably because women were necessary for the survival of the tribe, and they knew it.

They did a wide range of tasks, without which the clan or family simply could not have managed.-

They moved freely in society, and were not confined within the home. The Bible stories show that they spoke and acted confidently.

Their contribution to the culture of the time was significant. The stories as we have them in the Bible were edited much later by male

priests, but there are hints that women had a thriving cultural tradition of their own - most of which has unfortunately been lost because it was never recorded, as men's stories were. These stories dealt with women who were famous at the time, with families, children, food supplies, security/safety and home-places. Some scholars suggest that many of the stories of Genesis were originally women's stories, preserved by women in the clan and later written down by the male scribes.

As well, women played an active role in religious matters. The concept of monotheism was just beginning to develop, but many women probably worshipped a fertility goddess, the Great Mother, source of plant, animal and human life. Ancient Near Eastern religions certainly had fertility of the soil and animal life as one of their main focuses, with priestesses who served the forces of Nature - the power of river and rain water, abundance of crops and animals, etc. This diversity is shown in the story of the Golden Calf/Cow, cows being ancient symbols of the goddess of fertility.

## **8. God sends Moses to tell Pharaoh that "Israel is My son, My first-born" (Exodus 4:22)**

- God is serious about His covenant; no one can be exempt from its provisions. Moses was in violation of the covenant with Abraham. His son, Gershom, had not been circumcised as God had commanded (see Genesis 17:9-14). Moses' wife, Zipporah, takes matters into her own hands and performs the circumcision, and Moses' life is again saved.
- Through all this history, however, we see that God is forced to pass over the first-borns in many instances because they prove too proud, too unjust and violent. We see that in the case of Cain, Ishmael, and Esau, to name just three. Indeed, among the "first-borns" in Genesis, only the ancient line of Shem was faithful.
- But God remained faithful to His plan - and His promise. With Israel, His first-born, He is again starting anew. They will be His family, his royal heirs. Already, Moses has instructed that the first-born of Israel be consecrated to God, dedicated to His priestly service (see Exodus 13:2,15; 24:5).
- But don't miss the big "if" in all of what God is saying here at Sinai: "If you hearken to My voice and keep My covenant, you shall be My special possession...a kingdom of priests " (see Exodus 19:5).

## **9. The Golden Calf Affair**

- In the ancient family, fathers were both "kings" - rulers, lawgivers and protectors of their family - and "priests," leading the family in worship

and sacrifice. The "first-born" son was the heir to the authority and the kingly and priestly roles of the father.

- The first four chapters of Numbers tells us what happens immediately after the golden calf incident. Moses takes an elaborate census (from which the book gets its name as a book of "numbers") and establishes the authority of the Levites.
- The Levites, the only tribe not to worship the golden calf and the only ones who answered Moses' call (see Exodus 32:26) are "dedicated" or ordained as priests for the nation (see Exodus 32:26-29). No more will the first-born sons in each family inherit the father's role as priest. The Levites are chosen in place of the first-born sons (see Numbers 3:11-13; 45).
- For the first time, a distinction will be made between priest and lay people. Where as once every first-born was a priest (see Exodus 13:2,15; 24:5) now any non-Levite who performs priestly functions "shall be put to death" (see Numbers 3:10).

#### **10. How did Moses learn of his brother Aaron?**

- Miriam, his sister, was several years older, since she was set to watch the novel cradle of the infant brother Moses, at whose birth Aaron was three years old
- Gen 2:9 So the maiden went and called the child's own mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will repay you." The woman therefore took the child and nursed it. When the child grew, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her son and called him Moses; for she said, "I drew him out of the water."
- Gen 4:14 Then the LORD became angry with Moses and said, "Have you not your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know that he is an eloquent speaker. Besides, he is now on his way to meet you.
- Gen 4:27 The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the desert to meet Moses." So he went, and when they met at the mountain of God, Aaron kissed him.

#### **11. Who were the 10 God's of Egypt that the plagues were directed?**

Plague Description

1 Nile and other waters turned to blood. Nile-god Hapi was totally disgraced

2 Frogs. Frog-goddess , or fertility goddess, Heket, was powerless to prevent it

3 Dust turned to gnats. Thoth, lord of magic, with the Egyptian magicians, was helpless to stop it

4 Gadflies over all Egypt except Goshen where Israel dwelt. No god was able to prevent it-not even Ptah, Egypt's creator of the universe.

5 Pestilence on livestock. The sacred cow-goddess Hathor nor Apis the bull could prevent this plague

6 Boils. Healer deities Thoth, Isis, and Ptah were rendered helpless.

7 Thunder and hail. Exposed the impotence of Reshpu, and Thoth, gods of rain and lightening and thunder

8 Locusts. This was a blow to protector of crops, the fertility-god Min.

9 Three days of darkness. Ra, the preeminent sun-god, and Horus, a sun- god, disgraced

10 Death of the firstborn including Pharaoh's, who was considered to be a god incarnate. Ra (Amon-Ra), sun-god represented as a ram, was unable to stop it nor to save himself.

**12. By what power did Pharaoh's magicians turn staffs into snakes, water into blood, and produce frogs?**

- How do Pharaoh's wise men change sticks into serpents? Do they use trickery? Are they frauds? To this day, there are Egyptian snake-charmers who can give a snake a stick-like appearance; they make a snake go rigid by pressing on a nerve at the back of its neck; they then break the spell by grasping the snake by the tail. We are not told if this is the trick Pharaoh's wise men use. We also need to keep in mind that the powers of darkness are fully able to do supernatural things and to make them look exactly like the wonders done by God. Do not ever forget that Satan is the father of lies and uses counterfeit miracles to confuse and deceive the earth.
- We are missing the point, though, if we focus on the how. It does not matter how Egypt's wise men change sticks into snakes. The issue at stake is not fraud, but a genuine conflict of power.

**13. If the land was already overrun with frogs by Moses and Aaron's command, how do we know that Pharaoh's magicians were able to produce more frogs?**

- Frogs overran the land of Egypt. They were literally everywhere. (According to some sources, the plague began when a giant frog rose out of the Nile. When the Egyptians struck it, it split into swarms and swarms of frogs.) Pharaoh called Moshe and begged him to end the plague. Moshe prayed to HaShem and all the frogs died.

#### **14. Why couldn't they produce the gnats?**

- The magicians realize that they cannot duplicate the maneuver. "This is the finger of God," they tell Pharaoh (Exodus 8:15).

#### **15. Why was Aaron chosen to lead the Levites?**

- Gen 28:1 "From among the Israelites have your brother Aaron, together with his sons Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, brought to you, that they may be my priests.
- Gen 29:44 Thus I will consecrate the meeting tent and the altar, just as I also consecrate Aaron and his sons to be my priests.
- Deut 9:20 With Aaron, too, the LORD was deeply angry, and would have killed him had I not prayed for him also at that time.
- The Levites first showed their devotion to God when Moses returned from the mountain and found all Israel engaged in idol-worship. In obedience to the invitation of Moses, they gathered around him, and, at his command, slew many of the idolaters.
- Gen 25: 29 When Moses realized that, to the scornful joy of their foes, Aaron had let the people run wild; he stood at the gate of the camp and cried, "Whoever is for the LORD, let him come to me!" All the Levites then rallied to him, and he told them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Put your sword on your hip, every one of you! Now go up and down the camp, from gate to gate, and slay your own kinsmen, your friends and neighbors!" The Levites carried out the command of Moses, and that day there fell about three thousand of the people. Then Moses said, "Today you have been dedicated to the LORD, for you were against your own sons and kinsmen, to bring a blessing upon yourselves this day."
- The term "Levite" was applied to all the priests, but only the descendants of Aaron were to hold the sacred office. The remainder of the tribe were to do the, service of the sanctuary under the direction of the priests. They were not allowed to officiate at the altar of burnt-offering, nor to burn incense, nor to do any of the priest's work within the veil. The Levites were to serve, or minister to, the priests; but the priests were to minister for the people before the Lord. (Num. 18:1-7)

#### **16. Could Levite Priest only enter Tent once a year?**

- Role of the sanctuary. The priest is one who serves and can enter the sanctuary. Gradually there developed a series of 'separations' which was a reflection of the perceived 'otherness' of God, who is 'Holy', and the 'profaneness' of the people. In this graduality of separation, we see that first the people are set apart, then a tribe, Levi, and the men of that tribe who are priests. A day is set aside, the Sabbath,



then the holy days of the feasts and then the great feast, the Day of Atonement.

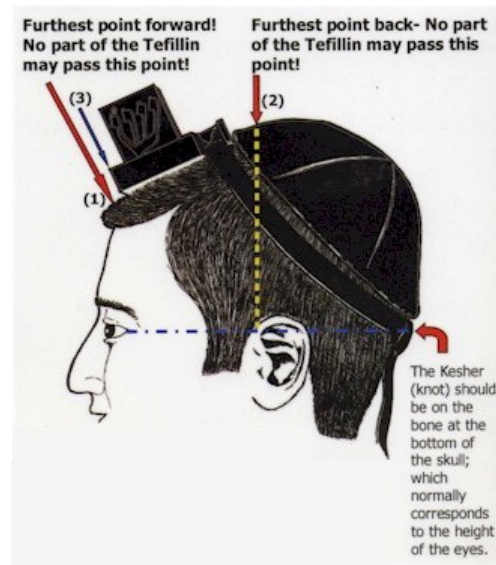
- Gen 30:10 Once a year Aaron shall perform the atonement rite on its horns. Throughout your generations this atonement is to be made once a year with the blood of the atoning sin offering. This altar is most sacred to the LORD."
- Yahweh said to Moses: 'Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.'" (Leviticus 16:2) The High Priest was to enter the Most Holy Place only once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the day when the blood of the sacrifice would be sprinkled on the mercy seat to cover the sins of the people until the next Yom Kippur. This ritual, of course, was prophetic of the sacrifice the Messiah would eventually make on Calvary, this time removing the sins of God's people. The reason given that the High Priest could only enter once a year was that Yahweh's very presence was to appear in the cloud above the mercy seat. One does not waltz into the presence of Almighty God uninvited. To do so is fatal.

**17. Frontlet:** The English word frontlet is used to translate the Hebrew word totafeth (pronounced) to-faw-faw, which means to go around, or to bind. An ornament or band worn on the forehead as a phylactery. Observant Jews wear Tefillin (phylacteries) - boxes containing Biblical verses - during Morning Prayer services starting at the age of 13.

God commands Jews to wear Tefillin as a reminder of their Covenant with God, a reminder that they obligated to dedicate themselves to God in whatever they do, feel and think.

Tefillin consist of two leather boxes. Each box contains strips of parchment inscribed with the four passages of the Torah that mention the mitzvah (commandment) of wearing Tefillin.

Tefillin, is the name given in rabbinic sources to two black leather boxes containing scriptural passages which are worn on the forehead and left arm. The Mishna, Shebu. 3.8, 11, requires males thirteen years and older to wear tefillin each day. Women are explicitly exempt from this religious obligation.



## 18. Barren Women / Miraculous Births:

The number seven here is an interesting one since it usually means some completed act by God.

### **The First Barren Woman Sarai (Sarah), Abraham's wife**

The first one was mother Sarai later called Sarah. She waited until she was in her nineties before she bore Isaac, which means laughter. Angel Michael came to inform Sarah of the birth of Isaac. Genesis 11:30: Now Sarai was barren; she had no children.

### **The Second Barren Woman Rebekah, Isaac's wife**

The second woman was Rebekah. Genesis 25:21: Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. She prayed and then Isaac petitioned God and when she finally conceived after twenty years of marriage she had twins.

### **The Third Barren Woman Rachel, Jacob's wife**

The third woman was Jacob's beloved wife, Rachel. She was the younger of two sisters. Jacob's uncle deceived him as he had deceived his father Isaac. Rachel produced two very important sons.

### **The Fourth Barren Woman Samson's Mother**

The fourth woman in the Scripture who was barren was Samson's mother the wife of Manoah of the tribe of Dan. She prayed to God and he permitted her to have one son who was to be one of the strongest physically of all of the judges in that period of Israelite history. Samson was given to the priests of God as a Nazarite vow from his grateful mother and his hair was never cut until a crafty

### **The Fifth Barren Woman Hannah, Samuel's mother**

The fifth woman was the second wife of Elkanah the Ephraimite who was called Hannah. She also prayed and they thought that she was drunk but the Lord God heard her prayer and she was given a son called Samuel.

### **The Sixth Barren Woman Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist**

The sixth woman of the Scripture was Elizabeth the wife of Zacharis who was barren but in her old age conceived a son. This son was the cousin of Jesus of Nazareth. He was the son of the Levitical priestly clans and was called John the Baptist. Jesus called him the greatest man born of woman.

### **The Seventh Mary, mother of Jesus (miraculous birth)**

Matthew 1:18: This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

## **19. Why were the thumbs and the big toes of defeated kings cut off? (Judges 1:6, 7)?**

- The cutting off of thumbs and toes rendered a warrior useless in battle. Without the thumbs, how could a soldier handle a sword or a spear? And the loss of the big toes would result in inability to maintain one's balance properly
- But this is not all. It also rendered him useless as a priest (Leviticus 8:23-24 describes the initiation rite of a priest - it involved placing blood upon the thumb and the big toe).
- It was often the case in the ancient world that a king served a dual function both as priest and king. Indeed, many years before there had been such a priest-king at Jerusalem by the name of Melchizedek (Genesis 14).

## **20. How does today's Israel play into the Story:**

Last Books of Chronicles

- Decree of Cyrus. 2 Chronicles Last Book of Hebrew Bible

Basic Jewish Beliefs:

- God exists.
- God is one and unique.
- God is incorporeal.
- God is eternal.
- Prayer is to be directed to God alone and to no other.
- The words of the prophets are true.

- Moses was the greatest of the prophets, and his prophecies are true.
- The Written Torah (first 5 books of the Bible) and Oral Torah (teachings now contained in the Talmud and other writings) were given to Moses.
- There will be no other Torah.
- God knows the thoughts and deeds of men.
- God will reward the good and punish the wicked.
- The Messiah will come.
- The dead will be resurrected.

Christians believe in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. At that time, the Jewish people could see that as the coming of the Messiah.

The Church has always held and holds now, Christ underwent His passion and death freely, because of the sins of men and out of infinite love, in order that all may reach salvation.

CCC 74 God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth": that is, of Christ Jesus. Christ must be proclaimed to all nations and individuals, so that this revelation may reach to the ends of the earth:

God graciously arranged that the things he had once revealed for the salvation of all peoples should remain in their entirety, throughout the ages, and be transmitted to all generations.

## **21. Additional Jewish beliefs:**

- Some additional beliefs found commonly among Jews are:
- Some Jews view Jesus as a great moral teacher. Others see him as a false prophet or as an idol of Christianity. Some sects of Judaism will not even say his name due to the prohibition against saying an idol's name.
- The Jews are often referred to as God's chosen people. This does not mean that they are in any way to be considered superior to other groups. Biblical verses such as Exodus 19:5 simply imply that God has selected Israel to receive and study the Torah, to worship God only, to rest on the weekly Sabbath, and to celebrate the festivals. Jews were not chosen to be better than others; they were simply selected to receive more difficult responsibilities, and more onerous punishment if they fail.
- The 613 commandments found in Leviticus and other books regulate all aspects of Jewish life
- The Ten commandments, as delineated in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21, form a brief synopsis of the Law

- The Messiah (the anointed one of God) will arrive in the future and gather Jews once more into the land of Israel. There will be a general resurrection of the dead at that time. The Jerusalem Temple, destroyed in 70 CE, will be rebuilt.
- A fetus gains full personhood when it is half-emerged from its mother's body.
- Boys reach the status of Bar Mitzvah on their 13th birthday; girls reach Bat Mitzvah on their 12th birthday. This means that they are recognized as adults and are personally responsible to follow the Jewish commandments and laws. Males are allowed to lead a religious service; they are counted in a "minyan" (a quota of men necessary to perform certain parts of religious services). Following their Bar Mitzvah or Bat Mitzvah they can sign contracts; they can testify in religious courts; theoretically, they can marry, although the Talmud recommends 18 to 24 as the proper age for marriage.

## **22. Judges 19:22-25 The Sin Of The Benjamites**

- Like the city of Sodom years before, the Benjamites' sin has taken them down the path of immorality towards homosexuality. They demanded that the old man give them the Levite for their sexual satisfaction.
- And in the same response that Lot had in Genesis 19, the old man offers them the women from the household, rather than the men. Culturally, a host had to protect any man that had been invited to stay under his roof, even if it cost him his life. There was no such obligation regarding women. In his thinking, offering the women to the crowd was the lesser of two evils, and fulfilled his cultural obligation to protect the Levite.
- The result of this confrontation was one of the worst things recorded in all of Scripture - the gang rape of a woman, resulting in her death.
- The Law of God says that rapists are to be killed. Not prison time, not community service, but death.
- God does not condemn the victim - she is innocent. The man is to be killed. He is guilty of a violent crime akin to murder in God's eyes. And every one of these Benjamites who committed this atrocity should be killed for their crime.
- 19:26-30 The Concubine Dies - The woman, after being released, died from the injuries sustained in the attack.
- The Levite in an almost indescribable way, calls for justice from the tribes of Israel.

### **23. Why the images of the Golden Calf:**

- The golden calf was used throughout the ancient Near East as the symbol of the moon god, Sin, and there are numerous suggestions in the Book of Exodus that point to the influence of Sin, including one to the "wilderness of Sin" (night time).
- The golden calf was meant to represent the seat of the invisible God of Israel. Moses' destruction of the golden calf and his orders to execute those who had worshiped it were based on the fear that it would be deemed a god.
- The motivation behind King Jeroboam's making of two golden calves, one at Beth El and one at Dan, is spelled out in I Kings 12:28. It was to provide an alternative to the Temple in Jerusalem and deter the people from going to Jerusalem and thus accepting the rule of King Rehoboam, against whom Jeroboam had revolted.

### **24. What are the 5 Nations that merge with Israel to become the Samaritans?**

- 2Kings 17:24 The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and settled them in the cities of Samaria in place of the Israelites. They took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.

### **25. How did god speak to the Prophets?**

- God spoke through angels (Gen. 16)
- God spoke through dreams (Gen. 28:10-19)
- God spoke through visions (Gen. 15)
- God spoke through the use of the Urim and Thummim (gemstones) (Ex. 28:30)
- God spoke through symbolic actions (Jer. 18:1-10)
- God spoke through a gentle whisper (1 Kings 19:12)
- God spoke through miraculous signs (Ex. 8:20-25)
- And of course, God spoke directly Himself (Gen. 3:9)

### **26. Why did God strike the good Kings of Judah?**

- Uzziah: Burned incense in the temple & God gave him leprosy  
"It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense." (2 Chronicles 26:18) In the mean time a great earthquake shook the ground and a rent was made in the temple, and the bright rays of the sun shone through it, and fell upon

the king's face, insomuch that the leprosy seized upon him immediately.

## **27. What happened to the Tribe of Benjamin?**

- From after the conquest of the land by Joshua until the formation of the first Kingdom of Israel in c. 1050 BCE, the Tribe of Benjamin was a part of a loose confederation of Israelite tribes.
- The first king of this new entity was Saul, who came from the Tribe of Benjamin,
- However, this time the Tribe of Benjamin remained loyal to the House of David, and remained a part of the Kingdom of Judah, in which it remained until Judah was conquered by Babylon in c. 586 BCE and the population deported.
- When the captivity ended, the distinction between Benjamin and Judah was lost in favor of a common identity as Israel.

## **28. What and when happened to the Ark?**

- 2MACC 2:4 The same document also tells how the prophet, following a divine revelation, ordered that the tent and the ark should accompany him and how he went off to the mountain which Moses climbed to see God's inheritance (i.e., Mt. Nebo; cf. Deuteronomy 31:1-4].
- 2:5 When Jeremiah arrived there, he found a room in a cave in which he put the tent, the ark, and the altar of incense; then he blocked up the entrance.
- 2:6 Some of those who followed him came up intending to mark the path, but they could not find it.
- 2:7 When Jeremiah heard of this, he reproved them: "The place is to remain unknown until God gathers his people together again and shows them mercy.

## **29. Scripture reference for where Jesus kills the serpent?**

- Gen 3:15 - I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel.
- It was Jesus who directly crushed the serpent's head from the cross and Jesus whom the serpent directly struck on the cross.
- When Jesus went to the cross and died, He destroyed the curse of sin and when He rose from the dead He overcame death and conquered the one who had the power over death (the devil).

- In Hebrews 2:14-15 we read, “Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”
- 1JN 3:8 Whoever sins belongs to the devil, because the devil has sinned from the beginning. Indeed, the Son of God was revealed to destroy the works of the devil.

### **30. Where did God asked if anyone trusted Him and Jesus was the one to answer that He did?**

- It doesn't take much of a reading of the Bible to realize that even people who had trusted God in the past, and had seen him do amazing miracles, still found it difficult to trust him in an ongoing basis. If you are finding it difficult to trust God, you are in good company.
- Gen 1:16-17 - The LORD God gave man this order: "You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die."
- Here's the staggering thing. The more God revealed himself, the less people trusted him. The more miracles people saw, the less they believed. Those Israelites who wandered in the desert, who had a twenty four hour a day reminder of the presence of God, yet they rebelled against him 10 times in the space of 40 years.
- Deut 1:32,33 Despite this, you would not trust the LORD, your God, who journeys before you to find you a resting place--by day in the cloud, and by night in the fire, to show the way you must go.
- Deut 9:23 And when he sent you up from Kadesh-barnea to take possession of the land he was giving you, you rebelled against this command of the LORD, your God, and would not trust or obey him.
- MT 26:42 Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!"

### **31. Lineage of Jesus back to David.**

- There are two genealogies given in Scripture.
- Matthew 1:1-17: Genealogy cites the line of David through Solomon on down through to Joseph as a direct son of David. Keep in mind that this genealogy shows the legal, or royal, or public record, of descent and not the human descent. Jesus was rightful heir to the throne of His father David through adoption.



- Note that in the lineage in Matthew the line is cursed by God and is forbade from bringing forth the Messiah. So how then can Joseph be the rightful heir to his father David's throne, the answer is it was his by birth right, but he could not be the actual human father of Messiah.
- More evidence that Matthew shows the legal line of descent is in Matt 1:11-12 where a man named Jechoniah is mentioned. See Jer 22:30 regarding Jechoniah as it states, "... No descendant of his shall achieve a seat on the throne of David. (Coniah is an abbreviation of Jechoniah.)
- However, in Genesis when Israel take Ephraim and Manneseh on his knee and adopts them he gives to them all the legal rights of decent and inheritance so that even though they are not Hebrew children but rather half-Hebrew they still receive a full portion according to the rights of their father Joseph. So it through adoption that Jesus is rightful heir on a human level.
- Luke 3: 23-38: It is suggested that Luke's genealogy does not trace the lineage through Joseph but rather through Mary. Mary's name is left out of the line because it was not custom to include the name of a man's mother in his lineage. Luke is recording the line of Messiah through Mary because the line does not trace through Solomon and thus the cursed kings of Judah but rather through Nathan and thus the curse is avoided. (Heli would be the blood father of Mary, and the father in law of Joseph. Even though the name of Mary is not listed, in order to comply with Jewish custom, it is certainly implied.) (Joachim is only a variation of Heli.)
- Jesus was the heir on a human level because Joseph was a rightful heir through David and Solomon and He inherited it because of rightful adoption by St. Joseph. However the King cannot come through that line on a human level because it is cursed.
- Jesus is heir on a supernatural level because He is God and because he did fulfill the prophesy by being born to Mary.
- It is also worth noting that since Jesus was Himself utterly and completely sinless he could not have an earthly father because then he would have inherited a sin nature from Adam.

### **32. How do we reconcile the God of the OT and the God of the NT?**

- God created man and woman in His own image and likeness and placed them in Paradise, where everything was good. He said to them "From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die." They did not Trust Him!
- One thing to consider contextually is that a majority of the OT was written to apply to Israel at a national – not individual – level, and

applied to the infant nation as it was developing and not as much to the interaction of individual people as it regards their personal relationships.

- Israel was to provide the very elements from which all the people of the world would be saved, the survival and protection of the nation was paramount. Therefore, God gave the infant nation a special measure of protection when establishing it in the land of Canaan.
- Israel, as an immature nation with a very new religious system needed to be sheltered from the idolatry of the Canaanite nations, who would have corrupted Israel's worship of the true God and garbled its message to the rest of the world.
- In OT, God is instructing Israel as a forming nation. Christ's command in the NT to turn the other cheek and pray for those who persecute you are directed to individuals on how they should deal with other individuals who offend them.
- Jesus showed us that it was possible to display Loving kindness without affecting the sense of incredible power that everyone knew that He had. Even during His trial and Crucifixion, most people seemed to believe that He could have instantly swept all that away, but that He knew that He had to suffer through those experiences in order to fulfill Old Testament prophecy.
- The reason we appear to see a different God in the New Testament is not because God has somehow changed, but because all the wrath that we deserve was poured out upon Jesus when he died on the Cross. He not only died for our sin, but also to reconcile us with the Father and to open the Gates of Heaven that were closed by the sin of Adam and Eve.
- 2 Cor 5:17-21: So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.
- The fact is that the Bible that the God of the OT is very clearly the God of the New as well – virtually the same amount of love, same amount of things that dismay him as well, and that the grace that is offered in the New Testament and beyond, is available in the Old as

well – the main change between the testaments is that the ‘mystery’ has been revealed.

- The Old Testament speaks plenty about God’s love – Deuteronomy 7:7-13 speaks of His love for the nation of Israel; Isaiah 63:9 speaks of God saving people due to His love for them. On many occasions through the Old Testament the mercy of God is praised (Psalm 57:3; 59:10; 62:12; 86:13; 100:5; 106:1, etc.).
- The Old Testament reveals 446 mentions of God’s ‘love’ and 100 occurrences of ‘mercy’ as opposed to 135 mentions of ‘hate’ and 173 of ‘wrath’. 551 love/mercy vs. 308 hate/wrath.
- New Testament is 291 love/mercy vs. 71 hate/wrath. The percentage of love/wrath in the OT is 64% love to 36%. In the New Testament that statistics are: 80% love vs. 20 % wrath...again, noting that the New Testament is a personal account written towards how individual followers of Jesus should behave.
- The New Testament reveals God-made-Flesh, the intimate side: How individuals relate, and behave, with each other and God.
- Gospel John:17:20-26

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying:  
“Holy Father, I pray not only for them,  
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,  
so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you,  
that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.

Father, they are your gift to me.

I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

### **33. Appointing a New Bishop**

- The ultimate decision in appointing bishops rests with the pope, and he is free to select anyone he chooses. But how does he know whom to select?

The process for selecting candidates for the episcopacy normally begins at the diocesan level and works its way through a series of consultations until it reaches Rome. It is a process bound by strict confidentiality and involves a number of important players – the most influential being the apostolic nuncio, the Congregation for Bishops, and the pope. It can be a time consuming process, often taking eight months or more to complete. While there are distinctions between the first appointment of a priest as a bishop and a bishop's later transfer to another diocese or his promotion to archbishop, the basic outlines of the process remain the same.

It often takes six to eight months – and sometimes longer – from the time a diocese becomes vacant until a new bishop is appointed.

- See full USCCB Article of the Process at:  
<http://www.nccbuscc.org/comm/bishopsfinal.pdf>