

QAMPED

August 2023

THE CROSS Was it Retroactive?

COLLEGE
TOUR

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check out the
dates and pray
with us.

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Apologetic. Ministry. Preparing. Educated. Disciples.

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."



The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence is a group of men who have dressed as grotesque parodies of nuns and publicly performed sexualized acts since 1979. Christians need to be informed about groups like these and others who have overtly declared war against Christianity. AMPED will be sending a special digital report to all our subscribers later in the month detailing their activities and providing suggestions of how followers of Christ can counter these attacks.

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Was the Cross Retroactive?

The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ transpired two millennia ago. All those who receive His death as the substitutionary sacrifice for their sins will be saved according to the Bible. But what about those who lived before Jesus gave His life on the cross? Can they be saved?

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Was the Crucifixion RETROACTIVE?

By Billy Anger

The crucifixion of a human being in the ancient world entailed suffering on the most extreme level possible. The pages of history thoroughly document this brutal and bloody form of capital punishment. Plenty of historical information is available regarding this pure savagery in detail. This practice of antiquity began with the Assyrians and Babylonians and was also practiced systematically by the Persians in the sixth century B.C. Grecia adopted the practice when Alexander the Great invaded Persia during his quest for total domination of nations. He brought it to the eastern Mediterranean countries in the fourth century B.C. The Roman military implemented the first widespread use of crucifixion during the first century A.D. to punish insubordinate soldiers and enemy combatants. The practice became increasingly prevalent under the reign of Emperor Augustus Caesar, who used crucifixion to punish criminals and political nonconformists.

The torture rack was responsible for the physical destruction of countless lives. It is impossible to estimate how many thousands of people died this way, but none is more identifiable than the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Some view His death as a historical fact, while others cherish it as a solemn sacrifice that became the means to a personal relationship with God. This belief introduces questions concerning the extent to which the crucifixion of Christ was effective. Did His death profit only those who lived after His crucifixion, or did people predating Christ also benefit?

Romans 3:23-26 provides essential insight regarding the scope of the sacrifice Jesus made by saying, *"for all have sinned and fall short of*

the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at present His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." Christ's sacrifice is unquestionably needed for every person of accountable age and mind who has lived on the Earth.

Understanding the effectiveness of Christ's sacrifice requires drawing insight from the Old Testament. According to the Law of Moses, those subject to that legal structure performed explicitly prescribed sacrifices as acts of atonement. Through revelation and obedience, the worshippers understood that God absolved them of their sin and guilt. Leviticus chapters 4 and 5 make the statement "he will be forgiven" on some eight occasions. The psalmist summarized the proper spiritual attitude of the faithful and obedient Israelite: "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:11-12).

Although forgiveness is not a predominant theme in the patriarchal age, which is the period between Adam and Moses, it is implied. This accomplishment came through the sacrifices of blood regularly presented during that opening era of human history (cf. Genesis 8:20; 12:7-8). Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice which "had witness borne to him that he was righteous" (Hebrews 11:4). Certainly, this was not personal righteousness but uprightness imputed

Partners Needed!

I need help doing this ministry.

Very few have responded to these monthly appeals from AMPED. If you think what we are doing has value, consider helping us do the job.

I am convinced that speaking to a nation of young adults who either have serious doubts about Christianity, or who have renounced their beliefs altogether, is worth the time and investment.

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through his obedient faith. Job presented burnt offerings for his children should they have sinned (Job 1:5). Forgiveness was required even in the conflicts among men (Genesis 50:17), which suggests that pardon is necessary if one was to stand before the holy God (cf. Habakkuk 1:13).

The Bible greatly expanded on the concept of forgiveness under the Mosaic administration. The Book of Leviticus elaborated on specific aspects of sacrifice, requiring applicable knowledge. God articulated the theme of atonement, propitiation, and forgiveness recurrently through the balance of the Old Testament.

The chronology of God producing forgiveness requires learning additional information from the New Testament. While the Lord offered forgiveness of sin under the former covenant, the New Testament explains that the blood of Christ, in a procedural sense, was essential for pardon to happen. This introduces the primary question of how forgiveness could occur before the death of Jesus on the Roman cross. The answer is found only in an understanding of the nature of God.

Revelation 13:8 makes a statement that is incomprehensible to the natural mind. It declares Jesus as “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” This statement reveals that God planned the means of humanity’s salvation before the creation of Earth. This fact coincides with the recognition of God in Scripture as infinite and eternal. This means He is not affected by time. Moreover, God created time and, by His nature, exists outside of time. He could appraise individuals preceding the cross as justified if they demonstrated “obedient faith” (Romans 1:5; 16:26). The manifestation of saving faith is the common feature for all people throughout human history concerning

the qualification to salvation. Those who displayed that specific type of faith were considered by God as reconciled to Him based on the blood of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This justification occurred chronologically before the cross, but Jesus still had to accomplish the

ultimate work of redemption. To do anything less would have been eternally unsuccessful regarding the salvation of mankind.

If the redemption of those living under the law of Moses had been achieved before the Savior’s death in the total sense of the term, why was the death of Jesus even necessary? Many Bible readers consider the Scriptures to struggle with this consistently. Specific biblical texts indicate forgiveness before Christ’s death, while another set suggests there was no pardon until after the Lord’s death. It is reasonable to ask if there is a contradiction. Which answer represents the truth?

In logic, there exists a principle known as the law of non-contradiction. It says this: A thing cannot both be, and not be, for the same person, place, or thing, at the same time, or in the same sense. The last phrase is crucial to understanding this principle. There can be forgiveness and not-forgiveness so long as the senses differ. The question is then left: in what way are the senses different?

Without the historical incarnation and eventual death of the Son of God, there could have been no forgiveness obtained for sinful people. Romans 6:23 teaches that the paycheck for sin is death. The shedding of blood was therefore required for pardon from sin (Hebrew 9:22). Evidently, the blood of animals could only function symbolically but was insufficient to provide actual atonement for sin (Hebrews 10:4). The millions of animal sacrifices under the former testament were pictorial representations of the “Lamb of God” who was to come and provide an eternally successful sacrificial offering for humanity (John 1:29). Had Jesus not ultimately died at the cross of Calvary, those previous offerings would have been useless.

The two different senses can be summarized this way. In the Old Testament, forgiveness was contingently received based on the future death of Jesus. It granted a portion of atonement and remission for sins but could not provide eternal redemption. In the New Testament, the cross accomplished whole forgiveness.



Got Questions?

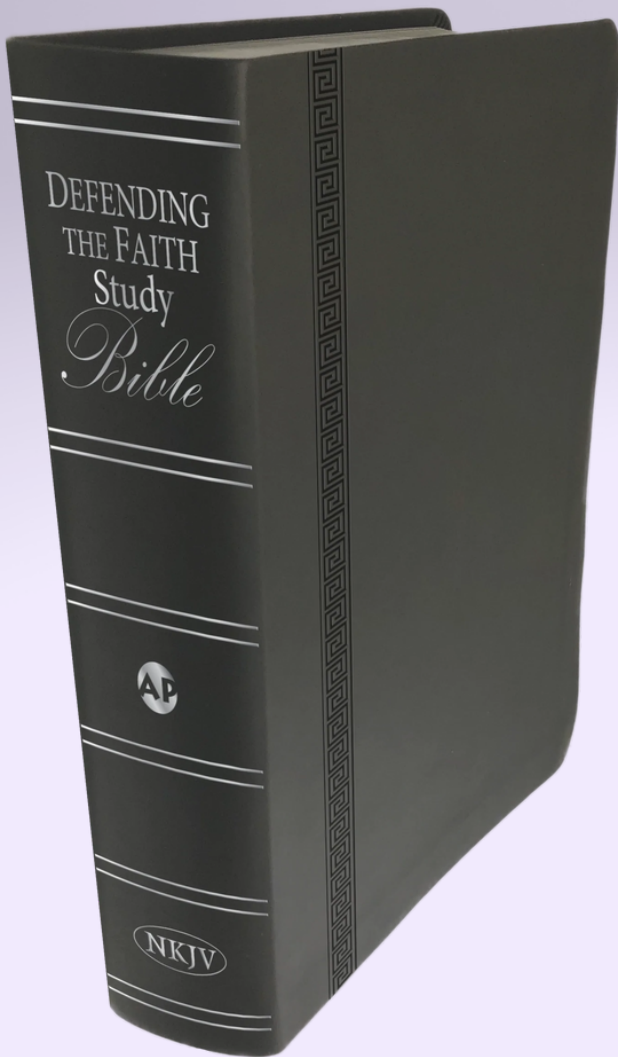
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Immoral
IS GOD IMMORAL FOR KILLING INNOCENT CHILDREN?

A great number of modern attacks accuse the God of the Bible of being immoral. One of the main reasons for this is that the Bible says that God is responsible for killing people who commit crimes from the Old Testament. Specifically, since God has killed people, or commanded them to be killed, then He must be immoral. Generally, the atheistic argument against God begins with a number of questions about what God's actions are considered that would amount to the killing of innocent people. The question is whether or not God's actions are morally justifiable. If they are, then God is not immoral. If they are not, then God is immoral. The question is whether or not God's actions are morally justifiable. If they are, then God is not immoral. If they are not, then God is immoral.

ATHESISM HAS NO PROBLEM KILLING INNOCENT CHILDREN

A close look at atheistic morality, however, quickly shows that atheism does not believe that it is morally wrong to kill all innocent children. According to the atheistic community, a child is viewed as a mere object, not a person with a soul. Therefore, the killing of a child is not viewed as a crime. In fact, the killing of a child is viewed as a necessary evil. The atheistic community has no problem with the killing of innocent children.

INSPIRED WRITERS AND COMPETENT COPYISTS

It is often said that the Bible is a collection of inspired writings. However, the Bible is a collection of inspired writings and competent copyists. The Bible is a collection of inspired writings and competent copyists. The Bible is a collection of inspired writings and competent copyists. The Bible is a collection of inspired writings and competent copyists.

COMMON SENSE AND COPYISTS

How to the members of the printing press, copies of books were made by hand, and thus these copies were vulnerable to errors. This, the members of the printing press, copies of books were made by hand, and thus these copies were vulnerable to errors. This, the members of the printing press, copies of books were made by hand, and thus these copies were vulnerable to errors.

GENESIS 1:9

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree that bears fruit according to its kind, and the tree that yields oil, and it was so. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night, and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years, and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth," and it was so. And God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, "and to divide the day and the night, and to divide the light from the darkness." And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the face of the firmament of the sky."

And God created great whales, and every living creature that creeps on the earth, and every bird that flies in the air, according to their kinds, and every beast that is on the earth, according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it: the cattle of the earth, and the birds of the air, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and you, O man, after your kind." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every herb that bears seed for food, as I have given the green herb to you. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, I have given every green herb for food." And it was so.

And God said, "I have also given you every herb that bears seed for food, as I have given the green herb to you. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, I have given every green herb for food." And it was so.

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Q&A



IS JESUS THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL?

Charles Taze Russell and Joseph F. Rutherford established the Jehovah's Witnesses in the late 1870s. The group emerged from Pittsburgh, PA, and published their beliefs through the Watchtower Tract Society. Russell, raised in Presbyterian orthodoxy, disputed many ideas of mainstream Christianity, including the immortality of the soul, hellfire, predestination, the fleshly return of Jesus Christ, the Trinity, and the burning up of the world.

Among the most significant disagreements between mainline Christianity and the JW's concerns the person of Jesus Christ and Michael the archangel. The Jehovah's Witnesses believe Michael to be another name for Jesus in heaven, in His pre-human and post-resurrection existence. They say the definite article in Jude 9, referring to Michael the archangel, identifies Michael as the only archangel. Furthermore, Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the archangel Michael is "the Word" of John 1:1, and the wisdom personified in Proverbs chapter 8 is Jesus.

The name Michael is used five times in the Bible to designate a celestial being (Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7). It is crucial to understand that at no place in the Bible is Michael explicitly identified with Jesus. Furthermore, Jesus is undoubtedly never identified as an angel. In Hebrews, chapters 1 through 3, the author demonstrates that Jesus is superior to the prophets, angels, and Moses. Scripture shows that Jesus is the definitive revelation of God (1:1-2), the Creator of the universe (1:2), and the precise inscription of God's nature (1:3). After explicitly stating He is "much superior to angels," the author of Hebrews writes, "For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'?" The clear answer to this theoretical question is that God never said that to any angel. Mark 1:11 expresses this truth when documenting God the Father saying directly to Jesus, "You are my beloved Son; with You, I am well pleased."

Hebrews 1:6 declares that the angels worship Jesus. This reality leads to the logical question of how a created being would qualify for receiving worship. A created life cannot receive worship. When the apostle John fell at an angel's feet to offer him worship, the angel said, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God" (Revelation 19:10).

Hebrews 1:8-12 makes it copiously clear the reason angels worship Jesus. It is because He is God Almighty. The information of Hebrews 1 leads to the conclusion that Jesus cannot be a mere created angel - even the archangel Michael.

Michael, the archangel, is conceivably the highest-ranking of all the angels. Michael is the only angel in the Bible with the description of "the archangel" (Jude verse 9). Michael, the archangel, though, is only an angel. He is not God.

DID JESUS HELP LAZARUS COME OUT AS LGBTQI+?

Arguments made by those trying to justify behaviors explicitly forbidden in Scripture by using the Bible are exercising the height of brazen ignorance and disrespect. Some teachings from the religious LGBTQI+ community leap recklessly off the cliff of rationality into the valley of terminal blasphemy.

Reinterpreting biblical teaching on sexuality requires misrepresenting the writer's intent, a fundamental flaw in any language study. Popular pro-gay theology advocate Brandan Robertson cites John 11:43 as Jesus' endorsement of the LGBTQI+ community. He concludes that the call to Lazarus, "Come out," was given to encourage people to express their true selves. He contends that Jesus encourages Lazarus to "step into the light...be who you are...come alive." Comparably, Robertson maintains Jesus is calling current-day LGBTQI+ persons to "Come out from the tomb of embarrassment, remove the social and psychological chains that have shackled you, step into the glory of the person God made you be...just as you are."

This interpretation takes stupid to previously unknown heights. There comes a time when dumb on steroids does not justify rank disregard for the incontrovertible teachings of Scripture. Pro-gay theology supporters constantly undermine the traditional Christian education and requirements of sexuality. This fabrication has been occurring for decades. The flaw with their method is the glaring failure to implement thorough interpretive rules that aid in understanding the meaning of any text, not only the Bible.

The phrase "Come out" is a modern idiom for publicizing that you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. The problem with interpreting the expression as a public declaration of personal sexual preference is obvious. This English language idiom has only been understood in that particular way since the end of the 20th century. Homosexual idioms are not capable of time travel. It is unethical to apply English words with an explicit connotation today and apply them to a biblical passage narrating a human resurrection that occurred two millennia ago. Jesus did not speak English, and imposing a contemporary social meaning on a 2,000-year-old text is anachronistic.

An idiom is an expression whose meaning is not inferred from individual words. For example, when somebody says, "When pigs fly," it is automatically assumed that the subject being discussed has an element of impossibility involved. Notice that the phrase's meaning doesn't emerge from the words pigs and fly. There are pigs, and flying is a reality. But pigs flying on their own is impossible. Combining these two words has an established meaning that modern English speakers understand to state something is unworkable.

Reinterpreting the words of Jesus and twisting them to mean that the Savior favored LGBTQI+ behavior is patently wrong. Pro-gay theology advocates do this because they recognize the church has a 2,000-year historical precedent of interpreting Scripture to declare that marriage is about one man with one woman becoming one flesh for one lifetime (Matthew 19:4-6). They also know the church has understood the Bible to forbid homosexual sex (Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26-27). That means same-sex sexual activity is a sin punishable by the legal outline provided in the Bible.

A NOTE OF CLARIFICATION

Many of the questions I answer are incomprehensible to some Christians, such as the previously addressed question in this section. I receive correspondence from many believers concerning the articles I write and the answers I offer. I have been accused of writing blasphemy and warned that I am in danger of judgment. I have even been accused of being a cult. While I appreciate the advice, many are missing the point. The answers I provide are from the questions I receive. I am targeting an audience who has no idea what biblical truth is. Jesus Christ is no different than any religious figure in history as far as much of my audience is concerned.

The reason these young adults have such a distorted sense of biblical Christianity is essentially the fault of those who would criticize me. If we were addressing the radically changing culture with a missional Christianity instead of an attractational approach, America would not be in this mess.

I will continue to welcome all questions that people might have - no matter how outside the boundary they might seem. If somebody has an honest interest in finding the truth, I will do anything to lead them to that place of ultimate discovery.

COLLEGE TOUR

Fall of 2023



Speaking to a Generation Whose Questions Have Gone Unanswered.

Quotes of the Month



Alisa Childers

"When I have doubts about my faith, or deep nagging questions that keep me up at night, I don't have the luxury of finding "my truth" because I am committed to the truth. I want to know what is real."

"What you see and what you hear depends a great deal on where you are standing. It also depends on what sort of person you are.."



C.S. Lewis

"If Christians continue to rely on emotion and ignore evidence, they will continue to lose their children to secularism."



Frank Turek

"The world of strict naturalism in which clever mathematical laws all by themselves bring the universe and life into existence, is pure (and, one might add, poor) fiction. To call it science-fiction would besmirch the name of science."



John Lennox



Natasha Crain

"Unity without truth is not unity - it is pure individualism."

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August 12, 2023

Indian Pentecostal Church
Pastor John Johnson
544 Tipton Road
Irving, TX

August 19, 2023

AMPED Training Center
5517 Denton Highway
Haltom City, TX

August 27, 2023

The First
Pastor James Owens
100 Conway Avenue
Laurens, SC

August 27, 2023

Teen Challenge
Evening Meeting
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Columbia, SC

August 29, 2023

Restoration Church
Pastor Timothy Williams
3918 Alex Harvin Hwy
Manning, SC

September 1-3, 2023

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Mt. Lebanon Camp and
Conference Center
Cedar Hill, TX

September 23, 2023

AMPED Training Center
5517 Denton Highway
Haltom City, TX

September 27, 2023

The Vessel Youth Group
201 Piedmont Road
Piedmont, SC
Pastor Paul Langston

Asking Questions, Seeking Truth

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