



Sunday, March 5, 2017

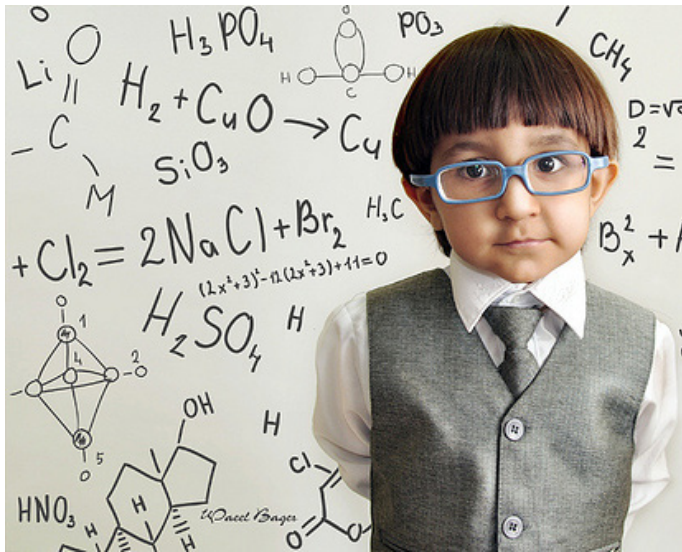
# ZWTF

Volume 6, Issue 10

Martin Zender Zapping You Whenever Thoughts Flow

## Q & Hey

Thanks for asking about stuff that I know.



## Hey

God purposely causes people to violate His laws (Pharaoh, Calvary, Auschwitz) in order to effect His will. This does not absolve anyone from murder. The murderers are accountable for their actions but, absolutely speaking, they are not responsible. We are looking at accountability versus responsibility here. Only God is responsible for everything that happens in the universe. We are to obey human laws which violate His laws only if obeying human laws is one of His “laws”—which it is. Romans 13:2—“He who is resisting an authority has withstood God’s mandate.” Let me put it this way: This passage does not *require* us to obey. This is why I put the “laws” of the previous sentence in quotation marks. The laws of Moses *required* people to obey, but we are living in an administration of grace. These are not requirements we are discussing, but ideals. Funny you should mention killing one’s firstborn son. That’s exactly what God demanded that Abraham do with Isaac. If the government today passed such a law, I would tell the government to go to hell; I could not live the ideal. But someone with more faith than me who went ahead and did it would have Scriptural recourse: Romans 13:1-2.

### VIOLATING THE LAWS OF GOD

**Q** How can we be required by our Father to obey human laws which violate *His* laws? The commandant and the guards of Auschwitz were discharging the lawful orders of their government, but that did not absolve them of the murders of millions of innocents. What if the government passed a law that required you or me to kill our firstborn child? Does Romans 13:1 require us to obey?

### THE HEART OF THE MATTER

**Q** The Scriptures have often pointed out that God looks at the heart and decides many things based on what He sees there. To even look at the Scriptures with a keyword search of “heart” makes this quite evident. One example is Psalms 7:10 (“My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart”). Can you give me some insight as to the purpose of these Scriptures in regards to salvation?

# Hey

Verses like Psalm 7:10 are from the law. They are for Israel, not for us. God does not wait until we are upright before He saves us. In fact, He saved us while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8). This is truth for today from Paul's gospel.

## NOT ALL REDEEMED & HOLY

**Q** Do you see all people presently redeemed, holy, without sin, and the very righteousness of God?



# Hey

Heck no. There is no way that all people now are presently redeemed and holy. Not even we who *are* redeemed and holy are sinless.

Paul gives a good verse on this in Romans 3:21-22, "Yet now, apart from law, a righteousness of God is manifested, yet a righteousness of God through Jesus Christ's faith, for all, and on all who are believing." This righteousness is *for* all, eventually, but it is only presently *on* those who are believing. Isn't this exquisite wording?

## PREDESTINATION=FATALISM?

**Q** You believe that God predestines everything, right? How is that not fatalism? My definition of fatalism is that everything can only happen one way. God set it up and nobody can act contrary to God's will.

# Hey

Predestination is a fact; fatalism is a choice. You write that everything can only happen one way; this is true. You write that no one can act contrary to God's will; this is also true. Fatalism is the act of *not* acting because of the above facts. Fatalism says: "God is going to do His thing anyway, so why should I act or care?" And yet it is through our acting and our caring—out of a wisely arranged (by God) ignorance of God's pre-determined will—that the above two facts occur. In other words, our acts *belong to* God's ultimate will.

## HAS JESUS RETURNED ALREADY?

**Q** You and others write that the end of this eon is near. And yet other sincere writers such as John L. Bray and Gary DeMar say that Jesus returned around 70 A.D. They, too, go to great lengths to research and back themselves up with Scripture. What gives?

# Hey

The Preterists who say that Jesus returned in 70 AD have

to not only "spiritualize" and make allegories out of everything in Revelation, they must also say that the prophecies concerning Israel were all figurative, and that Israel has hoped in vain for all these years for the promises God made to her. In other words, God does not literally fulfill His promises; He is a big trickster and we can't trust Him to say what He means. When the literal, thousand-year kingdom *does* come, all the Preterists will be saying, "Um...whoops." The present sincerity of these people has nothing to do with the depth of their error. Sincerity is no determiner of truth. Many sincere people are often as sincerely wrong as can be. Some of the wrongest people of all are Preterists.

## SPIRIT BEINGS...FOR REAL

**Q** Any thoughts on who or what "the seven spirits" are in Revelation 1:4?

# Hey

No thoughts here; only facts. The seven spirits are seven spirit beings—executives of Christ—who enact the judgments coming upon the Earth in the last seven years of this eon. Most commentators, naturally, spiritualize these spirits away, making them emblems of God’s spirit, or some such nonsense. Yet these are actual beings associated with the seven trumpets and seven bowls (of the wrath of God) mentioned in Revelation 15:7. There, the spirits are portrayed as messengers.

## BELIEVER VS. UNBELIEVER

# Q

If we are redeemed by the faith of Christ (and I believe we are) what is the difference between a believer and an unbeliever? If we are redeemed by the faith of Christ, are we not *all* redeemed?

Obviously, if Christ did something for everyone, but only some end up with it, the difference has to be in the receiver. What is it?

# Hey

The difference is faith. You nearly answered your own question: “What is the difference between a believer and an unbeliever.” The answer, of course, is “belief.”

Believers believe what Christ accomplished; unbelievers do not. Only Christ can give belief, but it’s every human in his or her own order (1 Corinthians 15:22-23).

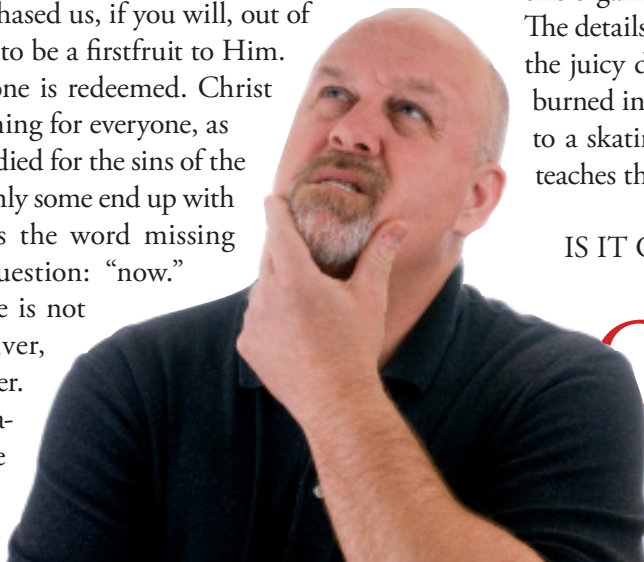
A redeemed person is bought ahead of time.

God has purchased us, if you will, out of all humanity, to be a firstfruit to Him.

So not everyone is redeemed. Christ did do something for everyone, as you say—He died for the sins of the world—but only some end up with it *now*. That’s the word missing from your question: “now.”

The difference is not in the receiver, but in the giver.

It is God’s pleasure to choose whom He will for early



salvation. For redemption. Remember, this salvation is not in accord with our acts. 2 Timothy 1:9—

...Who saves us and calls us with a holy calling, not in accord with our acts, but in accord with His own purpose and the grace which is given to us in Christ Jesus before times eonian.

## TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL

# Q

As much as I like the idea of staying home some Sunday mornings, I think the positive aspect about the church is community. If I kept my children home from church, their theological training would become my sole responsibility. I like the idea of a community raising them to know about Christ.

# Hey

Holy cow and Moses. My God and Christ. You are *way* off track. The theological training of your children must *not* be left to a religious institution. This would be a huge mistake

for which you would answer at the dais of Christ. Whether you like your responsibility or not, you’re stuck with it. It is your responsibility to teach your children about God. Who loves them more than you? I assume that you believe the truths of God that are discussed on these pages, and elsewhere on my website. Why would you send your children, then, to be tutored by those who believe that God is a worse monster than Adolph Hitler? Do you actually like the idea of a community (organized religion) that is completely in the dark about God being in charge of your children? You want this organization teaching your children about the darkness? The details of the darkness? You want your kids learning all the juicy details about how most of God’s creation will be burned in hell forever? If it’s community that you want, go to a skating rink. No skating rink I have ever patronized teaches that God is a vindictive lunatic.

## IS IT CRAZY TO BELIEVE THAT THE END IS NEAR?

# Q

I have made the same statements as you about one world government and many signs coming together to signal the end of the eon. Jesus Himself said that His friends would know His plans. God put the stars in the heavens for signs. Jesus said that



no man could know the hour or day of His return—but what about the month? What about the year? People think I am overreacting. As scary as it is to hear you say some of these same things about where we are on the eonian calendar, it is also a comfort to know that I am not going off the deep end. Why do people think we're so “over the top”?

# Hey

I know exactly what you mean. No, you have not gone off the deep end. When we read in the book of Revelation of what is coming on this Earth, and we

take it all at face value (as it is meant to be taken), who would not be tempted to think that God Himself has gone off the deep end? People get so comfortable in their daily routines that it is a shock to them to think that things could change so dramatically and fundamentally in so short a period of time.

Peter deals with this very mindset in 2 Peter 3:3-4 writing—

In the last days scoffers will be coming with scoffing, going according to their own desires...and saying, “Where is the promise of His presence? For since the fathers were put to repose, all is continuing thus from the beginning of creation.”

People get used to how things are. Our Lord said that the last days would be like the days of Noah. Who believed Noah when he spoke of a worldwide flood? They all thought he was crazy. Nothing like what Noah spoke of had ever happened before in the history of humankind, so the people went along, marrying and doing their business, until it started raining. Once again, Jesus compared the last days to those days. We are in them. Look at the changes that have occurred since the mid 1800's. From Adam to 1850, humanity traveled on horses. From 1850 to today, we travel at many times the speed of sound and have explored other planets. Daniel said that in the last days knowledge would increase (Daniel 12:4). Since the computer revolution, knowledge increases exponentially almost every day. Yet it is a knowledge without truth: “Always learning and yet not at any time able to



come into a realization of the truth” (2 Timothy 3:7). I have been told, “Every generation thinks that they are the last generation.” My answer is always, “One of those generations has to be right.” God will not leave us in the dark. The end times will be evident. Those who cannot see it are willfully blind in accord with 2 Peter 3:3. Most people in the world are complacent about our place on the eonian calendar—even some of our own.

Keep sounding the alarm, but not for the sake of alarm. Herald the Word. I know that the following is a Circumcision writing, but I think it applies to anyone with intelligence who sounds the alarm of the times, especially to Israel—

Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to eonian life, but the others to disgrace and eonian repulsion. *The intelligent shall warn as the warning of the atmosphere, and those turning many to righteousness will be as the stars for the eon and further* (Daniel 12:1-3).

## “BORN AGAIN” CONFUSION

# Q

It's been my understanding that we are not born again until we are resurrected. Is it that simple? We can't be born again until we die a physical death and are roused as Jesus was—correct?

# Hey

Well, actually, we are not born again at all. Being “born again” is a teaching of Jesus to Israel (John, Chapter 3). The nation Israel is to be born again. This means that, as a nation, Israel will have the law put on her heart. This is in contrast to her trying to force her way into the kingdom via an impossible compliance with outward stone commandments.

The apostle Paul writes that we are a “new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:16-17).

This is a far more radical truth than being born again. Being born again is taking the same raw material and reforming it. Being a new creation is discarding the old material completely and making something new. That is what God has done with us through the cross of Christ. Our old humanity was crucified together with Him (Romans 6:6).

Our resurrection occurs when our bodies are changed (1 Corinthians 15:51-53) and we become immortal, which means that we are never able to die again. P.S.—there is no such thing as a mere “physical death.” Death overcomes the entire person, not just the physical (body) part of the person.

#### JESUS LIVED IN THE MOMENT

**Q** If we are all saved and it is all God’s work to choose us, why did Jesus get so angry with the Pharisees when they did not accept Him? What was the purpose of His denunciation of them?

**Hey** Jesus got after the Pharisees for the same reason that we use our windshield wipers: He is living in the moment and reacting to the circumstances. Here is what I mean. We know that rain comes from God. Right? And yet we still use our windshield wipers to get it the heck off of our windshields. In other words, knowing that God is sovereign in everything doesn’t mean we sit back and do nothing. We still react to things. Engaging our windshield wipers does not at all mean that we *don’t* believe that rain is a gift from God.

Likewise with Jesus. It is as a man that He is venting His anguish and frustration. Even though He knows that His Father is keeping people from coming to Him (“No one can come to Me if ever the Father Who sends Me should not be drawing him”—John 6:44), He still laments that the people won’t come to Him. As a human, He feels the relative circumstance (the circumstance He’s in) and reacts to it. This is perfectly right and normal. We do the same thing.

#### WHEW! YOU CAN’T COMMIT THE “UNFORGIVABLE” SIN

**Q** What about the unforgivable sin against the Holy Ghost? It seems contradictory that Jesus died for all the sin of mankind bar one. Are you able to shed some light on this?

**Hey**

What is a ghost? Are you talking about Casper? Just kidding, but I really dislike this King James term for the holy spirit, to which you are referring. The so-called unforgivable sin is blaspheming the holy spirit. Jesus said that the sin of blaspheming the Son would be forgiven (and it was, from the cross), but if the holy spirit was blasphemed (that is, rejected), then there would be no forgiveness for that sin “neither in this eon, nor in that which is impending” (*Concordant Version*). Matthew 12:32—

And whosoever may be saying a word against the Son of Mankind, it will be pardoned him, yet whoever may be saying aught against the holy spirit, it shall not be pardoned him, neither in this eon nor in that which is impending.

Israel rejected Jesus Christ Himself, but He forgave them for that from the cross. Forty days later, at Pentecost, the holy spirit descended in the form of fire upon the heads of the apostles. This made them run out the door—especially Peter—and testify to the truth of the coming of the Messiah, His recent death and resurrection. This is the testimony of the holy spirit I’ve been referring to. The leaders of Israel thought this testimony at Pentecost was a



criminal activity inspired by Satan or at least by insanity, and so in this way they blasphemed the holy spirit. Simply put, the testimony of the spirit at Pentecost was the “last chance” that Israel had to accept Messiah. If they blew that (and they did), then they would be out of the 1,000-year kingdom. The sin would not be forgiven in this eon, “nor in that which is impending,” which was the kingdom eon. This would not preclude, of course, Israel being saved later. Of course every Israelite will be saved later, because God is the Savior of all humanity (1 Timothy 4:10). No one can even commit this “unforgivable” sin today. It was a specific sin for a specific people at a specific time.

## MOSES STILL DEAD

**Q** I agree with you that everybody that has died is dead, including Peter, Paul, David, etc. How is it that Moses and Elijah showed up in Matthew 17:3: - “And lo! Moses and Elijah were seen by them, conferring with Him”?



**Hey**

Great question. This event of the transfiguration of Christ was a vision. It is specifically called a vision in the context. Matthew 17:9, “And, at their descending out of the mountain, Jesus directs them, saying, ‘Now you may tell no one of the *vision* till the Son of Mankind may be roused from among the dead.’” A vision is a picture of something that is not actually happening at the time. Notice the language: Moses and Elijah “were seen” by them (17:3). Moses and Elijah were not actually there, but were merely seen. This unusual case aligns with John’s vision on Patmos as he writes Revelation, at which time the apostle is actually seeing things *that do not yet exist in his time frame*. This is the nature of a vision.

The disciples on the mount that day were *seeing* something that was not actually happening in their time frame. Yes, the Lord was actually transfigured at the time, but He appeared with Elijah and Moses as they would be in the future. Thus, it was a vision. Another way to put it is that the disciples were looking into a time in the future when Jesus would be with Moses and Elijah—actually—in the 1,000-year kingdom.

## NEWS FOR JEWS

**Q** Can you shed some light on what Paul meant in Hebrews 10:26-27? I’m assuming that he is talking about temporal earthly judgment: “If we deliberately keep on

sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left (Hebrews 10:26), but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God” (Hebrews 10:27).

**Hey**

This is admittedly a difficult passage. The key to understand it is that it is written to Jews. There is not much grace here; this is certainly not the gospel of the Uncircumcision, which concerns the transcendent grace of God. If the Jews reject their Messiah, there is no other Messiah; they’ve missed the One and only. The fire and the consumption are real enough, but these things are eonian, not eternal. All Israelites will eventually be with God for eternity due to the saving work of Christ, but only at the Consummation (1 Corinthians 15:26), when death is abolished.

## JUDGED IN DEATH?

**Q**

I believe that God has opened my understanding of His Word by listening to you and through many other sources. Something I’m not clear on is the eonian chastening or pruning of unbelievers. I believe that this happens after their resurrection at the Great White Throne judgment (in Revelation chapter 20) but where does the chastening take place? Is it when they are cast into the lake of fire? I assume that we don’t know how long the chastening is.

**Hey**

You just about answered your own question. All judgment of unbelievers takes place at the Great White Throne judgment, while these people are alive. It does *not* take place in the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death (Revelation 20:14), and no one can be judged in death. Death is the absence of life.

## INTERNET PORN

**Q**

Martin, I am having a real problem with Internet porn. What should I do?

**Hey**

Have you tried re-booting your modem?