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Why Does God...? and other Frequently Asked Questions

Isaiah 55:8–9 *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*¹

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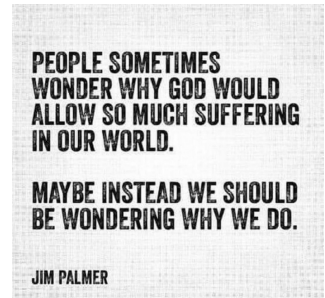
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1 Introduction

We oftentimes don't understand God's actions because we don't know God very well and we can't see the big picture playing out over eternity. We tend to create a false God in our own image, a God who shares our likes and dislikes, a God who does *our* will, rather than his own sovereign will. We become upset if God does something against our will, something that goes against our false understanding of God, or our wrong beliefs. We fail to understand that we don't have all the facts yet we make bold assumptions that are usually wrong.



2 General Understandings

Many of the following questions are along the lines of “Why does God allow...” suffering, natural disasters, wars etc. There are fundamental doctrines we need to understand, as taught in the Bible, before we rush into questioning God.

The Book of Job is thought to be the oldest book in the Bible, and it has a great deal of interesting information about what God does; Derek Prince's book [5] is an excellent study of the Book of Job. Some takeaways from the Book of Job are:

- God is in control; (see section [2.2 on the following page](#))
- Nothing is impossible for God;
- We can't see the “big picture” as God does;
- Sometimes bad things happen to good people and vice versa;
- While things may be seemingly unfair in this life, we must remember that God will give each person their recompense in the afterlife;
- It is presumptuous of us to think we know better than God;
- It is presumptuous of us to make assumptions about God;
- It is wrong to question God in a condemnatory way;
- It is wrong of us to criticize God or how he does things.

I once heard a pastor say “If you complain about the weather, you are criticizing God.”

2.1 About Death

Luke 23:42–43 *Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

We need to understand that when true Christians die, they go to be in paradise with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, so their deaths are not bad occurrences but rather blessings, as with the penitent thief on the cross.

Isaiah 57:1–2 (NLT) *Good people pass away; the godly often die before their time. But no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to understand that God is protecting them from the evil to come. For those who follow godly paths will rest in peace when they die.*

We might feel unhappy when loved ones leave us, but true Christians do not fear death. We are confident in God’s promise that those who are in Christ will be raised again with Christ and will live with him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–14 *Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.*

2.2 God is in Control

In Romans chapter 1, we see that God loosened his restraints on evil because people insisted upon living sinful lives. Rather than complaining to God about all the sin in the world, we should be thanking God that he restrains evil so that sin and evil do reign worse than they already do.

Romans 1:28–31 *Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.*

God will loosen his grip even more on evil and nature so that things will get worse because God is trying to convince people to humble themselves and repent.

Revelation 9:20–21 *The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

Matthew 24:3–8 *As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the*

Messiah, and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

According to his own sovereign timetable, God is going to destroy this world and the entire universe for that matter; and the wars, famines, and earthquakes are but birth pains leading up to the cataclysmic event. Again, Christians should not fear this, as birth pains lead up to a birth, to a great blessing, and so we look forward to the time when God creates a new heaven and earth free from sin and evil:

Revelation 21:1–4 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

2.3 God Blesses and Curses

God blesses those who obey him, and curses those who disobey. (See [Deuteronomy 28:1–68](#)). Yes, God loves and God is love, but he is also a just and holy God. He cannot overlook sin nor tolerate it. According to his nature of total complete goodness and holiness he must punish all sin.

He disciplines us to teach us to obey, just as a parent disciplines a child. God is patient but eventually he must destroy wickedness.

Isaiah 19:1–4 A prophecy against Egypt: See, the LORD rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt. The idols of Egypt tremble before him, and the hearts of the Egyptians melt with fear. “I will stir up Egyptian against Egyptian—brother will fight against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom. The Egyptians will lose heart, and I will bring their plans to nothing; they will consult the idols and the spirits of the dead, the mediums and the spiritists. I will hand the Egyptians over to the power of a cruel master, and a fierce king will rule over them,” declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty.

Isaiah 24:5–6 The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth’s inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left.

2.4 What We Deserve

Romans 3:23 . . . *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, . . .*

Romans 6:23a *For the wages of sin is death...*

Romans 2:6,8 *God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.*

We have all sinned and are deserving of eternal condemnation. If we stamp our feet and yell at God “I demand justice!”, our just God would have no choice but to cast us into the eternal fires of Hell. Clearly we are all in need of a savior to rescue us from eternal damnation.

Fortunately our God is a loving and merciful God. He cannot let sin go unpunished, for that would be unjust, but he has offered us his own son, Christ Jesus, to take our sins upon himself and exchange our condemnation with eternal life.

This is the Good News, the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! He came into the world, in the form of human flesh, to save us from eternal damnation.

Romans 6:23b (ESV) *... but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Revelation 22:12 *“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.*

2.5 Tragedy Divides People

I have observed that tragedies such as natural disasters, wars, plagues, etc. divide people, they either move closer to God or further away. Good people roll up their sleeves and pitch in to help, possibly donating their time or money to ministry or charities. Evil people turn their backs on the victims of tragedy, or even worse, they sometimes scorn or mock them.

During the recent COVID pandemic good people wore masks, obeyed social distancing rules, and sought to be vaccinated. Evil people became defiant and refused to wear masks or get vaccinated. They disobeyed scripture by refusing to follow government mandates.² They even spread lies that these medically sound and proper precautions were somehow detrimental to people. This is right out of the devil’s playbook, because lies are his primary weapon and he wants to see us cause each other harm.

When tragedies occur, we need to care for people’s:

1. Physical needs — food, water, medical, shelter, clothing;
2. Emotional needs — shock, anger, depression, helplessness;
3. Intellectual needs — the need to process what has happened, to try to understand it and come to grips with it.

² Romans 13:1–2 *Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.*

We need to ask ourselves what we can learn from misfortunes. God never brought tragedies upon Old Testament Israel without a prophecy in advance to warn them. We need to look for a possible lesson. Not all tragedies are lessons or punishments from God; if I slip and break my leg, it is likely due to my own clumsiness. A forest fire might not be caused by an act of God but by a careless camper.

Don't obsess with trying to find a lesson every time you get sick or experience some personal tragedy, sometimes bad things just happen due to our environment. If you have a clear conscience then is no need to suffer guilt.

3 Frequently Asked Questions

With all that God has revealed about himself, he hasn't revealed everything, and we are often left with questions. However, many of the of the most common questions arise from a false belief in "God's unconditional love", which many Christians believe but is contrary to scripture. See my teachings entitled [About God](#) and [Misunderstanding John 3:16](#) for clarification. In his holiness, justness, and righteousness, God cannot allow sin to go unpunished.

Q1: Why are we here?

A1: Long before Christianity, philosophers and scholars asked themselves questions like "Why are we here?", "Why is there a universe and where did it come from?" Christians know that God created the universe and all its inhabitants on Earth (See [Genesis 1:1-2:25](#)). It still leaves us the question, "Why?"

The late pastor David Pawson preached that "God wanted a bigger family." God had a natural son, Jesus, and he wanted to adopt more children; that God wanted more children and Jesus wanted more brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29 *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

A god who is full of love and is love, would want to express and lavish that love on as many people as possible.

1 John 3:1 *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

Let's look and see what other clues scripture gives about this question. God told the people of Israel, through Moses, that he wanted to create for himself a holy people:

Deuteronomy 28:9 *The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in obedience to him.*

God created us to grow into the likeness of our savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, that we should emulate his love, mercy, grace, and good works by practicing these qualities for one another. Unbelievers should associate the

word “kindness” with Christians. Notice that the religious right does not embody these qualities.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Titus 2:13–14 . . . *while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

Q2: Why does God allow evil?

A2: There are numerous reasons given in scripture that explains why God allows evil:

- (a) The consequences of sin and to punish sin — [Deuteronomy 28:15–68](#)

We are quick to accept that God loves us, but often forget that he is a just God, one who cannot ignore sin nor let sin go unpunished.

Exodus 34:6–7 *The LORD passed by before him and proclaimed: “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abounding in loyal love and faithfulness, keeping loyal love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. But he by no means leaves the guilty unpunished, responding to the transgression of fathers by dealing with children and children’s children, to the third and fourth generation.”*

Isaiah 13:3 *I have commanded those I prepared for battle; I have summoned my warriors to carry out my wrath—those who rejoice in my triumph.*

- (b) To serve his own purposes. God allows wicked and evil to persist, sometimes to serve his purposes and plans, e.g., [Genesis 15:16](#).
- (c) To preserve his holy name

Ezekiel 36:21–22 *I had concern for my holy name, which the people of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone. “Therefore say to the Israelites, “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone.*

Can we truly understand holiness without knowing sin and evil?

Q3: Why does God allow suffering?

A3: This question is usually phrased something like this: “If God is all-powerful and all-loving, then how can he allow so much suffering in the world?”

The answer is that when sin entered the world, by the fall of Adam and Eve, the entire world fell into a state of sinfulness. Sin permeates our world and the devil is the ruler, the prince and power of this world, to that extent God permits.

- (a) The Bible tells us that sin brings with it many repercussions, such as disease, poverty, hunger/famines, wars, etc. An interesting fact: our planet produces enough food to feed the entire world, but we don't transport the food to where it's needed, because who would pay for that? The "haves" only want more, but they couldn't care less about the "have-nots".

Ezekiel 16:49-50 *"See here—this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters had majesty, abundance of food, and enjoyed carefree ease, but they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and practiced abominable deeds before me. Therefore, when I saw it I removed them.*

- (b) Of course we have plenty of man-made self-inflicted suffering including war, terrorism, murders, torture, theft, assaults, and so on; the culmination of mankind's sinful nature. (See question [2 on the previous page](#), "Why does God allow evil?")
- (c) Then there are natural disasters, what your insurance company calls "acts of God". These include things like tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, floods, mudslides, volcanic eruptions, and epidemics/pandemics. Lately we are witnessing human excesses causing climate change and global warming.
- (d) God can cause our enemies to suffer:

Psalms 107:39 *As for their enemies, they decreased in number and were beaten down, because of painful distress and suffering.*

- (e) In the Old Testament, God caused his people to suffer in order to rid them of their pride and arrogance.

Psalms 107:12 *So he used suffering to humble them; they stumbled and no one helped them up.*

- (f) To cause people to repent. . .

Isaiah 19:22 *The LORD will strike Egypt with a plague; he will strike them and heal them. They will turn to the LORD, and he will respond to their pleas and heal them.*

Hosea 5:15 *Then I will return again to my lair until they have suffered their punishment. Then they will seek me; in their distress they will earnestly seek me.*

Perhaps God is being patient and waiting for some of these people to come to repentance:

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

One need only look to the news to see these types of suffering occurring in world; oftentimes in our own neighborhoods.

God tests our faith, just as he tested Abraham (See [Genesis 22:1-24](#)).

Exodus 20:20 *Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."*

1 Peter 1:6–7 *In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

See the section [2.5 on page 5](#) regarding tragedies. The good that might come from disasters, people helping people and unity, is short-lived; people soon revert back to their normal self-centered lives. Helping others in a disaster gives us a warm feeling, a sense of self-satisfaction, that we can check a box, showing we have done a good work. Unfortunately disasters usually do not change our hearts.

Romans 5:3–4 *Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

Romans 8:18 *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

Romans 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

Q4: Why does God allow natural disasters?

A4: We are quick to question God after natural disasters, asking “Why did all those people have to die?” However, I was dismayed to learn that more people die from us killing each other than from all the natural disasters in the world.^[3] I was even a bit skeptical at first, so I Googled all the various statistics, and it’s true, throughout human history, about an order of magnitude more people die from wars than from natural disasters. (See question [5](#).)

Fracking sometimes causes earthquakes. People often build homes on flood-prone areas, probably because the land was cheap. People think they can overcome nature, by building dams, dikes, levees, stronger foundations, etc. We usually put greed ahead of caring for our planet.

If you look at the number of people who died from natural disasters,³ those numbers pale in comparison to the numbers of people killed by homicides and wars. One estimate of the number of people killed by wars through human history ranges from 150 million to 1 billion people.^{4,5}

Q5: Why does God allow wars?

A5: Matthew 24:6–8 *You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.*

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_natural_disasters_by_death_toll

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2003/07/06/books/chapters/what-every-person-should-know-about-war.html>

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_by_death_toll

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

In the Old Testament, there were wars where Israel defeated her enemies, and there were wars in which God punished Israel for disobedience. As I write this we are two years into a war in which Russia invaded the Ukraine, and there are wars in the Middle East.

“It’s way beyond ironic that a place called the Holy Land is the location of the fiercest, most deeply felt hatred in the world.”

—Comedian George Carlin

Some wars seem to occur to fulfill God’s purposes, and other wars seem to occur because of evil, man’s arrogance, and hatred between nations.

Q6: Why is there only one way to God/heaven/salvation?

A6: John 14:6 *Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Our sin separates us from God. Christianity is the only religion whereby our sins are atoned for by the death by God, in the form of Jesus Christ. It is the only religion by which we can be born again, made regenerate, given new hearts, to become new creations. All our sinfulness comes from within us, our problem is spiritual and internal. Only Christianity deals with this; all other religions focus only on external behavior.

Q7: Why does God bother to save any of us?

A7: See Q1 “Why are we here”. God created us out of love. Before he created the universe, he knew some would be saved and others would reject his love. God didn’t make a mistake in creating the universe and mankind, everything is happening according to God’s perfect plan.

Q8: Why doesn’t God save everyone?

A8: 2 Corinthians 4:3–4 *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

1 Timothy 4:10 *That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.*

1 Timothy 2:3–4 *This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

God wants to be the savior to all people, and his means of our salvation makes all people eligible for salvation. Most people reject God’s method for salvation, and they only have themselves to blame for their eternal damnation.

There is a false doctrine, called *Universalism*, in which God saves everyone. Another is called *Pluralism*, that all religions lead to heaven. These are wishful thinking and heresies because the Bible clearly teaches against them. Those who do not believe in salvation by faith alone through Jesus Christ will not be saved. Here are but a few examples:

John 3:16–18 (NET) *For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him. The one who believes in him is not condemned. The one who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.*

See also question [6 on the preceding page](#).

Romans 2:7–9 *To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress.*

Revelation 20:12–15 *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

All people are invited to be saved⁶, that is why we are to share the Gospel (good news) about salvation through Jesus Christ with all people.

God needs to separate out the evil people, or heaven would not be heaven if evil people were present there. See [Matthew 25:31–46](#).

Q9: Why doesn't God just take the bad people out of the world?

A9: Luke 18:19 *“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.*

The fact of the matter is that we are *all* bad people. If God were to take all the bad people out of the world, there would be nobody left.

Romans 12:3 *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.*

Unfortunately, we are biased in our thinking that we are good people. We compare ourselves to others and say to ourselves “Well, I'm not as bad as

⁶ There is some debate among theologians about this, see my teaching entitled [Calvinism and Arminianism](#) to learn more.

that other person.” We see sin in other people but usually fail to examine our own sins closely. Take an objective inventory of your own sins, and ask God to point them out to you as the psalmist did:

Psalms 139:23–24 (NLT) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Jesus tells a most interesting parable of the weeds in [Matthew 13:24–30](#), with the weeds being planted by the enemy along with the good the seed. When the servants offered to pull up the weeds, Jesus gave this answer:

Matthew 13:29–30 “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

Be sure to read Jesus’ explanation of this parable in [Matthew 13:36–43](#).

God gives people the time and opportunity to repent and accept his method of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Q10: What about people who have never heard of Jesus?

A10: To be honest, nobody knows for certain how God will handle this. However the Bible tells us:

Romans 1:18–20 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

All Christians should want everyone or as many as possible to be saved. We are called to *evangelize* (spread the Good News of Jesus Christ) to all:

Mark 16:15–16 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”⁷

God is a loving, merciful, and just God; we must trust him to do what is right in his eyes. Certainly those who willfully reject God’s means of salvation through his son Jesus will go to eternal damnation.

Romans 2:14–15 (NLT) Even Gentiles, who do not have God’s written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. They demonstrate that God’s law is written in their

⁷ See also [Matthew 28:19–20](#)

hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.

Q11: Why does God send people to Hell?

A11: Those who reject God's free gift of salvation become responsible for their own sins, and therefore must be punished for their sins.

Q12: Why doesn't God answer my prayer?

A12: Please see my separate teaching entitled *Prayer*.

Q13: Can we know when Jesus will return?

A13: Matthew 24:36–39 *“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.*

So no, we cannot know the day or time of Jesus' return—it will be a surprise to all of us. Watch out for heretics who claim to know the day of Christ's return.

Q14: Do women have to wear head coverings in church?

A14: This question comes about from the passage in *1 Corinthians 11:4–15*, and has been a subject of debate for centuries. There are some seemingly sound arguments from the camp that says women should be required to wear head coverings, however I cannot agree with their reasoning.

Paul makes no mention of this being a cultural issue in Corinth, infamous for its female prostitutes who shave their heads. Nevertheless, he makes no mention of this in any of his other epistles—only to the church Corinth.

In the letter sent out from the Jerusalem apostles to new gentile believers in Acts 15:19–29, they make no mention of this “rule”. They only give these simple rules:

Acts 15:29 *You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.*

Scripture tells us that women are given long hair for a covering:

1 Corinthians 11:15 (WEB) *But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her, for her hair is given to her for a covering.*

Paul uses a different Greek word in verse 15 than from the previous verses, but *covering* is still the correct translation and meaning of the word.

When I pray about this issue, the Holy Spirit consistently tells me to follow Christ's example of love, grace, and inclusiveness. Imagine if a woman is asked to leave a church service because she is not wearing a head covering. Besides dying of embarrassment, she will probably never set foot in another church ever again, and a soul may be lost.

Our primary mission of saving souls fails when we get side-tracked by debatable rules. Christians are not under the *Law* but under grace. False churches stress rules when our primary function is to lead people to Christ and get them baptized with the Holy Spirit so they will be saved.

1 Timothy 1:7 *They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.*

If the Holy Spirit leads a women to cover her head, then she so do so, as we are to abide by the leading of the Holy Spirit. In any case, God is not going to send a woman to hell for not wearing a head covering.

The religious right or “conservative Christians” are the ones who stress this rule, but they are modern day Pharisees and get most things about Christianity wrong.⁸ Islamic law enforces head coverings, so we should question whether we should be aligned with their Sharian law.

Q15: Are Still Supposed to Tithe Under the New Covenant?

A15: ?????

4 Application

Brothers and sisters, my hope is that this teaching has given you a better understanding of Christianity and maybe answered questions that have been on your mind. It should also equip you to answer these same questions when asked by others.

If you have a question that you would like to to see added to this teaching, please send it using the email link here: <https://tinyurl.com/mryrfehf>

5 Prayer

“Heavenly Father, thank you for your scripture which teaches us your ways and answers most of our questions. We acknowledge that some things are too great for us to understand. Help us to effectively communicate answers to others, especially those outside the church, and to dispel heresies about Christianity. Help us to lead others to Christ, for “the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few”. Your words are truth. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

⁸ See my teachings entitled *False Believers* and *Politics*.

A References & Further Reading

- [1] Lloyd-Jones, Martyn, PhD.; *Why Does God Allow War? (2nd Edition)*; Evangelical Press of Wales; 2003.
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B Scripture References

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28:9; 6
28:15–68; 7

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13:3; 7
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13:24–30; 12
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15:19–29; 13
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1:18–20; 12
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2:13–14; 7

1 Peter

1:6–7; 8

2 Peter

3:9; 8, 12

1 John

3:1; 6

Revelation

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20:12–15; 11

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22:12; 5