

What does the Bible mean when it says “We will give an account”

Consider the context: what surrounds this particular phrase and what role does this phrase play in the passage?

Consider Scripture as a whole: do other passages inform us on what this means, as well as what it cannot mean?

Consider clear passages: don't allow difficult or unclear areas of Scripture to cast a fog on clear passages.

Consider our human limitations: it is always good to ask questions, but ask with humility.

Psalm 103:10-12

(103:10) He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

(103:11) For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

(103:12) as far as the east is from the west, so far does he
remove our transgressions from us.

Isaiah 38:17

“...in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for **you have cast all my sins behind your back.**”

Isaiah 43:25

“I, I am he who **blots out your transgressions** *for my own sake*, and I **will not remember your sins.**”

John 1:29

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, **who takes away the sin of the world!**

1 John 2:2

He is the **propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world

Matthew 12:36-37

36 I tell you, on the day of judgment **people will give account** for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

12 At that time ^wJesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and ^xthey began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. ² But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, ^y“Look, your disciples are doing ^zwhat is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.” ³ He said to them, ^a“Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: ⁴ how he entered the house of God and ate ^bthe bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? ⁵ Or have you not read ^cin the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? ⁶ I tell you, ^dsomething greater than the temple is here. ⁷ And if you had known ^ewhat this means, ^f‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸ For ^gthe Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

A Man with a Withered Hand

⁹ He went on from there and ^hentered their synagogue. ¹⁰ And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, ⁱ“Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—^jso that they might accuse him. ¹¹ He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, ^kif it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² ^lOf how much more value is a man than a sheep! So ^mit is lawful to do good on the

Sabbath.” ¹³ Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And ⁿthe man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. ¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

God’s Chosen Servant

¹⁵ Jesus, aware of this, ^owithdrew from there. And ^pmany followed him, and he healed them all ¹⁶ and ^qordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷ ^rThis was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁸ ^s“Behold, my ^tservant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.
^uI will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.
¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;
²⁰ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not quench,
until he brings justice to victory;
²¹ ^vand in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

²² ^wThen a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw. ²³ ^xAnd all the people were amazed, and said, ^y“Can this be the Son of David?” ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it,

they said, ^y“It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.” ²⁵ ^zKnowing their thoughts, ^ahe said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. ²⁶ And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, ^bby whom do ^cyour sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is ^dby the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then ^ethe kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or ^fhow can someone enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed ^ghe may plunder his house. ³⁰ ^hWhoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ ⁱTherefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but ^jthe blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² And whoever speaks a word ^kagainst the Son of Man ^lwill be forgiven, but ^jwhoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in ^mthis age or in the age to come.

A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit

³³ ⁿ“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, ^ofor the tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴ ^pYou brood of vipers! How can you speak good, ^qwhen you are evil? ^rFor out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ ^rThe

good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. ³⁶ I tell you, ^son the day of judgment ^tpeople will give account for ^uevery careless word they speak, ³⁷ for ^vby your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

The Sign of Jonah

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, ^wwe wish to see a sign from you.” ³⁹ But he answered them, ^x“An evil and ^yadulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For ^zjust as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, ^aso will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ ^bThe men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and ^ccondemn it, for ^dthey repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, ^esomething greater than Jonah is here. ⁴² ^fThe queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, ^esomething greater than Solomon is here.

Return of an Unclean Spirit

⁴³ “When ^gthe unclean spirit has gone out of a

Matthew 12:36-37

What is the main idea or main focus of the passage?

What role does the phrase “give an account” play in the passage?

What biblical principles can we learn?