

## *QUESTIONS FROM SATAN, GOD AND MAN*

### **Introduction**

The purpose of questions can be manifold, as some are asked to gain information, or to provoke thought, or to cast doubt on certain people or things.

Most adults will remember the Mississippi comedian Jerry Clower, who told the story of the Chauffeur and the Professor. It seems the Independent Oil Corporation of Texas wanted to hold a convention with a noted speaker to highlight the gathering. A noted Professor toured the country making speeches, and was asked to speak. He and his chauffeur traveled all over the country to daily speaking engagements. On the way to Houston, the chauffeur said, "Professor, I have been with you every day for 8 months and have your speech memorized. I can say it word for word, and do a better job than you are doing." The Professor replied, "All right young man, pull this car over to this roadside park, and we'll change clothes. I'll be the chauffeur, and you be the professor when we get to Houston. We'll see how you do. I'll break you from sucking eggs." They made the change and went to the auditorium of the big university there where 2,000 men had gathered. The "professor" made his speech, and it was so well received that men were rolling in the floor and throwing books into the air. After awhile things calmed down and the president of the university said, "Men, we have about 10 minutes left before we are dismissed, and it might be that someone might like to ask a question of the professor. A young man with horn-rimmed glasses, with books under his arms, a typical egg-head, stood up from about the middle of the auditorium, saying he would like to ask the professor a question. "Professor, about 2 billion years ago when dinosaurs roamed the earth, suppose one died, and was covered by layers of dirt for 2 billion years, and rotted in the earth. If one was to drill in the earth 5986 feet where the dinosaur was buried, WHAT would be the P H of the soil contained in the core of the drill bit, and what would be the name of the stratosphere?"

The "professor" was stunned, and replied, "Young man, that is about the simplest question I have ever attempted to answer in all the years I have been lecturing. I am surprised that this great institution of learning would allow a young man like you to even attend. Matter of fact, that question is SO simple, that I am going to let my chauffeur in the back of the auditorium, stand up and answer it for you."

**The Bible has questions from Satan, God and man.** Let's look at some of these questions.

## DISCUSSION

### **I. 1<sup>st</sup>, A QUESTION FROM SATAN.**

A. The very first question in all the Bible was asked by Satan.

**Gen. 3:1. “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said: 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?”**

B. This question no doubt was asked to cast doubt upon GOD as the lawgiver, and he (Satan) had something better to offer, that the woman could eat and **not** die.

1. We know what happened.
2. She ate of the forbidden fruit, and died a double death that day.
  - a. She died spiritually immediately for disobeying God. Cf Isa. 59:1-2
  - b. She began to die physically, and she and Adam were driven from the garden of Eden lest they eat of it and live forever. Gen. 3: 3:22-24
3. Eve had given the fruit to Adam and he ate of it also.
4. The sin and the fall of man is attributed to Adam, the man, who was responsible as head of this first family for it's conduct. Rom. 5:14-18
  - a. Eve was actually the first to sin, being deceived by Satan. 2 Cor. 11:23; 1 Tim. 2:13-14
  - b. Adam's actions forever locked in woman's subjection to man. 1 Cor. 11:3, 8-12
  - c. Eve's subjection also prefigured the relationship between Christ and the church. Eph. 5:22-32

### **II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, A QUESTION FROM GOD.**

A. This is the first recorded question from God, and is found in the very same chapter as Satan's first question.

**Gen. 3:9 “Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”**  
(NKJB)

1. This question was **not** addressed to Satan, but to **man**.
2. God obviously wanted Adam to think and realize where he was as a result of disobeying His command.
3. Man answered that he was afraid because he was naked, so he hid himself. v. 10
4. This nakedness symbolizes the state of mankind which is naked spiritually without God. Rom. 3:23; cf Eph. 2:12

B. Though God did not ask a question of Satan, He **did** make him a promise in

verse 15. (Read)

1. God put in motion a **plan** which worked in the Patriarchal and Mosaical ages, to bring the Savior and salvation to man. Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:19; 4:4 (Read and explain)
2. This plan involved Christ and the church, where man would be able to bring glory to God. Eph. 3:10-11, 21 (Read and explain)

### III. 3<sup>RD</sup>, A QUESTION FROM FALLEN MAN.

A. Surely, other questions are asked throughout the Bible, but this question by the Philippian jailor is the one we want to explore, in man's quest to get right with God, which question all the lost need to be asking.

#### **Acts 16:30 "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"**

B. Let's analyze the question—word by word.

1. First, the word **what**—what must I do to be saved?
  - a. The question implies that something is involved in salvation.
    - 1) God has done His part in giving His Son. Rom. 5:6-10
    - 2) Jesus did HIS part in giving His life. Phil. 2:5-8
    - 3) The Spirit did HIS part in giving the inspired word. John 20:30-31; 2 Tim. 3:16-17
  - b. Now, man must do his part, whatever it may be.
2. Second, the word **must**—whatever is required from God.
  - a. The word "must" suggests something essential, required.
  - b. It is not something optional or non-essential.
3. Third, the word **I**—making it personal, with individual action.
  - a. Today many folks refuse obedience because their grandmother or father did not do that and "they were okay without it."
  - b. My ancestors may not have done what I know to do, but they are in God's hands and I cannot change their destiny, but if they were here now, and they were honest people, what would **they** do?
4. Fourth, the word **do**—emphasizes some kind of action.
  - a. I am **not** to do some meritorious deeds whereby I earn or deserve salvation and make God obligated to save me by them. Eph. 2:8-9
  - b. I am **not** to do some religious things of my choice and think I am going to heaven because of them. Matt. 7:21-23 (Read)
  - c. But, I **am** to do the work of God—the things He commands of me in the scripture. Luke 6:46; John 6:28-29; Acts 17:30; Col. 2:12; Tit. 3:5 (Read & explain these passages as necessary).
5. Fifth, the term **to be saved** emphasizes the greatest need in the world, to have salvation from past sins and ultimately eternal salvation.

C. So, when man answers Satan's question, God wants him to realize where he is, and man asks what he need to do, and he does it. vs. 30-34

#### **CONCLUSION**

I. Salvation has three realms—the past, the present, and the future.

A. When one completes his obedience in baptism, he is free from his past sins.

Acts 2:38; 22:16

B. Then one continues faithfully in God's service to keep saved in the present.

Jude 21; 1 Cor.15:58

C. Then, the faithful will enjoy eternal or future salvation. Rev. 2:10

II. If you are in need of salvation, won't you begin your journey to heaven—right now

Don Tarbet