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**Telephone: 503 292 4352**

• **Internet:** [www.askelm.com](http://www.askelm.com) •

**E-Mail:** [askoffice@askelm.com](mailto:askoffice@askelm.com)

## Questions and Answers

by David Sielaff, December 2012

Read the accompanying [Newsletter for December 2012](#)



Over time I have answered questions for clarification of ASK teachings on biblical understanding. Below are a few of those questions, answers, and occasional expansions of my answers. No names or identifications are indicated. I have altered the questions and answers for clarity and have kept changes to a minimum. Feel free to agree or disagree with me or with any ASK material. I strive to give biblical and historical answers. My opinions (or yours) matter little. They usually parrot information learned when young. I try to use biblical evidence as much as possible.

### *Seeking Fellowship*

**QUESTION:** *I was born and raised Baptist, but the more I've read/studied the Bible the more I've distanced myself from that denomination. Anyways reading many of the articles on the ASK website have really opened my eyes and a few have literally left me breathless! Do you know of any ekklesia in the [city] area that is a part of your group? I have soooooo many questions and items for discussion it would take years via email! Appreciate any direction you could give me!*

**ANSWER:** ASK does not support, sponsor, or recommend any congregations. We are a research and publishing organization. The information on the website and books is what we offer. Type "church" into the search box at the top of the ASK homepage to read our opinion of ordinary church operations.

I understand this may not be the answer you seek, but consider starting a study group on your own with friends and acquaintances. I recommend going through with them Dr. Martin's book, [Restoring the Original Bible](#). No special education is needed to do this. The book is available online and in print. It will teach you more about the Bible, its structure, and its development than anything else you can read.

The purpose of ASK is to educate you to read the Bible with as much understanding and comprehension as when you read the local newspaper.

### *Noah and Genesis*

**QUESTION:** *I feel a need to turn to you with a question about Noah/Genesis. I used the [ASK Topic Index](#) and could not find what I'm looking for ... mainly, did God try to wipe out sin by creating the flood? It seems that mainstream Christian churches have this belief and will say things like, "through Noah, God has*

*shown us that once sin entered the world, it cannot simply be wiped out. It is firmly implanted, and we need God to deal with that sin!” How can I address such issues and thoughts?*

**ANSWER:** Regarding sin and the flood. No, God did not try to wipe out sin. Noah and his family were not sinless. God was reducing the degree of sin and starting over. He threatened to reduce the degree of sin in the people of Israel and start over with Moses, but Moses “persuaded” (if that is possible) God from doing so (Exodus 32:10–11; Numbers 14:12; Deuteronomy 9:13–25; Psalm 106:23).

The thoughts of mainstream Christian churches on this issue are not relevant. Only what the Bible says is important. Most churches believe that God was taken unawares when sin came into the world (though publicly they would deny such a thing such a thing took place) and He has been trying to “fix” the situation ever since, and save a few children of Adam from sin. We know this is not true because Christ was crucified from before the foundation of the world:

**“Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, ...”**

• 1 Peter 1:18–20

Note that Christ’s actions were ordained before sin came into the world. Sin was part of God’s plan.

**“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world [that is before the flood], that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will [again, from before the foundation of the world], To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he has made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood [given before the flood, before the foundation of the world], the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; ...”**

• Ephesians 1:3–7

So, God did not make a “course correction” to His disrupted plan of salvation when sin came into the world. Nor did he correct any mistake of His with the flood. It was all planned out before **“the foundation of the world,”** which means also, before Adam was created.

### ***The Man with the Pitcher of Water***

**QUESTION:** *I have often wondered what Christ meant in Luke 22:10:*

**“And he said unto them, ‘Behold, when you are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entered in.’”**

*As I understand it, in those days men did not carry pitchers of water; that was the women’s duties. Some say that we are entering a new era of Aquarius representing the Holy Spirit and leaving the Pieces era that Christ represented the fish. I am so confused on this. Can you explain?*

**ANSWER:** You are correct; it was culturally unusual for a man to be carrying water. This is what made the man immediately identifiable to the apostles. Symbolism must be INSERTED into the text in order to obtain another meaning. This had no connection to any supposed incoming Age of Aquarius.

Google the phrase “Age of Aquarius” and read the various ideas on the subject. This supposed Aquarian age was nowhere near the time of Christ. Some say we may (or may not) be beginning that period soon. But who cares? We should look to the Creator and His Word rather than the creation. The Age of Aquarius has no relation to the eons of time which God’s Son made (*eons*, not “worlds,” Hebrews 1:2). While God is revealed through His creation (Romans 1:19–20), physical creation cannot give answers on spiritual matters.

## *The Angel of the Lord*

**QUESTION:** *I had an opportunity to read through one of the articles about Jesus/Angels that you had posted online. This morning, I was troubled deeply by the many claims that the “Angel of the Lord” was Jesus pre-incarnate. I prayed and researched. That is when I chanced upon your article. God in his Glory led me to you article. Thank you for posting it with strong Biblical references! Appreciated it much!*

**ANSWER:** You are most welcome. Study the Scriptures and ask God for wisdom in understanding.

**“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraides not; and it [wisdom] shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.”**

• James 1:5–6

Dr. Martin’s research and study will be very helpful to you. See Chapter 2, “The Law Was Given by Angels” in Dr. Martin’s book [\*The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine\*](#). In that chapter Dr. Martin quotes at length the article “Angel” by Professor J.M. Wilson from *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (New Edition). In the section titled “Angel of the Theophany” Prof. Wilson fully explains the biblical usage of the “angel of the Lord.”

## *Satan Reading Minds*

**QUESTION:** *Not so much silly, as just strange. I believe that I have heard you and other biblically inclined folks state that Satan can’t “read” our thoughts but he uses his years of experience with mankind to read their body language and other telling signs to gauge our thoughts and potential actions.*

*Now here is where my question comes in. If humans can do this: “[Scientists Successfully ‘Hack’ Brain To Obtain Private Data](#),” what’s to say that a being who I would guess to be of far superior intellect and cunning (who also exists in what I’m guessing to be a far superior form [I can’t really think of a better term] than we do) hasn’t managed to accomplish something similar, if not better?*

**ANSWER:** This new information on the reading of minds by machine will take years to filter through scientific contrary tests and peer reviews. This is very preliminary. Remember, we are created only **“a little lower than the angels”** (Psalm 8:5; Hebrews 2:7, 9). Being invisible and able to go through walls [like angels and other spirits] gives them what many people would consider godlike powers (and angels are termed Elohim). That being said, angels only have power derived and granted to them from God the Father and Christ. Most of the time they are NOT, as you say, “a far superior form” with far superior intellect or cunning. Scripture says different. We are “a little lower” than them, probably because of our fleshly nature.

People have the ability to read people’s emotions but not their thoughts. When a person blushes it is a signal to others that the person is embarrassed. Spirit beings are able to notice many more physical characteristics of body information such as eye dilation, micro-body movements, skin temperature changes and other changes even under clothing. Jesus in the flesh had perfect understanding of the emotions and reactions of those around Him. Scripture says He understood their thoughts and reasonings (Matthew 9:4, 12:25; Luke 5:22, 6:8, 9:47, 11:17). Our very thoughts will be judged by the Word of God:

**“For the word of God is living and operative, and keen above any two-edged sword, and penetrating up to the parting of soul and spirit, both of the articulations and marrow, and is a judge of the sentiments and thoughts of the heart.”**

• Hebrews 4:12, Concordant Literal Version

Persons who are possessed, of course, can have their minds read because the evil spirits are parasitically cohabiting the body and have a great deal of information from the human host, and even control over bodily reactions, even to controlling the body to do evil.

## The Transfiguration

**QUESTION:** *Now concerning what occurred on the mountain top. This was an account in which Moses and Elijah talked to Jesus about his soon dying on the cross. It was the first time that Moses was in the promise land following his punishment for striking the stone that followed the Hebrews. If it was only a vision then how could they be talking to Jesus?*

*What is apparent [is] that there were no Dead Gentiles on the mountain top talking to Jesus. Only Hebrews were there in the last days before He died to redeem his divorced wife of Jeremiah chapter 3 and Isaiah chapters 50–55. Both of the Prophets knew the reason that Jesus came and it was to save HIS people from their sins. No gentiles were included when Jesus made his declaration in Matthew chapter 15. He said “I came only for the lost Sheep of the house of Israel,” again no gentiles were included and will never be included. No gentile has ever been saved for salvation is by race and for only one race the Hebrews of the House of Israel. Jesus never dispatched his learners to the hated rejected gentiles of the Old Testament. He came only for His people that the translators hid in the heathen rejected gentiles of the New Testament.*

**ANSWER:** What part of “vision” don’t you understand?

**“And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, ‘Tell the VISION to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.’”**

• **Matthew 17:9**

JESUS said it was a vision. I did not say it was a vision. Nor did Matthew (who merely reported what the three apostles told him). Jesus said it was a vision.

A vision is not a flesh and blood reality, but it is a spiritual reality. It was like an interactive holographic movie, so real that the three apostles reacted to the scene, wanting to build tabernacles for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus. God can make visions seem very real. After all, He made an ass talk to Balaam (Numbers 22:22–41).

God can certainly have Jesus speak to and interact with the VISION of Moses and Elijah. They were no more alive than Clark Gable is alive when you watch one of his movies. The dead are dead. They are not alive in a different form or consciousness.

**“Will You show wonders to the dead? [No, He will not] shall the dead [Hebrew: Raphaim] arise and praise you [No, they will not.]? Selah.**

**Shall your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? [No, it will not.] or your faithfulness in destruction [No again.]?**

**Shall your wonders be known in the dark? [No.] and your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? [No.]”**

• **Psalm 88:10–12**

**“The dead praise not YHWH, neither any that go down into silence.**

**But we [the living] will bless YHWH from this time forth and for evermore. Praise YHWH.”**

• **Psalm 115:17–18**

Do not allow reason to overwhelm what Scripture says.<sup>1</sup>

You wrote: “No gentile has ever been saved for salvation is by race and for only one race the Hebrews of the House of Israel.” This is wrong. Salvation is by faith, not by race (Ephesians 2:8).<sup>2</sup> Noah was not a Hebrew and he will be saved by faith for the ultimate receiving of his inheritance (Hebrews 11:7).

<sup>1</sup> These passages in the Psalms agree completely with Ecclesiastes 9:5:

**“For the living know that they shall die: but [1] the dead know not any thing, [2] neither have they any more a reward; [3] for the memory of them is forgotten [the dead have no memory].”**

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 2:1–10 must be read in conjunction with Ephesians 2:11–22. Verses 1–10 discuss salvation by grace. Verses 11–22 discuss the unity in Christ of Gentiles and Israelites, as they had in the *ekklesias* of Asia Minor to which Ephesians was addressed.

## **More on the Transfiguration**

**QUESTION:** *I would like to thank you for your works. It is appreciated and it is helping me in finding truths. Today I was listening to a series from the Byte Show ... Bible Secrets. ... I didn't get all of the way through, and hopefully I didn't miss the answer to my question:*

*If Christ is the only one ever to die and to be raised in their new body. ... [if so,] then how did Elisha and Moses appear at the transfiguration?*

**ANSWER:** Jesus says it was a vision (and hence not real):

**“And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, ‘Tell the [vision](#) to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.’”**

• **Matthew 17:9**

The disciples did not dispute Jesus' comment.

**Follow-up QUESTION:** *I have listened to you on the Byte Show for some time and appreciate your time and efforts. I am curious to get your take on a couple of topics;*

*If it is appointed for man to die once; why didn't Christ rebuke those when it was suggested that John the Baptist was ...,” suggesting a form of reincarnation?*

*How do you explain those who come back from death who had visions of reliving their life, especially those instances from when they “hurt” someone else ... except viewing it from the standpoint of the receiver ... is it possible that when you die time ceases as we understand it, thus there is what would appear to us as “the next instant in time” as that of the judgment? Could this correlate to when Christ says to the criminals on the cross that they would be with him this day ...? sort of like you “die” and time becomes irrelevant ... you jump out of our time-line into one the judgments time-line (if that makes sense) ...<sup>3</sup>*

**Follow-up ANSWER: (1)** The assertion made about John the Baptist (Matthew 16:14; Mark 6:14, 8:28; Luke 9:19) was that he had risen, *i.e.*, he was raised from the dead, not that he was a reincarnation of Elijah. There were several resurrections from the dead, but these were to physical life. Elijah was God's agent in resurrecting a child, Jesus resurrected Lazarus and others. All these were to physical life. These individuals later died. Jesus said John fulfilled the role of Elijah in Christ's day, not that he reincarnated.

**(2)** Evil spirits can give visions. Where do you think “false prophets” in the Old Testament received their information? They did not get such knowledge from God. Nor did they make up things. They were false prophets because they communicated with gods who were not YHWH, as well as with evil spirits. We are to try the spirits, which means we are to test them:

**“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”**

• **1 John 4:1**

They are called “lying spirits” because this is what they do to seduce people into false religious beliefs. Note 1 Kings 22:22–23 and 2 Chronicles 18:21–22. Sometimes God commissions spirits to lie to national leaders. This is why they are called “false spirits” and “familiar spirits” (Leviticus 19:31, 20:6, 27; Deuteronomy 18:11; 1 Samuel 28:3, 7–9; 2 Kings 21:6, 23:24; 1 Chronicles 10:13; 2 Chronicles 33:6; and Isaiah 8:19, 19:3, 29:4). They are “familiar” with the people they are possessing, oppressing, or observing. They are always around us, in the millions. One man said he had a “legion” possessing him (Mark 5:9; Luke 8:30), which means a number around 5,000. Although the spirit may have been lying, it is interesting that Jesus did not deny that demonic statement.

In one way study on the subject of reincarnation can be interesting. Contrary to common belief, there is not one single concept of reincarnation. The modes and types of reincarnation and into what types of entities (other people, animals, even bugs and plants) are multiple and varied, just like any other religious doctrine.

<sup>3</sup> The ellipses are in the original question. All the text from the question is included.

Edgar Cayce, for example, in a book of his about reincarnation gave over 100 examples of reincarnation. (He was in trance, by the way.) In every identifiable instance in the book males ONLY returned as males and females ONLY returned as females — supposedly. This is very unusual, contrary to logic, and to every other model of reincarnation. Yet Cayce’s “work” on reincarnation is considered a model in that area of study. Reincarnation is a bad lie, and it actually describes the experience of demons. They undergo a type of reincarnation when they go from one person to another. When they possess a person (they do so with varying degrees of success), they partially experience corporeality through their host. They are parasites.

The biblical reality is this: you are born, you live, and you die. In death your body, soul, and consciousness cease to exist. Your spirit returns to God (Ecclesiastes 12:7), awaiting a future time. Your spirit is not conscious. Upon resurrection your spirit will be united with a body (a physical or a spiritual body) different than the body you had when you died. Your memories will be full, your sensations will be real, limbs and body parts will be whole, you will be the same person but with different bodily sensations.

### ***A Missing Year***

**QUESTION:** *I have been told that the modern reckoning of time historically and astronomically differ by one year. For example 30 AD historically would be 31 AD astronomically. Can you confirm or deny this for me and can you please provide some sort of credible scholarly witness to your answer. Thanks! This means more than you can possibly know.*

**ANSWER:** You have it reversed, but there is no error or deception in the calculation. Astronomers and physicists use a slightly different system.

There is no year “zero.” Therefore you go from 1 BC to 1 AD without a year zero. So the year 30 AD would mathematically be 29 AD **IF** the year zero was counted and calculated.

For a simple and clear explanation read the Wikipedia article “[\(0\) Year](#).” See the references in that article if you need further information. The beauty of Wikipedia is it often provides basic sources within its articles, but you must do your own research to double check their information.

Any astronomical computer program (perhaps some are available online) will verify this same information. Also, look at Jack Finegan’s book *Handbook of Biblical Chronology: Principles of Time Reckoning in the Ancient World and Problems of Chronology in the Bible*, Second edition, revised and expanded (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1998). Calculations of prophecy, of course, must be reckoned by the actual years under consideration, taking the lack of year “0” into consideration.

### ***Lucifer/Satan***

**QUESTION:** *I had often wondered where Lucifer fell when he was thrown out of heaven, so like most people when they have an unusual question, they go to the internet for an answer. That’s how I ended up with your email address.*

*Anyway, my 15 year old son came up with a curious question the other day and I can’t find anyone locally with an answer, so here I am again, back on line looking for answers. In the book of Genesis, (2:16–17) Cain had killed Abel at this point and GOD sent him to a place called Nod which was east of Eden, where he found a wife & started a family. This woman was one of Adam’s offspring which makes her Cain’s sister. Now the question was, how or why was she there in Nod and not in Eden with the rest of the family?*

*Did she commit some terrible sin and was sent away as well? Did Cain know he was marrying his sister (did they know each other) and my question is. ... was Eve this woman’s mother? I also wonder was she the only one in Nod (I really believe there were others there but who were they?) My understanding was that Adam, Eve, Abel and Cain were the first family and only people on earth.*

*I figure you would have answers to these questions are could tell me where to find the answers. Thanks in advance for any help you can give.*

**ANSWER:** Lucifer, which is a Latin term inserted into the translations of the Hebrew, is not another

name for Satan. Lucifer occurs only in Isaiah 14:12. The idea that Satan is Lucifer is a theological fantasy. Read Dr. Martin's article, "[Assumptions about Satan](#)" and my Commentary, "[More on Lucifer and Satan.](#)" Satan (and not some fantasy "Lucifer") fell and at one time had a domicile in the ancient city of Pergamum. See my 2002 Commentary "[Where Does Satan Live?](#)"

Adam, Eve, and their children could come and go from the Garden until God expelled them. Cain found her in Nod because he had been expelled from the Garden. He could only find a wife where he was allowed to go. (Abraham married his half-sister.) Before the flood the genetic vitality days was so powerful that they could marry close relatives, and they had no choice. We have no more information in the Bible about Cain's wife, and extra-biblical information is not reliable. The population was small, and like a small town, everyone knew everyone else and their genealogies for several generations. Genealogies were very important.

Yes, Eve was everyone's mother, grandmother, great-grandmother. She is the mother of all living (Genesis 3:20), meaning all human beings. There was no other race. Satan did not sneak in and pollute the human line (although he and others may have tried, Acts 17:25–26). There was no woman called Lilith. The Hebrew term *lilit* occurs only in Isaiah 34:14, likely from a Babylonian loan word. In Babylon Lilith was a demon. There was extensive Babylonian lore attached to her, but none of that information is biblical.

There is no biblical reason to believe Cain's wife was the only one in Nod. Adam and Eve had daughters as well as sons (Genesis 5:4). There likely were people who thought Cain's punishment was too great. This was Cain's argument in Genesis 4:13–17. Others in Nod might wish or try to kill Cain (Genesis 4:14–15).

**Follow-up QUESTION:** *I sincerely appreciate the information, but I still have a question or two if you don't mind. I'm sure that Lucifer and Satan are only two names he is known by. And since the Bible has been translated into so many different languages, each country or nationality would have their own version of the name.*

*And I've heard tell of incest in the Old Testament and that it changed in the new. It now dawned on me that Adam's family wondering from the garden because I just figured they had all the necessities within the area of the Garden. And as far as Lilith, I had it figured she didn't exist except in the mind of Adam, maybe.*

*Also, about what form evil may take. I don't remember what chapter and verse, but I believe it's a story in Matthew about a man that had been living in the cemetery & had a multitude of personalities. So many they were called Legends. Jesus came alone, cast the spirits into a herd of pigs and the pigs jumped off a cliff into the ocean and drowned. So, by that I'm guessing that an evil spirit can come in any form and enter man and beast. I wonder what your thoughts are on this subject. I look forward to hearing from you.*

**Follow-up ANSWER:** WHY are you sure Satan and Lucifer are the same individual? Prove it from Scripture. Have you never noticed that this "supposed" Lucifer was a man (Isaiah 14:16, "mortal" is a better translation from the Hebrew)? This is the same person from Isaiah 14:12. This refers to the antichrist.

Theology has identified Lucifer and Satan as the same individual, the Bible has not. The Bible nowhere says that the individual in Isaiah chapter 14 is Satan! For all the different identifiers of Satan go to Revelation 12:9 (repeated in 20:2). Satan is the Devil, the Serpent, and the Dragon. There is no conceptual or evidentiary link to Isaiah chapter 14 anywhere indicated.

Prohibitions against incest came into various societies after the time of Abraham. They were confirmed by God in the Law of Moses for Israel. God likely did this due to human genetic weakening after the flood. Marrying close relatives by that time was detrimental to future generations, hastening the genetic decline.

Again about Lilith, there is no biblical record of her. What unbiblical source prompts such a question? Regarding your cemetery reference is Mark chapter 5 where evil spirits possessed a man. They called themselves "Legion." Evil spirits are non-physical beings. Evil spirits do not have an appearance as beasts. The pigs were real. Jesus and His disciples were in a Gentile area where swine were raised.

## **Goliath's Head**

**QUESTION:** *I just read your article on the internet about the possible location of Goliath's head. I*

recently heard that some believe, possibly from Jewish tradition, that Golgotha was the place and was named for where his head was buried; Gol (Goliath) gotha (Gath) the city where he was from. It makes sense to me. What do you think?

**ANSWER:** Dr. Martin presents his evidence as to the meaning of Golgotha in “Chapter 9 Where and What Was Golgotha?” beginning on page 96 of his book *Secrets of Golgotha: The Lost History of Jesus’ Crucifixion*. He did not come to that conclusion you heard.

I would have to examine the evidence about Goliath and see what it is based on. Partial similarity of sounds in names is not strong evidence. There needs to be more.

Is Golgotha inside Jerusalem? No. It is not, at least not in New Testament times. “Gotha” as “Gath” does not make sense because Gath is a perfectly good word, and it is shorter. Shorter is better for terms. Golgotha or *glglth* in Hebrew is used four times in the Old Testament:

1. The term is used in 2 Kings 9:35 with reference to Jezebel’s head or skull. Here the word is used not as a place name but as a term for “skull” or “head”: **“And they go to bury her, and have not found of her except the skull [e-*glglth-am* in Hebrew, meaning “only the skull” or “only the head”], and the feet, and the palms of the hands.”**
2. In Judges 9:53 the Hebrew word *glglth-u* is used, translated **“his skull.”**
3. In 1 Chronicles 10:10 King Saul’s skull (*glglth-u*) was placed in a temple: **“And they put his armor in the house of their gods, and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon.”**

This Hebrew root is used elsewhere. In Exodus 16:16, 38:26 it is translated “man.” In Numbers 1:2, 18, 20, 22, 3:47; 1 Chronicles 23:3, 24 it is translated “poll” or “polls.” Dr. Martin concluded from this evidence in Chapter 9 of his book *Secrets of Golgotha* that *glglth* is better translated as “head” rather than “skull” even though our usage is interchangeable.

To sum up, the term *glglth* does not seem to be split into two parts to form a compound word, nor does it refer to a portion of the body. Why would the “place” of Goliath’s head be used for a part of the body, especially in passages that took place before Goliath lived?

### ***New Covenant Questions***

**QUESTION:** *I have 2 questions, could you please help me?*

**(1)** *There are some people that teach that the New Covenant is not active yet. Is this true? As far as I know, the New Covenant was brought by Jesus at the Cross and activated at the Last Supper. And after that with the revelation of the Mystery, came even another new Covenant. Are these people correct in assuming that the NC from Jeremiah 31 is the only one still to happen? I believe there might be one more New Covenant taking place during or after the Millennium, whenever there’s no teachers anymore according to Jeremiah 31:34.*

**(2)** *Do you know why Joshua used a stone as witness in Joshua 24:26–27? How can this make sense? Is this just symbolic or literal? Thanks! God bless!*

**ANSWER (1)** There is only one New Covenant. I have not read about “another” New Covenant, but more than one makes no sense. The Mystery is the final doctrinal revelation. What could possibly go beyond our being “in Christ” legally at the present moment, seated with Him at the right hand of the Father? Both covenants, Old Covenant and New Covenant — will eventually be given the status of the Mystery blessings. In fact, all mankind shall be saved, but that was strongly suggested in the Old Testament (particularly in Isaiah) and definitely told about in the New Testament, and forcefully presented in the Mystery elements of the New Testament.

The Jeremiah 31:34 is to be understood (in my opinion) not to mean that there will not be human teachers (certainly men will teach their children about God), but rather that the basics about God will be widely known and readily available:

“... for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of YHWH, as the waters cover the sea.”

• *Isaiah 11:9*

“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of YHWH, as the waters cover the sea.”

• *Habakkuk 2:14*

(2) Regarding Joshua 24:26–27, the stone may have been the one which was before the Holy Place, although the text says outside of the sanctuary. In other words, this may have represented the stone from which water came during the wilderness journey. This is **NOT** a cornerstone, of which Christ is the chief. See “[Secret Number 100](#)” from Dr. Martin’s book *101 Bible Secrets*. Whether this stone was moved with the Israelites is unclear. The Muslims thought they were moving this stone to a new location of holiness. This was their understanding (and common to most peoples of the time), that holiness could be transferred from one site to another by removing and transporting a sacred object. This is the basis of relics for Christians, by the way. See Dr. Martin’s article “[How the Jews Started to Lose the Temples’ Site](#)” which discusses this event. The relevant portion is toward the end of the article. It is also discussed in “[New Evidence for the Site of the Temple in Jerusalem](#),” a bit past half way. Read footnote #38 which explains about a different rock:

“[Footnote 38] True, the later Jews tell us that Solomon made a ‘foundation stone’ that a few modern scholars have guessed may be the ‘Rock’ under the Dome of the Rock. It is called the *Even Shetiyyah*. But Jewish sources tell us this was a manufactured slab of stone (like a pavement stone) made in the days of Samuel and David that could fit snugly into the twenty cubit’s square floor of the Holy of Holies. Its smooth top was elevated three fingers above the level floor (See *Sanhedrin* 26b; *Yoma* 53b). In no way could that *Even Shetiyyah* be considered a natural outcropping of rock that was almost twice as large as the Holy of Holies of Solomon (as is the ‘Rock’ under the Dome of the Rock). Neither could it be the “pierced stone” of the Bordeaux Pilgrim.”

### *Salvation of All and 2 Thessalonians 1:9*

**QUESTION:** *I’ve read several of your articles regarding salvation for all. How do you interpret the Biblical passage at 2 Thessalonians 1:9?*

**ANSWER:** The word for “everlasting” in Greek is actually *aionios*, the adjective for *aions*. *Aions* (eons in English) have a beginning and an end. Most translations have “everlasting” or “eternal” because (in my opinion) they insert their theological bias into the translations. It does not come from any linguistic understanding. Note how Young’s Literal Translation renders the passage:

“in flaming fire, giving vengeance to those not knowing God, and to those not obeying the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall suffer justice — DESTRUCTION AGE-LASTING from the face of the Lord, and from the glory of his strength,”

• *2 Thessalonians 1:8–9, YLT*

Remember what Paul wrote, speaking about Satan:

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world [*eon*, in Greek] has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

• *2 Corinthians 4:3–4, KJV*

If the noun has limits, the adjective cannot have greater force or extent than the noun (unless the adjective is modified by other words). If you can find me any instance otherwise in Greek, I shall publish it.

David Sielaff, December 2012