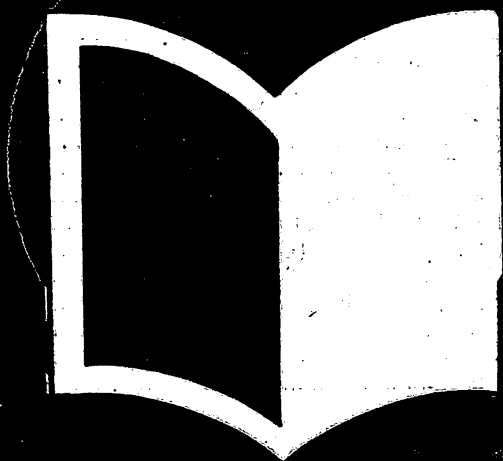


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THE BIBLE TEACHER

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The Trial Of Jesus

There have been many great trials through time but none have been greater nor more publicized than the one of Jesus Christ the Son of God. It was the greatest trial ever conducted because of the one being tried and because of the way it was carried out. Although it was an unfair trial, and it led to the tragic crucifixion of Christ, yet it changed the course of history, bringing with it salvation for one and all and hope after death. Such a trial then deserves a special look on the part of each one of us in order to enable us to know what really happened and how it may affect us even to this day.

It is generally accepted that Christ was tried and crucified. Josephus, a historian of the first century, in his book, "Jewish Antiquities", speaks of Jesus as a living character and one who was tried by Pilate and sentenced to the cross. There is no denial of this in secular history books of that time or

after. The book, however, that we must go to in order to get the full story is the Bible itself, and specifically the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Going back before the trial, the scriptures tell us that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary in the city of Bethlehem. He grew up as most any other child would and little is known of him until he was around thirty years of age. At this point in his life he began his public ministry by preaching and teaching God's will and confirming it by the miracles that he performed. At this stage in his life he was baptized of John, was tempted by Satan, and chose his Apostles.

During this period of time, and because of the religious climate of that day, the teaching and works of Christ caused a great deal of anxiety among the people in general. Many believed that he had come to be the Messiah or the physical deliverer of Israel. The political and religious leaders therefore saw in him a threat to their positions. There was a great deal of jealousy and envy on their part and they sought ways to condemn him, even to the point of killing him. This was all in spite of the fact that he had done good only and no one could find fault in him.

Finally, these people found a weak spot in one of his own followers who was an apostle, Judas Iscariot. There have been various theories advanced as to why he would have ever betrayed Christ, especially so since he went out later and hung himself. One of these theories is that Judas wanted to force Christ to take action against the leadership of his day and go on to proclaim himself as the king over Israel. Whether this is true or not, we do not know, but surely the thirty pieces of silver that he received for doing this foul deed would not have been the chief motive and especially so when later on he returned it.

From this point now we will consider the record itself as Jesus is taken into custody. We read: "And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in,

and sat with the servants, to see the end. Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; But found none; yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. Then did they spit in his face and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, who is he that smote thee?" (Matthew 27 : 57-68).

Continuing, the record says, "when the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius the governor. Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, what is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for us to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potters' field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, the field of blood, unto this day. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the

children of Israel did value ; And gave them for the potter's field as the Lord appointed me : And Jesus stood before the governor : and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest. And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he answered him never a word ; inasmuch that the governor marvelled greatly. Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would. And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas. Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? For he knew that for envy they had delivered him. When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife went unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man : for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person : see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. Then released he Barabbas unto them : and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe..." (Matthew 27 : 1-28).

Luke writes, "And they were more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place. When Pilate heard of Galilee, he

asked whether the man were a Galilaean. And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time. And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him. Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him. And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate. And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together; for before they were at enmity between themselves." (Luke 23 : 5-12).

If you want the complete record on this in Luke then read on through Luke 23 and also you may want to read Mark 15 and also John 19. It would be good if we could quote all of the story here but we do not have the space.

In reading the record itself we can see what a false trial this was, if you can call it a trial. Jesus was betrayed, taken into custody and abused by religious leaders, taken before Pilate and finally King Herod, but with neither one being able to find anything in him worthy of death. Finally, Pilate offered the Jews a choice between Christ, an innocent man, and Barabbas, a murderer, so that he might release the one they chose. To show how far they were willing to go to dispose of him, they asked that Barabbas be released and that Christ be crucified. They took the word of false witnesses, made charges they could not support, and forced Pilate to give him to them. Judas admitted that he had betrayed innocent blood, Pilate's wife begged her husband not to have anything to do with this just man, but Pilate wanted to please the Jews and therefore gave in to their requests. These people were so determined to crucify him that when Pilate said that he was going to wash his hands of the whole affair then they said let his blood be upon us and upon our children. And with this Christ was turned over to them and he was led away to be crucified.

Anyone who knows anything about trials and the way they are properly conducted would shudder after reading of this one. But as false and horrible as it was, out of it came the death of Christ, and three days later, after he was buried, he came forth from the grave as a resurrected Lord and Saviour of the world. In him and through him we are saved and have the hope of eternal life. Do you know this man? We pray you will want to know more about him so he can come to be your saviour too.



**associate
editorial**

The Universal Problem of Man ..

(No. 3)

SIN BRINGS FEELING OF INSECURITY

Friends, sin has a growing effect on the world. It is a fact of our day to day experience. Just like we read our newspapers or hear our radios, so we see it everywhere. Sin is not limited to one nation or to some particular people, but it is universal. One does not have to travel abroad to see it but it can be seen right here in our own country, in our own society, in our own homes, and in our own lives. One of its most dangerous effects can be seen in the prevailing feeling of insecurity among human beings over the world. There are threats, wars, dacoities, robberies, kidnappings, bombs and missiles, and scores of other such things which bring feelings of insecurity to people. People cannot travel with valuable things or cash with them without special arrangements ; we can't ride on a bus, train, or taxi without having a feeling of insecurity in us. We fear each other ; we cannot trust each other. Most of our laws and legislations have come into existence because human beings cannot be trusted. It is a fact all over the world that we cannot

trust the promise of another person ; we need a contract. In our buildings or homes, doors are not enough ; we have to lock them with strong locks. While travelling, paying the right fare is not all that you have to do, but you have to collect already inspected tickets. On our roads traffic signal lights are not enough but we also need traffic police to watch over us. Not only do we need special laws and orders, but we also need police, and in some cases even the military, to enforce them. Actually speaking, we do not realize that all of these laws, by-laws and legislations have come into existence because of our own sins. We do not see this fact, no doubt, because we have grown so accustomed to all of these things that we take them for granted just like God's sunshine, water, and air, etc., all of which we take so much for granted that we even forget that there is a God!

SIN IS A REALITY

To some people sin is not a reality ; they think there is no God and there is no sin. Sin to them is but an idea of human suppositions. However, such is not true. But you should know that sin is as real as death itself. You may have seen many of your loved ones dying. It is no doubt sad and painful to see someone dying, and especially to see a close friend or relative departing from us. But the fact remains that thousands of people die daily around the world. All of the money in the world, and the best medicines and doctors, and all special security arrangements of the world put together would never be able to save a single person when death actually comes. Just as God, death is no respecter of persons. The rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated, big and small, all die. And the Bible affirms in these words, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27). But do you know why God had to appoint unto all men to die? Because the Bible says that in the beginning the first parents of all human beings, Adam and Eve, sinned against God by breaking his command. And God's word again declares, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin ; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans

5: 12). Physical death was passed upon all men as being the consequences of the sin of the first man.

Here it would be advantageous to note that there are two types of sin, that is, actual or personal, and the other representative. Those who are guilty of personal sins must suffer both the guilt and the consequences, but those who are guilty only of representative sin do not suffer the guilt but only the consequences of sin. To understand this, let me give you an example, for instance, suppose fifty-one people are travelling in a bus and one of them is the drunk driver of the bus. On the way the bus met with an accident because of the erring driver. All of the passengers of the bus, including the driver, got badly hurt and wounded. Now who would be prosecuted in the court for the error which was responsible for the accident? Surely, the driver and not any of the passengers. But yet, all the passengers had to suffer the consequences with the driver because of his error although none of them were guilty or responsible for the accident. Likewise, physical death, the consequences of Adam's and Eve's sin, was passed upon all men, even upon little children who do not know sin. Therefore people die today. And thus, the presence of sin in the world explains the question "why people die?" And just as death is a reality, so is sin a reality.

SIN ESTRANGES FROM GOD

But as pointed out at the outset, the most dreadful of all consequences of sins is that it separates man from God. God, the perfect being, who is holy, pure, and righteous, cannot have fellowship with human beings who are in their sins. The Bible describes Him in these words, "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all." And therefore, "If we say that we have fellowship with God, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not speak the truth." (1 John 1: 5, 6). And again the Bible question arises, "What partnership have righteousness with iniquity? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6: 14). And in Ephesians 2: 1 the Bible declares that people are dead through their trespasses and sins. Confirming the fact, the Apostle John says, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1: 8). It is therefore a clear picture of every man and

woman in the world, and that is that they are cut off from God and have separated from Him who is the source of eternal life. No doubt, people are dead spiritually through their own trespasses and sins.

However, the term death, which is now being used, should not be misunderstood to be physical death which was passed upon all men as the consequence of the sin of Adam and Eve and which was discussed under the heading, "Sin is a Reality." But the death that we are now considering is of a spiritual nature and it is caused by our own trespasses and sins. The Bible clearly and definitely teaches so in the following verses: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him." (Ezekiel 18 : 20). And again, "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished (full grown), bringeth forth death." (James 1 : 14, 15).

Now, the term death can be defined as being the separation of two elements which may be responsible to keep one alive. Just like your radio or the light bulb you can put them on or off at any time by simply joining or separating the two connecting ends which are actually responsible for the sound and light. In a similar way physical death takes place when the spirit is separated from the human body. Here, I also remind you of the fact that when God in the beginning formed man out of the dust of the ground, man did not become alive or a living soul until God breathed the breath of life into his nostrills. Thus, the spiritual death means the estrangement or separation of man from God. People are cut off or are estranged from God because of their own sins and trespasses, and this separation of man from God is called death in a spiritual sense. But remember sin is responsible for this estrangement. (Romans 3:23). That man is estranged from God is also seen in the conscience of nearly every man and woman who are trying to find God through various ways and means. The fact is that consciously man is aware that he is lost in his sin and he needs God.



bible questions and answers

This set of questions comes from a reader in Ahmedabad.

1. "Who are the authors of the various old Testament Books?"

Answer : Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy were written by Moses ; Joshua by Joshua ; Judges probably by Samuel ; Ruth also by Samuel ; 1 & 2 Samuel by Samuel ; 1 & 2 Kings by an unknown author ; 1 & 2 Chronicles by Ezra ; Ezra by Ezra ; Nehemiah by Nehemiah ; Esther probably by Mordecai ; Job by an unknown author ; Psalms by David, Moses, and others ; Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon by Solomon ; Isaiah by Isaiah ; Jeremiah and Lamentations by Jeremiah ; Ezekiel by Ezekiel ; Daniel by Daniel ; Hosea by Hosea ; Joel by Joel ; Amos by Amos ; Obadiah by Obadiah ; Jonah by Jonah ; Micah by Micah ; Nahum by Nahum ; Habakkuk by Habakkuk ; Zephaniah by Zephaniah ; Haggai by Haggai ; Zechariah by Zechariah ; and Malachi by Malachi.

2. "In which year (B.C.) were these books written?"

Answer: All the way before 1635 B.C. for Genesis and to 397 B.C. for Malachi. We'll not take the time to give the date to each one but dates are available for each individual book.

3. "In (a) Joshua 10:13 and (b) 2 Sam. 1:18 there is a mention of a book of Jashar but we don't find it in the Bible. Why?"

Answer : For the simple reason it was not an inspired book and therefore was not intended to be included. Just because a book is mentioned that does not mean that it has to be included in the Bible as one of its books.

4. "In Psalms at the end of certain verses (e.g. 3:2; 3:4) we find a word 'Selah'. What does it mean?"

Answer : It is generally thought that this word is a musical sign ; perhaps a pause between the singing while the instruments of music continued to play. They used mechanical music in that time but today the Lord commands his people to sing (vocal music only) praises unto him.

5. "In Ezek. 36:25 we read about 'sprinkling of clean water'. What does this signify? Has it any connection with baptism?"

Answer : Here the Lord is using figurative language in talking to his people about the way he is going to deal with them. It has absolutely nothing to do with baptism. Baptism is not sprinkling any way but a burial in water. (Col. 2:12; Acts 8:26-39).

6. "If at the end of an accident, e.g., air crash, in the desert, a person seriously injured and nearing his death wants to get baptized and there be no water sufficiently near by, how is he to be baptized?"

Answer: This is an hypothetical case which indicates that one is not serious in doing what the Lord teaches in his word. One thinks if he can locate a loop hole or a way to escape what the Lord has said then that will automatically nullify his teaching on the command of baptism. But should an individual find himself in that situation, would that change the Lord's word? Christ has said. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved ; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16). The Lord made no exceptions and one had better see to it that he complies with that teaching before he finds himself out somewhere in a desert place dying and with no way to be baptized. But to further answer this question, you might check with Acts 8:26-39 because it tells the story of a man who was out in a desert and yet he had no trouble at all in finding water in which he could be baptized.

7. "What does No. 666 mean in Rev. 13:18?"

Answer : It is not a literal number. Actually, it is a figurative number and has to do, it is believed, with events in the early days of the church when it passed through a great amount of persecution.

8. "Which is the book most Holy to the Jews?"

Answer : As I understand it, it would be the Torah or Pentateuch which is the first five books of the Old Testament. Although the word of God, the Bible, teaches that the Old Testament as a whole, and this includes the first five books of the Bible, have been fulfilled and taken away. (Heb. 9:16, 17 ; 10:9, 10). The law of Christ is now binding on the whole world, Jews and non-Jews alike. (Mark 16:15, 16 ; Matthew 28:19, 20).



Who Will Go To Gujarat?

Gujarat is another one of the great States of India. Its people have distinguished themselves in many fields and they are well known throughout the country. Gandhijee himself was born there. Of course its capital is Ahmedabad but other important cities include Baroda, Broach, Surat, Rajkot, Jamnagar, and Junagadh.

Who will go to this State? There has been a report or two that some work has been done there but nothing substantial. This needs to be changed. It may be that you are the very one that can make the difference.

We cannot send you and neither can we offer you any support, but if you can act on this challenge then the field is wide open. Perhaps you are already living in this State. You have learned the truth and you want to obey it. Furthermore, you want to conduct worship and to try to teach others the truth you have obeyed. That is wonderful. Maybe you are living in a nearby State, you have relatives or friends in Gujarat, and therefore as a Christian you desire to move there to work for the Lord. Whatever your situation may be, if you can do something about this we would be so happy to hear about it. For sure, the Lord said that the gospel should be taken into all the world and that includes India and it also includes Gujarat and every soul in it. We should not rest until this command is obeyed.

Looking For Pauls

If you are familiar with the story of the Apostle Paul, you know what he meant to the cause of Christ in the first century. Surely the Lord saw in this man the great potential he represented for Christianity even before his conversion. He was a man that was not only well educated and religious, but he was also full of faith, zeal, courage, determination, and dedication. Being a Jew and one who was active in the propogating of Judaism, feeling that Christianity represented a threat to his religion, he set out to persecute and to exterminate those who were spreading it. He said later that he did this in all seriousness believing that in so doing that God would be pleased. (Acts 26:9). No telling what he would have eventually done had Christ himself not stepped into the picture. In Acts 9 we have the account of the Lord appearing to him and with this Saul (as he was called back then) asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me do?" He was told to go into the city of Damascus and there it would be told him what he should do. He went blind, fasting, and praying and later Ananias came to him and commanded him to arise and be baptized to wash away his sins. (Acts 22:16). He did so and began immediately to preach the

resurrection of Christ. Not only so, but from that time onward it was as though a wild fire had been turned loose on Asia and Europe because wherever he went he preached the gospel of Christ. Because of him, and others similar to him, the gospel was taken into all the world in a short time.

There probably never has been another man exactly like him, nor will there ever be. But there must be men today, as in every age, who closely resemble him in many ways. These are the men who hear God's will, obey it, and then because of the drive that is within them they are able to lead hundreds and thousands of others to the truth. They are special men because of their faith, courage, zeal, and determination. Nothing can stop them. These men are not followers, except for Christ, but they are leaders in that they are out working, teaching, converting, and leading men and women to Christ. They are not sitting around waiting for someone to come by to tell them what to do but rather they are up moving, and taking the initiative for the Lord's cause. They are out on the front line fighting the good fight of faith. Because of them the gospel will become known, the church will be planted, and only eternity will reveal the good that was done.

Here in India, as well as around the world, we are looking for Pauls. We are trying to locate them through literature, radio preaching, and personal contact. We believe they are out there somewhere. We may have not met them, and may never meet them, but they are there. They are already unusual men. They are leaders. They are in all kinds of professions. Some may even be bad men. But the point is, they have the potential for being great men of God. If we can but get the truth to them, to get their attention, to awaken them to God and their need, then they will do the rest. Once they learn the truth then they will obey it and then they will begin to teach it to others. How do I know this? I know they will if they are like Paul.

Are you a Paul? It is true that not everyone can be a Paul, or even close to being a Paul, but we are saying that if we can reach such potential leaders with the truth then they can

be worth so much in spreading the gospel in their own areas and throughout this country. Through them and their work all of the people of India could be reached with the gospel of Christ. How wonderful that would be.

Regardless of who you are or where you may be, will you hear the gospel, believe it, repent of your sins, confess Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized for the remission of your sins? If you will the Lord will add you to his church and God can use you to reach others. It is urgent for you to act now both for yourself and for others. You may not know it but you might become another Paul.

Long Hair

A few years back the popular British singing group called The Beatles introduced long hair to the western parts of the world. Representative of the hippie movememet, of rebelling against modern society and way of life, their hair style soon spread to others who were like minded. Today it is popular around the world not only among those who would be hippies, but also among young men, and older men too, of all walks of life. It has become so fashionable that any advertisement that you see that includes men will always depict them as having long hair.

The east has always been known for copying the west. It not only copies the west but out-copies the west. For instance, if the girls of the west wear short dresses, the girls of the east usually wear theirs even shorter. And so it is with many other fads or practices. It is the same here in India. It usually begins with the wealthy and then spreads on down among the poorer classes. Have you noticed all the boys and men who are sporting long hair? Have you noticed all of the pictures in the various newspapers and magazines that show boys and men with long hair? Of course the Sadhus, Gurus, and others have been wearing long hair for years, but the present popularity of long hair among the male population did not come through their influence, but through the influence of the west.

Why is it that the east always picks up the bad habits, and practices, of the west? It would be far better to find the things that are good to imitate if it must indulge in such things.

One of the saddest things to be seen is to observe young men who believe in Christ wearing long hair. Why do they do this? Surely it is not because they are following Christ. Rather, they are doing it because they see others doing it and they think if they are to be accepted then they must also have long hair. They are so eager to keep up with the world around them. Perhaps they think it makes them look pretty, smart, modern, up to date, and fashionable. Maybe they want to experiment, be different, and be noticed. Whatever their motive, it is not a good one.

Sometime young people argue that Jesus and the Apostles had long hair. Who said so? Who has any evidence to prove it? The pictures that we have of Christ and of the Apostles represent someone's imagination of how they might have looked. No one actually knows what they looked like or how they wore their hair, except for the fact that the scriptures tell us that it is a shame for a man to have long hair and we would therefore conclude that they would not have gone contrary to that divine statement.

Others want to know how long is long. That may be questionable up to a point, but we can safely say that when a boy or man's hair gets long enough that you can't tell him at different angles from a girl then it is too long. But why would any male want to look like a female? God made man and woman and he meant for them to have their own individual identities. One way of distinguishing them is by their hair. The Bible says it is a shame for a man to have long hair but that long hair is a glory to the woman. Men, remember that the next time you look at yourself in a mirror.

Now that we have referred to the scriptures more than once, let us go to God's word and hear Paul as he says: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. But I would have you know,

that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head : for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God. Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is glory to her : for her hair is given her for a covering. But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." (1 Corinthians 11:1-16). That should settle the matter then. God has thus spoken against it and with the knowledge of that then long hair on a man becomes ugly, unmanly, and completely out of place. Regardless of how many have it, that does not make it right. To insist on keeping it only shows your lack of respect for God and his will.

Any man that has long hair, and that includes both young and old, needs to go immediately and get a haircut. Don't you realize that it is a shame for you to have long hair? Don't you know in so doing you are opposing God? God did not intend for you to have it and does not want you to have it. Society may accept it, your school or college may expect it, your friends may want you to keep it, your parents may permit it, but regardless of how much they may encourage you to have it, and in spite of what they may say about you if you cut it, as a God fearing person and one who wants to please his maker and

to bring honour to that name that you wear, the name Christian, then you must have your hair-cut so that it will no longer be said to be long. You should have already done this, and it is to your shame that you have not, but if you have not, then don't live with your shame any longer. Get a hair cut. You can do that. You can afford it. You must do it.

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“सत्य सुसमाचार”

**सुन सकते हैं यह कार्यक्रम २५ तथा ३१ मीटर बैंड
पर सुना जा सकता है ।**

“Thou Art Peter, And Upon This Rock I will Build My Church”

Reggie Gnanasunderam

Jesus asked his disciples, “But whom say ye that I am”—Mat. 16:15—“and Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, blessed art thou, Simon Barjona : for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”—Mat. 16: 16-18.

From this answer which Jesus gave Peter some get the mistaken idea that the church was built on Peter. It is therefore necessary to examine carefully the answer Jesus gave Peter and to ascertain :

- A. Whether the church was in fact built on Peter.
- B. Whether only Peter was given the keys of the kingdom.
- C. Whether Peter was authorised by Jesus to head the church.

A study of each of the above from the Scriptures clearly reveals the following:

A. Whether The Church Was In Fact Built On Peter.

The Greek words for ‘Peter’ and ‘rock’ indicate that the word ‘rock’ does not refer to ‘Peter’ as will be seen from the following:

‘Thou art *Peter*:—Greek word—Petros, meaning single stone or fragment rock—Masculine gender.

“and upon this *rock*”—Greek word—Petra, meaning solid, immovable bed rock feminine gender.

The above difference in the meaning of the words ‘Peter’ and ‘rock’ is also expressed in the Latin Vulgate, from which was translated the official Douay version of the Catholic Church.

It will therefore be observed that:

- (1) The two words 'Peter' and 'rock' differ not only in meaning but also in gender.
- (2) The word 'Peter' does not refer to 'rock' neither does 'rock' refer to 'Peter':
- (3) The rock upon which the church is built is not Peter, a fragment of rock.

John 1:42—"And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas which is by interpretation, a stone."

- (4) The church is built on the solid, immovable bed rock which is the great truth expressed in Peter's confession: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,"—Mat. 16:16.

This conclusion is further confirmed in 1 Cor. 3:11—"For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Jesus himself claimed that he was the Son of God. He has every right to establish his church, and base it upon this divine bed rock foundation which rock cannot be moved, the deity of Jesus Christ.

- (5) Jesus Christ is the chief corner stone, the main foundation of the church. Eph. 2:20 "...Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone".
- (6) The relationship of Peter to the chief corner stone is no different than that of the other apostles.

Eph. 2: 19-20—"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

Further we find in the Scriptures that Peter never claimed to be the rock on which the church was built. Peter tells us:

(a) In 1 Pet. 2:5-7, that Jesus Christ is the chief corner stone.

(b) In Acts 4: 11, that Jesus was that stone who was rejected but became head of the corner.

(7) We also find that God through the prophet announced in Isaiah 28:16 "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."

While Jesus was on earth he applied this prophesy to himself, recorded in Mat. 21: 42—"Jesus saith unto them, did ye never read in the Scriptures, the stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lords doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

The Scriptures Quoted Above Clearly Indicate That

The Church Was Built On Jesus And Not on Peter

B. WHETHER ONLY PETER WAS GIVEN THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

The Scriptures teach that the kingdom of heaven and the church are one and the same. Mat. 16:18-19.

The purpose of keys is to open or close doors. From the account of all the events that took place on the day of Pentecost, recorded in Acts 2 we find that for the first time:

(1) Peter preached the first gospel sermon.

(2) Peter announced the terms and conditions on which men could have their sins forgiven. These are same conditions Jesus taught apostles recorded in Mark 16:15-16, Mat. 28:19-20.

As a result of this preaching by Peter we find:

(a) About 3000 believed and were baptised on the same day—Acts 2:41.

(b) They were added unto them—Acts 2:41.

(c) They were added to the church—Acts 2:47.

We thus find that :

- (a) The church started on the day of Pentecost.
- (b) The keys used by Peter to open the doors for entry into the church was the gospel message preached by Peter.
- (c) This gospel message included the conditions by which men could have their sins forgiven, be bound or loosed.

The Scriptures also reveal :

- (a) The keys, being the gospel message was used by Peter on the authority of Jesus—Mark, 16:15-16.
- (b) This same authority was given by Jesus not only to Peter but to the other apostles as well.

Mat. 18:18—"Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye (all the church) shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven".

John 20:23—"Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained."

- (c) The only basis for pardon of man's sins are the terms clearly taught by Jesus and proclaimed for the first time by Peter on the day of Pentecost.
- (d) The Gospel message including the same terms of pardon was proclaimed by the other apostles and members of the church as well. (Acts 8:4, 12.)

It will therefore be observed that Peter, the apostles and members of the church all had the same keys, the same gospel, and the same terms of pardon to proclaim to every creature in all the world.

According to the Scriptures Peter did not have any authority the other apostles did not have as will be observed from the following :

- (a) Peter never gave himself any special designation but referred to himself as a "servant and apostle of Jesus (Christ". 2 Pet. 1:1.)

(b) Peter also referred to himself as a "fellow elder" (1 Pet. 5:1.)

(c) When Peter used the term "chief Shepherd" (1 Pet. 5:4) he did not refer to himself but to Jesus Christ.

(d) If the apostle Paul had recognised any special authority Peter had, Paul would not have said "I am not whit behind the very chiefest apostles"—2 Cor. 11:5.

(e) If the apostles had recognised Peter as their head they would not have exercised the authority to send him to labour in Samaria.

Acts 8:14 "Now when the apostles that were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John."

(f) At the council of Jerusalem, the final decision was pronounced by James and not Peter, thus denying that any superior authority belonged to Peter.

Acts 15: 13-19 "And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, bretheren, hearken unto me... wherefore my sentence is..."

(g) Peter at no time claimed infallibility. On the other hand we read in Gal. 2:11 that Paul rebuked Peter "because he was to be blamed".

(h) When Peter entered the house of Cornelius we read in Acts 10:25-26:

"Cornelius met him and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, stand up; I myself also am a man.

(i) The other apostles too took up the same position when men wanted to worship them.

Acts 14:14-15 "...When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of...ran in among the people, crying out,... We also are men of like passions with you..."

(j) Even the angel who revealed the future to John did not want John to worship him. Rev. 22:8,9: "And I, John..."

fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things. Then saith he unto me, see thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant...worship God".

C. Whether Peter Was Authorised By Jesus To Head The Church

- (a) The sole head of the church is Jesus Christ.

Col. 1:18—"And he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

We also read in Eph. 1:22-23 and Eph. 5:23-24 that Jesus Christ is the head of the church.

Just as the human body can have one head, the church which is the body of Christ can likewise have only Jesus as its head. Further just as the human body is controlled and directed by the head so the church, which is the body of Jesus, is controlled and directed by Jesus, the sole head of the church. It is also evident that a human body cannot act independently of its head. Likewise the church cannot act independently of its head, Jesus Christ, nor can the church formulate any rules, doctrines, or creeds which are not specifically authorised by Jesus.

- (b) Jesus is referred to as the Great Shepherd of the sheep—Heb. 13:20.

- (c) Peter said that Christ is shepherd and bishop of our souls—1 Pet. 2:25.

- (d) Peter calls Jesus the Chief Shepherd—1 Pet. 5:4.

God did not authorise any human being to act for him on earth. God also did not provide for any vicar on earth. The meaning of the word vicar is a "substitute in office". The scriptures are quite clear that God did not authorise a substitute for Jesus on earth. Jesus himself said in Mat. 28:18:

"All authority is given unto me both in heaven and in earth"

Further :

- (a) The apostle Paul said that God now speaks to us not through any human being but by his Son. (Heb. 1:2.)
- (b) Jesus who said "all authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth" also said in Mat. 28:20 : "I will be with you even unto the end of the world"
- (c) At no time did Jesus speak of a substitute. Never did he say that he would have authority in heaven and that his vicar will have power on earth. Jesus never did authorise a man or a group of men to head the church on earth.

**Our Lord And Saviour Jesus Christ Is The Sole
Head Of The Church And He Alone Has All
Authority Both In Heaven And In Earth**

The Scriptures constantly urge all believers in Jesus Christ:

- 1. To speak where the Bible speaks—1 Pet. 4:11.
- 2. Not to go beyond that which is written—1 Cor. 4:6
- 3. To walk by the same rule—Phil. 3:16
- 4. Not to interpret the Scriptures—2 Pet. 1:20
- 5. Not to add or take away from God's word—Deut. 4:2, Prov. 30:6, Rev. 22:18, 19
- 6. Not to follow after the traditions of men—Col. 2:8
- 7. Not to obey the doctrines of men—Mark 7:7-9, 13.

Therefore If We All:

Observe the above divine commands and do not follow after the traditions or teachings of mere men and accept the Lord's word and the Lord's word alone just as he gave it to man,

**There Will Be Perfect Harmony And Unity Among
All Believers Of Our Lord And Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

कलीसिया का नाम

कलीसिया को बाइबल अनुसार होने के लिए अवश्य है कि उसका नाम भी बाइबल के अनुसार हो। तथापि, संसार में मनुष्यों द्वारा बनाई हुई बहुतेरी कलीसियाएँ हैं जो विभिन्न नामों से कहलाई जाती हैं। ऐसा क्यों है? इनमें से कुछ नाम इन कलीसियाओं के संस्थापकों को सम्मानित करने के लिये रखे गए, जैसे, "लूथरन।" और कुछ नाम किसी शिक्षा या सिद्धान्त जैसे बपतिस्मा अथवा प्रभु का कार्य करने की किसी विधि को ऊँचा करने के लिये रखे गए। कुछ ऐसे हैं जो किसी दिन को महिमान्वित करते हैं, जैसे पित्तुकुस्त अथवा सन्त का दिन। इसके अतिरिक्त कुछ ऐसे भी हैं जो कलीसिया में अध्यक्षों (प्रेजबिटरों) के कार्य को महत्त्व देते हैं। किन्तु ये सब नाम, और ऐसे ही अन्य भी जिनका उल्लेख किया जा सकता है, उस महिमा, और प्रशंसा और सम्मान को जो मसीह का है ले लेते हैं।

मनुष्यों द्वारा दिए गए नाम अनुचित हैं, इसके बहुत से कारण हैं। सर्व-प्रथम, ये फूट डालते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त इनसे वहाँ भेद-भाव उत्पन्न होते हैं जहाँ कि परमेश्वर नहीं चाहता। ये लोगों को अलग-अलग करते हैं। ये प्रभु यीशु की उस प्रार्थना का विरोध करते हैं जिसके विषय में यूहन्ना १७वें अध्याय में हम पढ़ते हैं, उस ने प्रार्थना की कि हम सब एक हों। दूसरे, पवित्रशास्त्र में इनकी निन्दा की गई है। १ कुरिन्थियों १ : १७-१३ में प्रेरित पौलुस ने मनुष्यों के नामों को धारण करने के अनुचित परिणाम के विषय में मसीही भाईयों को बताया, कि ये पक्षपात और साम्प्रदायिकता को जन्म देते हैं। तीसरे, मनुष्यों के नाम प्रभु के नाम का स्थानापन्न करते हैं। चौथे मसीह के नाम के विषय में हम पढ़ते हैं, "और किसी दूसरे के द्वारा उद्धार नहीं क्योंकि स्वर्ग के नीचे मनुष्यों में और कोई दूसरा नाम नहीं दिया गया, जिसके द्वारा हम उद्धार पा सकें।" (प्रेरितों ४ : १२)। चौथे, मनुष्यों के नाम भ्रम-पूर्ण व अधर्म-पूर्ण हैं, अविश्वासियों पर इसका अनुचित प्रभाव पड़ता है। यह अविश्वास को जन्म देते हैं। पांचवें, वे सब जो इन नामों को अपने ऊपर रखते हैं, और वे जो इनके लिये मसीह से फिर गए हैं, वे सब इन्हीं के कारण नाश होंगे। इसलिये, ये अनुचित और पापपूर्ण हैं।

कलीसिया के विषय में हम पढ़ते हैं, कि यीशु मसीह ने इसे बनाने की प्रतिज्ञा की (मत्ती १६:१८)। पवित्रशास्त्र में हम पढ़ते हैं, कि प्रभु यीशु ने

कलीसिया को अपने लोह से मोल लिया (प्रेरितों २० : २८), और वह इसका उद्धारकर्ता है (इफिसियों ५ : २३) व इसका सिर है (कुलुस्सियों १ : १८) । इसलिये, यह स्वाभाविक ही है कि अपने संस्थापक, बनानेवाले और उद्धारकर्ता को सम्मानित करने के लिये उसका नाम यह अपने ऊपर रखे । ऐसे ही, जब पौलुस ने रोम में कलीसिया को लिखा, व जिस स्थान में उस समय वह था वहां की स्थानीय मंडलियों की ओर से अभिवादन भेजा, उसने कहा, "तुम को मसीह की सारी कलीसियाओं की ओर से नमस्कार ।" (रोमियों १६ : १६) । फिर कुरिन्थुस में कलीसिया से उसने कहा, "इसी प्रकार तुम सब मिलकर मसीह की देह हो, और अलग-अलग उसके अंग हो ।" (१ कुरिन्थियों १२ : २७) । किन्तु, जबकि देह कलीसिया है (इफिसियों १ : २२, २३), इसलिये यह स्पष्ट है कि वह मसीह की कलीसिया के विषय में कह रहा था । इसे परमेश्वर की कलीसिया (१ कुरिन्थियों १ : २; प्रेरितों २० : २८), परमेश्वर का राज्य (१ कुरिन्थियों ६ : ९), मसीह का राज्य (इफिसियों ५ : ५), उसके प्रिय पुत्र का राज्य (कुलुस्सियों १ : १३), हमारे प्रभु का राज्य (२ पतरस १ : ११), कलीसिया (प्रेरितों १३ : १), जीवते परमेश्वर की कलीसिया (१ तीमोथियुस ३ : १५) पहिलौठी की कलीसिया (इब्रानियों १२ : २३) भी कहा गया है । तदनुसार, बाइबल में कलीसिया का वर्णन किसी और अन्य नाम या वाक्यांश से नहीं हुआ है । इसी समय, यह भी ध्यान में रखें कि जो कुछ परमेश्वर का है वह मसीह का भी है, व प्रति-क्रमात् । इसी प्रकार से, ये सब नाम उस कलीसिया की ओर संकेत करते हैं जिसे यीशु मसीह ने बनाया । यदि यह मसीह की कलीसिया नहीं, तब किस की हो सकती है ? इसके अतिरिक्त, अनान्य नामों व विभिन्न वाक्यांशों को धारण करके, ऐसा लगता है कि लोग जानबूझ कर परमेश्वर के वचन से दूर भागना चाहते हैं ताकि प्रभु की कलीसिया के लिये अपने मन-पसंद का कोई अन्य नाम चुनें । परन्तु आइये, हम बाइबल की बात मानें और कलीसिया को उसी नाम से संबोधित करें जो बाइबल में मिलता है । तभी हम सही होंगे ।

जहाँ तक कलीसिया के सदस्यों के नाम का प्रश्न है, पवित्रशास्त्र में इसे भी स्पष्टता से बताया गया है । सबसे पहले, यशायाह भविष्यद्वक्ता ने यहाँ कहा कि परमेश्वर अपने लोगों को एक नया नाम देगा (यशायाह ६२ : २) । कई वर्षों के बाद परमेश्वर ने पौलुस को चुना कि वह उस नाम को लोगों के सामने प्रगट करे (प्रेरितों ९ : १५) । परन्तु यह तब तक नहीं दिया जाना जाना था जब तक कि अन्य-जाति वालों को परमेश्वर की आज्ञा

पालन करने का अवसर न मिले। और यह सब सूरिया के अन्तःक्रियाओं के पूरा हुआ जबकि चले सबसे पहले वहाँ मसीही कहलाए। (प्रेरितों ११:२६)। इसके बाद, हम पढ़ते हैं जबकि पीलुस राजा अग्रिप्पा को परमेश्वर का वचन सुना रहा था, तो उसने सुन कर उत्तर दिया, "तू थोड़े ही समझाने से मुझे मसीही बनाना चाहता है?" (प्रेरितों २६: २८)। अतः, हम पढ़ते हैं, पतरस ने कहा, "पर यदि मसीही होने के कारण दुख पाए, तो लज्जित न हो, पर इस बात के लिये परमेश्वर की महिमा करे।" (१ पतरस ४: १६)। इसलिये, यह स्पष्ट हो जाता है कि आरम्भ के दिनों में मसीह के अनुयायी मसीही, केवल "मसीही" थे। आज भी प्रभु चाहता है कि हम वही हों। यदि हम मसीही नाम के साथ किसी अन्य नाम या वाक्यांश को जोड़ते हैं, तब इसका अर्थ यह होता है कि हम वास्तव में मसीही नहीं हैं। मसीही एक ऐसा नाम है जो लोगों को शेष विश्व से पृथक् करता है व यह नाम प्रभु की इच्छानुसार है।

कलीसिया व इसके सदस्य दोनों के नामों के द्वारा, यीशु मसीह के नाम की प्रशंसा व बढ़ाई होनी चाहिए। ऐसा क्यों? इसलिये, क्योंकि यह पारिवारिक नाम है। (इफिसियों ३: १४, १५), यह नाम सब नामों में श्रेष्ठ है (फिलिप्पियों २: ९-११), और इसी एक नाम में उद्धार है (प्रेरितों ४: १२)। इसलिये, हमें मसीह के नाम में विश्वास करना है (१ यूहन्ना ५: १३), उसके नाम को स्वीकार करना है (२ तीमथियुस २: १९), मत्त फिराकर उसके नाम में बपतिस्मा लेना है (प्रेरितों २: ३८), उसके नाम में आराधना करने के लिये एकत्रित होना है (मत्ती १८: २० व सब कुछ उसी के नाम में करना है (कुलुस्सियों ३: १७) ताकि उसके नाम के द्वारा हमें अनन्त जीवन मिल सके (यूहन्ना २०: ३०, ३१)।

यह सब कुछ ध्यान में रखते हुए, निःसंदेह कोई भी व्यक्ति यह नहीं कह सकता कि नाम का कुछ भी महत्व नहीं है या नाम में कुछ भी नहीं है। हाँ, यह सत्य है कि मनुष्यों के नामों व वाक्यांशों में उद्धार नहीं है, परन्तु वे जो इन्हें अपनते ऊपर लेते व रखते हैं इन्हीं के कारण नाश होते। दूसरी ओर, उद्धार केवल मसीह के नाम में ही है।



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