

OLD UNION MINISTERS SCHOOL
DIFFICULT SCRIPTURES
BY DON CURTIS

I. Ecclesiastes 1:9 The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

1. I was in a country store years ago, television had just been introduced. There were some men discussing this new thing called television. One man said, it had already been and gave this verse as proof. I was just a boy, but surprised there was no argument.

2. Eccl 1:4-7 Solomon is talking about nature. He talks about one generation passed away another is born., The sun sets in the evening and rises in the morning. The wind goes toward the south and turns about to the north and returns again to its cycles. nothing new.

3. The second chapter, Solomon searches for something to satisfy and he obtained a lot of things but nothing fully satisfied, thus nothing new.

II. Genesis 19:26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

1. What is a pillar of salt? Nothing fundamental, but I thought it might be interesting. I had never thought much about it, but thought of a block of salt, I had seen many on the farm. While I was in Israel years ago, I saw them. They are like stalagmites in a cave except they are formed from salt. They are found in the water of the Dead Sea and on land near the Dead Sea. The Israelis have named one Lot's wife.

III. Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.

1. Some have taken this scripture to say that by blood of bulls and goats sin wasn't forgiven.

2. Lev 4:13-21 Tells the details of the sacrifice of a bullock for the congregation of Israel. verse 20 says, the sin will be forgiven.

3. Lev 4:22-26 Speaks of the sacrifice of a kid goat, a male without blemish for sin of a ruler. Verse 26 Says, it shall be forgiven him.

4. LEV 4:27-31 Speaks of a sacrifice of a female kid goat for the common people. Verse 31 says. it shall be forgiven him.

5. These sacrifices gave them forgiveness for a particular sin, but on the way home he may sin and need to make another offering.

6. The Sacrifice of Jesus:

A. Heb 14:10 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

B. 1 JN 1:7 The blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin.

C. 2 Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

D. 1 JN 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not sin; for his seed remained in him and he can not sin, because he is born of God.

E. Rom 7:20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. (Paul is speaking of the flesh)

F. 1 Co 15:43 Speaking of the body Paul says, it is sown in dishonor but raised in glory.

G. PS 17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

H. Jude 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.

IV. Exodus 25:17 And thou shall make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof.

1. Many have referred to the mourner's bench as the Mercy Seat

and many have found mercy at one, but mercy can be found on any bench in the church building or any where else this side of the flames of hell. I heard of a Pastor relating the Mercy Seat to a mourners bench, foolishness.

2. Hebrew Scholars say, the Hebrew words mean expiating lid. It is a lid to the arc of the covenant not a seat to sit on.

3. Expiate means atone or appease.

4. Propitiate also means appease.

5. 1 JN 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

6. The lid is a figure of Christ, the lid to the arc covered the commandments written on two stones on both sides.

7. Ps 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

8.. Jesus covers the commandments in a different way. Col 2:13-14 And you being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.

8. Mercy seat is not a bad rendering of the Hebrew, for Christ Jesus is the center of God's mercy.

V. Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God.

1. Faith is a gift of God but some seem to think you are an unbeliever one moment and the next you are a believer. Some have no understanding of the way you become a believer.

2. Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall believe in whom they have not heard and how shall they hear without a preacher?

3. Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

4. 1 These 1:5 For our gospel came not to you in word only, but

also in power, and the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance.

5 God makes you a believer by the power and witness of the Holy Spirit. The spirit's presence makes the word real, so you believe.

VI. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost..

1. The Greek word (eis) is translated (for). We are not baptized for the remission of sins or in order to obtain. We are baptized unto or in reference to the remission of sins. The King James translators were sprinkled for baptism and for remission of sins, thus they translated the scripture that way.

2. Mat 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance.

A. The Greek word (eis) is translated (unto) and properly so, they knew it would be the height of ignorance to be baptized in order to repent. It is also ignorance to be baptized for the remission of sins.

VII. JN 3:5 Jesus answered. Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

1. You are not born of water! It does not harmonize with anything!

2. The Greek word (kai) is translated (and), the translation is wrong. The grammar is fine but I repeat you are not born of water.

3. The Greek word (kai) can be translated (even), the grammar is good and born of water even the Spirit harmonizes with all scripture.

4. I know (kai) can be translated (even) because, I ran a search and found (kai) translated (even) one hundred and two times.

5. The following are scriptures that portray water as Spirit:

A. JN 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in

him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

B. Peter is speaking of false prophets 2 P 2:17 These are wells without water.

C. JN 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast. Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified.

D. Rev 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears.

E. Rev 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

F. Rev 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

G. Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and The bride say, come. And let him that is a thirst come. And whosoever will let, let him take the water of life freely.

H. 1 Co 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free: and have been all made to drink of one Spirit.

VIII. 1 Co 12:13

1. Some have taken this to be water baptism, the problem is the administrator is the Holy Spirit, not the pastor.

2. I think 1 Co 12:18 ought to clear it up. (18 But now God hath set the members every one of them in the body as it hath pleased him.)

3. 1 Co 12:27-28 Should explain it even farther. (27-28 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly

teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

IX. 1 Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

1. Some say flesh and blood want be in heaven
2. Paul just simply means you cannot inherit heaven because you are a descendent of Abraham are anyone else.
3. The question is settled by Job 19:25-26 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

X. LK 16:19-31

1. Some say this story is a parable and there is no hell. Others say, it is not a parable but a true story.
2. I say, it is a real story of people and things and they actually exist. However I believe it is a parable in form, it is comparing two men
3. This I understand, it makes no difference for all parables are about real things such as sheep, seed and sewer.
4. The parable of the shepherd putting his sheep in the sheepfold and going to search for one lost sheep is a story that must have happened thousands and thousands of times.
- 5 The parable of the sewer must have happened a billion times.
6. Parables convey a message, a story involving things that did not exist would be nonsense.

XI James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1. This scripture should not be difficult but I hear it over and over, resist the devil and he will flee from you. The devil is not afraid of you!

2. James said, submit therefore yourselves to God. The devil can't handle God. God with you, he will flee.

XII. MT 7:1 Judge not that ye be not judged.

1. How many times have you heard, you are not suppose to judge, meaning you are not suppose to decide weather something or someone is right or wrong.

2. Brothers never take scripture out of it's context, if you read on you find Jesus teaching us to judge our brother, after we have judged ourselves. MT 7:3

3. He also says, give not that which is holy unto the dogs, this commandment requires judgment. Who is the dog, you must judge. MT 7:6

4. Jesus commands, cast not your pearls before the swine, who is that, you must judge. MT 7:6

5. He commands to beware of false prophets, then he teaches us to judge for he says you will know them by their fruits. MT 7:15-20

6. Let us look at Ezek 36:19 And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them.

A. God is speaking through Ezekiel, he is speaking of judging Israel. when he says, I judged, he is speaking of the scattering them among the heathen, and dispersing them among the countries. Here God's judging is punishing Israel. This is the kind of judging Jesus is talking about, we are not to become vigilantes. God has the right but we don't.