

Bible Contradictions? Challenging the Claims

By asserting that the Bible is full of contradictions people feel free to dismiss its teachings. How can we evaluate the evidence for alleged inconsistencies?

Excuses for disregarding clear biblical teachings abound. By nature, human beings don't really want to obey God, and dubious claims of apparent contradictions are used to justify avoiding the 'inconvenience' of changing behaviours and lifestyle to follow God's instructions. By declaring that the Scriptures are full of contradictions, humans feel they can justify ignoring God's Word as an authority in their lives.

As a motive for this mindset, Jesus cited hostility to God: 'This is the condemnation, that light has come into the world and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil' (John 3:19).

Assessing apparent contradictions

When we come to parts of the Bible that may appear to be contradictory, we should follow a principle that the prophet Isaiah provides, 'Whom will He teach knowledge? And whom will He make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept. Line upon line . . . here a little, there

a little' (Isaiah 28:9-10).

All scriptures on a subject must be put together to clarify a particular verse or topic. A reference work such as *Nave's Topical Bible* does this to good effect. Verses on the same subject often complement each other, each verse telling part of the story.

As an example, based on John 3:16, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life,' many assume that simply believing in Jesus is all we need to do to inherit eternal life. But is this the whole story? Clearly not, for James 2:19 tells us that 'even the demons believe – and tremble!' Certainly more than simple belief is required. We must look at other scriptures to understand more fully what God expects of us.

Importance of context

Studying the context includes

analysing verses within the framework of the paragraph, chapter and book, and in a larger sense the Bible as a whole.

For example, we read in Genesis 3:4 that 'you will not surely die.' From this verse people could infer that man already possesses immortality, that the soul already has eternal life. But such an interpretation would contradict other plain scriptures (compare 1 Timothy 6:14-16; Romans 2:7; 1 Corinthians 15:53).

The context of the paragraph explains that it was Satan the devil, in the form of a serpent, who told this lie. The correct teaching was

Whom will He teach knowledge? And whom will He make to understand the message? . . . For precept must be upon precept. Line upon line. . . here a little, there a little' (Isaiah 28:9-10).

related by God a few verses earlier: 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die' (Genesis 2:16-17). It's not enough to quote a single

scripture, we must look at its setting.

In addition, we should not try to force any preconceived ideas or teachings onto the passages. There are a number of basic beliefs taught by Christian denominations that have no scriptural foundation but have been brought in from non-biblical sources. Often these ideas conflict with the actual wording in the Holy Scriptures and account for a number

of supposed contradictions.

When studying the Bible we also need to be aware that 'no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation' (2 Peter 1:20). Unfortunately, the Holy Bible is all too often interpreted wrongly, with people reading ideas into it that are not really there. A careful, non-biased reading will show that there are no

contradictions in God's Word.

It is easy to find fault with the Bible if we are not careful in studying it. For more information please download or request our booklets, *Is the Bible True? You Can Understand the Bible* and our reprint article 'Has the Bible Been Accurately Preserved?'

Gerhard Marx

Evaluating Alleged Contradictions

Misconceptions are often involved in claims that the Bible contradicts itself. Here are a few examples:

Failing to read what the Bible actually says

If scriptures are not read carefully, it is easy to overlook important phrases. For example:

Did all the horses in Egypt die in the fifth plague? (Exodus 9:3, 6; 14:9).

Exodus 9:3 specifically refers to the livestock 'in the field' and this is restated in verses 8-20. If the animals were in stalls or stables, they would not have died.

In a similar vein: *Did 24,000 die of the plague or only 23,000?* (Numbers 25:9; 1 Corinthians 10:8).

A careful reading of the latter shows that, according to the apostle Paul, 'In one day twenty-three thousand fell' (emphasis added). It is not contradictory that 23,000 should die in a day, and another 1000 die before or after that one day.

Forcing preconceived ideas into the text

Scripture states that Elijah went up to heaven, but John wrote that only Christ ever ascended into heaven (2 Kings 2:11; John 3:13).

It is an assumption that Elijah was taken up into the 'third heaven.' There is no mention of Elijah from those who later saw visions of God's throne room (Revelation 4:1-2). Elisha and his companions believed God had carried Elijah into the first heaven (the sky), and intended to take him to a place of retirement to live out his days in peace. This accounts for the request to seek Elijah in the surrounding countryside (verses 16-18). In corroboration of this, Elijah later wrote a letter to King Jehoram (2 Chronicles 21:12).

Lack of local knowledge

Local custom, practice and basic geography can shed light on assumed contradictions. For example:

Did Judas Iscariot commit suicide by hanging himself, or did he die another way? (Matthew 27:5; Acts 1:18).

The simplest explanation is that Judas hanged himself and his dead body hung undiscovered for several

days. It is customary to bury corpses in the Middle East on the day of their death, as bodies rapidly decompose in the heat. With attention on the crucifixion of Christ and the observance of the Holy Days relating to the Passover season, it is probable that the body decomposed to the extent that it fell from the rope and the rotting entrails 'gushed out.'

Did Christ ascend to heaven from the Mount of Olives or from Bethany? (Acts 1:9, 12; Luke 24:50, 51).

Bethany stands on the eastern side of the Mount of Olives.

Apparent timing discrepancies appear to occur where one writer uses Roman time and another the Jewish reckoning, as in John 19:14 and Matthew 27:45.

A slightly different viewpoint

People remember incidents from slightly different viewpoints. This results in minor textual variations.

Was the cloak put on Christ scarlet or purple? (Matthew 27:28; Mark 15:16-20; John 19:2).

It was probably an old cloak from a Roman soldier, and it would have been reddish or purple depending on rank. These colours are next to each other on a colour wheel and can be perceived as similar by some people.

What was written over Christ's cross?

Putting together the four quotes, we can see that it read, 'This is Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews.' Each writer contributed part of the inscription, but there is no contradiction between them (Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38 and John 19:19).

Faulty translations and copying errors

Faulty translations, such as the use of the wrong tenses of verbs, can be resolved by checking other versions, or a lexicon, concordance or Bible dictionary.

Probably the best-known copying error appears in 1 John 5:7-8 in the King James and New King James versions. Here the words, 'in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth' were a note written in the margin of a manuscript, which, at some point, was wrongly incorporated into the main text. No early manuscripts contain these words. Most other versions contain the correct wording.

Managing Anger Effectively

Outbursts of intense anger or rage seem to be proliferating. What can we do to alleviate this potentially destructive emotion?

Uncontrolled anger can be scary. Unchecked, it can become the habitual response to every irritation or annoyance.

A quick glance through the newspapers will reveal furious responses and overreactions caused by sometimes very trivial incidents.

At its core, being unable to control and direct anger appropriately shows a lack of mental and emotional maturity. It is possible to learn to at least moderate outbursts of temper.

Physical responses

On a physical level, humans have what is known as a sympathetic nervous system which stimulates the body in situations where rapid action is necessary – the classic ‘fight or flight’ reflex. The hypothalamus transmits nerve impulses to the adrenal medulla, which then secretes adrenaline and/or noradrenalin into the bloodstream. These chemicals affect the human mind and can cause a ‘red mist,’ where uncontrolled emotions temporarily cloud a person’s judgment.

God created this system to enable us either to run or to stand up and fight back, or to protect ourselves in potentially dangerous situations. However, like all emotions, it is possible to direct it to constructive, rather than destructive, purposes. For example, King David, as a young man guarding his father’s flocks, killed both lion and bear to retrieve lambs they had taken (1 Samuel 17:34-37).

Adrenaline pumping through the veins can, for a short time, provide additional strength and speed which can be used for good, such as helping someone in danger – or to do evil,

such as assault or murder.

On the other hand adrenaline constantly coursing through the body of a chronically angry person can cause physical and spiritual problems and often psychosomatic illnesses.

The spiritual perspective

Of itself, anger is not wrong, and being angry is not always a sin (Ephesians 4:26). However, uncontrolled rage, and violent responses over and above what is necessary to protect oneself or others is wrong. So too is harbouring grudges or unresolved anger, as we are commanded to forgive one another ‘from [the] heart’ (Matthew 18:35).

God does not say that we should try to suppress anger – in fact, the Bible shows that this passionate emotion can motivate us to proper action – the challenge is in anger control.

As the God of the Old Testament: Christ became angry at man’s wickedness, ‘For the iniquity of his covetousness I was angry’ (Isaiah 57:17). He will also oversee the pouring out of His Father’s wrath on the evil forces at the end of the age (Revelation 19:11-16). However, God’s anger is always controlled. To illustrate this, when Christ was falsely accused, insulted and abused, He did not respond in kind, nor did He call on His Father to destroy those who were crucifying Him (1 Peter 2:23; Luke 23:34-37).

This does not mean that one should allow oneself or others to be abused or subjected to criminal acts.

The appropriate authorities should be informed when and where necessary. Nevertheless, God expects us to admit and deal with our own anger, leaving any final judgment in His hands.

Actions leading to control

Controlling emotions can be difficult. Attributed to the Greek philosopher Aristotle is the statement, ‘Anyone can become angry – that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose and in the right way – that is not within everybody’s power and is not easy.’

As with tackling any sin, the first action should be taking the matter to God in prayer. Confess the problem – often the hardest part. Many prefer to seethe in silence, or justify tem-

‘Anyone can become angry – that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose and in the right way – that is not within everybody’s power and is not easy.’

per tantrums as a reaction to stress or other factors. Ask for help before any situation causes you to become angry. Remember you can call out to God at any time, in any situation. However, strong emotions, once aroused, can be hard to moderate.

It is possible to communicate displeasure without inflaming a situation with angry words. Books such as *Achieving Emotional Literacy* (Claude Steiner and Paul Perry) and *Confronting Without Offending* (Deborah Smith Pegues) offer helpful strategies on how to be assertive and express anger without exploding. Internet sites or local libraries offer

similar material.

Put surplus adrenaline to a good use – dig the garden, visit the gym, clean the house, or go for a walk or run.

For disagreements with family members, try to arrange to discuss the matter when everyone has calmed down, and maybe have a less emotionally involved party mediate.

When facing a potentially explosive situation, try thinking through scenarios and picturing yourself choosing to handle the situations calmly and rationally (Proverbs

15:1). Keep asking God to guide your reactions, and don't forget to study scriptures which show how best to respond without fury.

Before irritation becomes rage, ask questions such as, 'What is the worst that could happen if I became angry?' or 'What is the worst that could happen if I just walked away?' Conversely, you could ask, 'What would the best outcome be?' or better still, 'What would Jesus do now?'

If you realise you are becoming annoyed, take a deep breath and pray

for help to calm your emotions. The old adage, 'When angry, count to ten before you say anything,' is very wise, especially if you use the time for a brief prayer.

Other helpful strategies

For persistent anger, you could practise distraction strategies, for example, holding a small stone or other memento from a place where you felt calm and at peace. Imagine stepping back there and recapturing that feeling. A picture of a loved one

Dangers of Suppressing Anger

Anger was created by God to help protect us, but it can lead to many problems if not handled appropriately. Ephesians 4:26-27 summarises the downsides of anger very succinctly: "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath nor give place to the devil' (NKJV).

Notice that it is possible to express anger in a manner that is not sinful. Yet most of us don't do that because we weren't taught; it wasn't modelled correctly for us when we were young. Instead we sin in one of two ways.

We can sin *against others* in violent outbursts, road rage, etc. However, we can also sin *against ourselves* by suppressing the anger, particularly if we saw the abusive use of anger when we were young and are afraid of it. Suppressed anger is often defined by psychologists as anger that is not expressed or dealt with at the time of its occurrence.

Harming self

You might be thinking, 'If I choose to bury the anger, I'm not harming others, so where's the problem?' Yet the apostle Paul advocated that we deal with the issue in a timely manner and not take it to bed. Why? Because *suppressing* anger is harmful and can lead to numerous problems including:

Passive-aggressive behaviours

Resentment, grudges and bitterness

Withdrawal and depression (This is sometimes referred to as 'anger turned inward.' It occurs particularly in women, and is possibly a result of so much of the body's energy being required to keep a lid on the anger.)

Addictive behaviours

Demon possession

Such emotional states and behaviours are toxic,

and are implicated in maladies such as heart disease, rheumatoid arthritis, migraine headaches, high blood pressure and back pain; and they all create separation from other people. They may have begun with emotional upsets but they soon become spiritual problems. Paul told us that unresolved anger can also open us up to demonic influence.

Recall the example of Cain (Genesis 4:3-8). God accepted Abel's offering, not Cain's. 'So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."' (verses 6-7). Cain was clearly very angry, but had not yet sinned. God told him to be careful and to rule over his emotions. He didn't do so, and thus he sinned by murdering his brother.

A secondary emotion

Rather than suppressing anger it might be useful to consider that anger is often a secondary emotion, a *reaction*. What drove Saul's murderous rage toward David? *Jealousy!* The Israelite women were singing 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7). Another factor was *loss* of his dynasty. Saul knew that David was to become king rather than his son Jonathan.

When experiencing anger, take a deep breath and ask yourself: 'What is this all about? Am I feeling frustrated because things are not going my way. Perhaps I'm running late and don't have time for any interruptions. Perhaps I'm losing patience with my daughter who refuses to go to bed? Am I afraid of being overlooked or ignored?' Once you have identified the underlying issue you have something more tangible to address.

Wayne Topping

who would hate to see you enraged might also help. In a crisis a ‘buddy’ to whom you can ‘vent’ can be helpful, if used as a temporary support, not an excuse to reinforce the anger.

Walk away if you need to (Proverbs 22:3; 27:12). This might be necessary if you find yourself in danger. Better to be considered cowardly than to become a victim of violence or to inflict injury, or even death, on another.

Avoiding temper triggers

To moderate a quick temper, try to work out what causes or intensifies the anger and choose to avoid it. Alcohol is often a factor, so regulating intake to within recommended limits is wise. Arguments about religion, politics and football teams can also inflame passions. Ask yourself, ‘Do I really need to be involved in this?’ ‘Is this so important it is worth getting angry about?’ In most cases the answer is ‘No.’

Losing one’s temper over such personal perceptions often exacerbates a problem and rarely changes another’s opinion. In fact sometimes the opposite is true, since onlookers

may assume that all adherents of that religion, political persuasion, or football team habitually behave in that fashion. Thus, all fans following a particular team may gain a bad image, because a few cannot control their temper tantrums.

Put off anger

Both Old and New Testaments command us to put off outbursts of anger and associated behaviours (Psalm 37:8; Colossians 3:8; Ephesians 4:31; Galatians 5:19-21).

On the other hand, the Scriptures praise those who are able to control their anger. Among the proverbs of King Solomon, to whom God gave great wisdom, we find, ‘He who is slow to wrath has great understanding,’ and ‘He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city’ (Proverbs 14:29 16:32).

Taking control of anger will help us live calmer, safer, and possibly longer, lives.

Mark Webb

(Additional material researched by
Barbara Fenney)

The Amazingly Complex Amoeba

Did you know that a simple, single-celled amoeba contains 400 million bits of genetic information in its DNA? Equipped with this it is able to move, find food and reproduce.

And a human body has trillions of cells, each more complex than an amoeba. Millions of protein molecules in every cell (averaging only about two-hundreds of a millimetre wide) extract energy from nutrients, dispose of waste, send messages and make repairs. And that’s just the mundane tasks. (Source: Bill Bryson, *A Short History of Nearly Everything*)

Where did the first cell come from? Who programmed all that information into it? It defies imagination that such complexity happened ‘by chance’ without a supreme programmer – a divine Creator.

To find the answers, please request our free booklet, *Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?*



Don't Mention Death, Please, We're British!

Traditional reserve means the British have a reluctance to discuss some topics. Sex is one, but another is death and the related matter of dying. This is unfortunate as the NHS is struggling to cope with greater calls on its services by an ageing population wanting a peaceful and pain-free death.

‘Dying Without Dignity,’ a report by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, tells some horror stories of deaths that were anything but peaceful and painless. According to the report, ‘Every year approximately half a million people die in England.’ A few die suddenly of disease, or in disasters, accidents or atrocities. But for the majority the NHS is responsible for care in their final hours. Sadly, an overstretched Health Service is not always able to provide the palliative care and dignity that many would hope for.

Facing death under such circumstances is bad enough, but often we fail to consider end-of-life care ahead of time, or plan funeral arrangements, or inform family members what our beliefs might be regarding what happens after we die. The latter may have a bearing on the type of funeral service they would arrange, or help relieve their grief.

But do you know what *really* happens when someone dies? Are billions of people, including perhaps many of our loved ones who did not profess Christ, doomed to endless suffering in hell? Do the righteous ascend to heaven to live with God? *Are you sure?*

A knowledge of what really happens after death is a great comfort to those facing death as well as to those who are left behind to mourn (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Please download or request our booklet *What Happens After Death?*



God's Operation Manual

Much more complex than a mere machine, man needs a detailed instruction book to know how to achieve maximum potential. God has provided one – the Holy Bible.

Recently I attended an advanced driving course during which the instructor pointed out that the Highway Code is a driver's operation manual, a book of rules and instructions which, if followed, will help us drive safely to the benefit of ourselves and others.

Almost every gadget, mechanism or appliance that we buy comes with an operation manual of some description and, provided we follow it correctly, the item should work as intended.

A manual for mankind

While mulling this over, it occurred to me that the Bible is our personal Operation Manual, with answers or suggested solutions to most of our questions and difficulties.

We all have many doubts, dilemmas and difficulties that need to be resolved. However, when being bombarded with pressure from friends, the internet, TV and the like, it is easy to look for answers in the wrong areas or go to the wrong people. We need to learn from God (Psalm 119:9-10; 2 Timothy 3:15).

However, simply *reading* the answers is not enough. We need to learn to use God's Word as our guide and put it into practice in our lives (James 1:22). To achieve this, in addition to studying the scriptures, we also need to pray regularly and keep close to God.

Learning to navigate safely

When driving a car we need to learn how to navigate safely so we don't cause harm to others or ourselves. In life it is the same. Navigating life's ups and downs by

following God's instructions helps us avoid much sin, which could damage our spiritual potential, just as a car accident might damage us physically. When we do slip up, we need to go to God, in heartfelt repentance, to repair the spiritual damage. Failure to do so could ultimately affect our eternal life.

On the road, we need to look ahead for potential hazards – children or animals on the pavement about to run into the road, zebra crossings, known awkward junctions and so on. By adjusting our vehicle's speed and direction accordingly, we avoid accidents. Life is no different in that we will face situations and circumstances where we need to make decisions. With the guidance of the Scriptures we can more often make the correct ones (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Prepare to stop

During the training we discussed the purpose of traffic lights. Our instructor asked what the red light signified. 'Stop!' we all answered.

Next we were asked to clarify what the green meant. 'Go!' we responded in unison. However we were all wrong. A green light signals that it is safe to proceed but with caution. Other aspects to consider include, 'How long has it been green?', 'Is it about to change back to red?', 'If it has only just gone green, could other drivers still be clearing the junction?'

The lesson was always be prepared to stop, not 'Go!'

In life we need to be weighing up our circumstances and situations, being prepared to stop a particular course of action or thought process so we do not sin.

God's word is 'a lamp to my feet

and a light to my path' so we do not stumble (Psalm 119:105).

Keeping God in heart and mind

The psalmist wrote, 'Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you' (Psalm 119:11). In order to keep God's laws and statutes in our hearts always, we must be familiar with them, just as a driver needs to remember the Highway Code. Applying that knowledge in our day-to-day existence will help us avoid many of life's troubles.

If we have accepted the call of God through Jesus Christ, have been baptised and received the Holy Spirit through the laying-on-of-hands, we have become a child of God. Ahead is the promise of eternal life in the Kingdom of God. To avoid spiritual crashes during our walk with Christ we must learn to think ahead, using God's Word as our guide, being prepared to stop when we see sin up ahead, and turn away from it so as not to be ensnared.

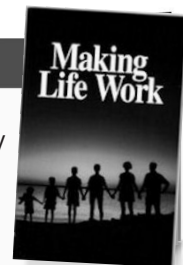
With God's help and guidance many of the difficulties we all face each day can be dealt with safely, allowing us to achieve the journey's end, the goal of the Kingdom of God.

Stuart Hull

Learn More

Looking for some good advice? You may already own the best self-help book ever published, one with practical guidance to help you achieve success in your career, friendships, finances, family and every other aspect of life. That book is the Bible. We've prepared this guide, *Making Life Work*, to help you discover the Bible's principles for success.

Contact our office address on page 1, or request or download it from our website at www.GNmagazine.org/booklets.





Q Were Enoch and Elijah taken to heaven?
Reader from Oxfordshire

A With regard to Enoch, some believe Genesis 5:24 and Hebrews 11:5 declare that God took Enoch to heaven. But do these verses really say that? Genesis 5:24 tells us that ‘Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.’ Hebrews 11:5 adds: ‘By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”’; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.’

Nowhere does the Bible say that Enoch was taken into heaven. It simply says that God ‘took him,’ without specifying where.

We know that only the resurrected Christ has gone to heaven. Scripture tells us, ‘*No one has ascended to heaven* but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven’ (John 3:13). So even as late as this statement, probably towards the end of the first century AD, no other human being, including Enoch, had ascended into heaven.

Hebrews 11:5 states ‘so that he did not not see death,’ yet verse 13 of the chapter confirms that Enoch and the others mentioned ‘all *died* in faith.’ We know Enoch died.

God doesn’t give us all the details of what happened. One possible explanation is that He transported Enoch elsewhere to keep him from being killed at the hands of those

who did not like his announcement of coming divine judgment (see Jude 14-16). God likewise supernaturally transported Elijah and Philip to other places on earth (see 2 Kings 2:11; Acts 8:39). (For more on Elijah please see

‘Evaluating Alleged Contradictions’ on page 2.)

We are not told exactly what happened, but we do know that Enoch did not skip death and go to heaven. He died and is in his grave until the resurrection. For more information please request our booklet *Heaven and Hell: What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

Q I work in retail and have to work on the Sabbath. Should I change my job?
G S, North Shields

A God made the Sabbath day holy at the Creation. ‘God rested on the seventh day’ (Genesis 2:2).

The message for all human beings is that six days of the week (Sunday to Friday) belong to them, but the seventh (Saturday) is set apart by God. On that day we are to rest in order to recuperate from all the mental and physical turmoil of making a living during the week (Exodus 20:8-11).

We are to keep that day holy by studying God’s Word or, where

possible, attending Sabbath services which also provide fellowship. It’s a day of relaxation, of meditation, of focusing on family and having our minds on spiritual matters.

Regarding requirements by employers to work on the Sabbath, first take the matter to God in prayer and explain that you are trying to obey His commandments. It may be possible for your employer to schedule Saturdays off on a permanent basis, perhaps if you offered to work a different day of the week, instead. If not, then it would be good to seek a job where employment on the Sabbath would be avoided. Again take this to God in prayer and ask for His help and guidance in finding an appropriate job.

You may also find our booklets *The Ten Commandments* and *Sunset to Sunset: God’s Sabbath Rest* helpful. They are free upon request.

Q What is so significant about the seventh trumpet?
F T, Paisley

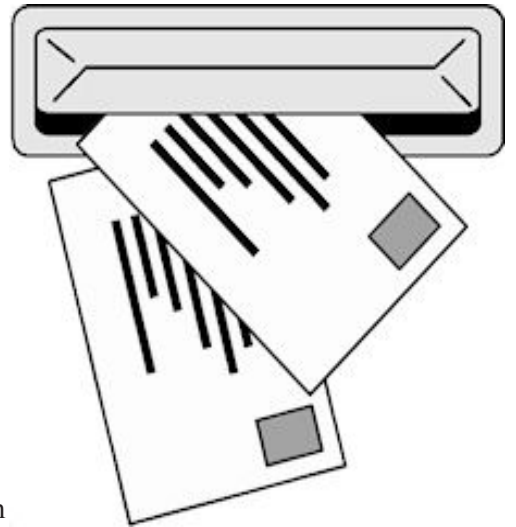
A The seventh, or last, trumpet (Revelation 11:15), announces Christ’s actual return to the earth. At this time the dead in Christ are raised to eternal life, and the righteous who are living at that time are changed to spirit (1 Corinthians 15:52). Together they rise to meet Christ in the clouds (Matthew 24:30-31, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17), then accompany Him to the Mount of Olives and from there to Jerusalem where He begins His reign on earth (Acts 1:9-11; Zechariah 14:1-4, 9).

Let the Bible Answer...

What does the Bible teach about using coarse, vulgar or rude language?

The use of bad language and/or obscenities is addressed in Ephesians 4:29; 5:4 and Colossians 3:8.

Letters from our readers



Forgiveness

Your Supplement article on 'Forgiving Others: Letting Go of the Hurt' was very helpful. Most people who end up in nursing homes with mental problems are the ones who hold grudges and cannot forgive. I feel so much better when I have forgiven someone.

Reader from Crewe

I have read your *Good News* Supplement [March/April 2015] with interest. I know that I am not alone in dealing with hurt. I realise, after all this time, I should have let God take over the situation, and it is up to Him what happens to the offenders, as mentioned in your article. The resentment and bad thoughts and feelings have now gone.

From the Internet

Answered questions

After many years of unanswered Bible questions, reading *The Good News* and your in-depth topics with answers is like a lightbulb has gone on. Continue the good work so others can begin to understand, as I can now.

T J, Southampton

Thank you so much for replying to all my personal queries about the Word of God. I have been in five denominations asking the same question but none was able to explain what heaven was like, what we would do there and if my dead relatives and friends who died without the chance to read and understand scripture will forever be lost. As I study the scriptures with your aid, it's clear that they will have the chance to be a part of the Kingdom of God. This is the only church where I've heard about the hope of salvation.

M E C, London

Excellent reading. The literature I've received is a real eye-opener.

D K, Ireland

The booklet on *The Final Superpower* is brilliant. The prophecy from Daniel, chapter 2, is very clear.

R A W, Wolverhampton

Uplifting and up-to-date

Thank you for *The Good News* magazines. They lift my spirits and bless me immensely. I learn something new every time, especially about what is going on in the Middle East and why it is happening. I share

the magazines with two friends.

T C, Sutton

We thank you for sending us your magazine, full of insights and hope. The world needs some light to shine on the ignorance and darkness. We struggle with our lives on every level – physically, emotionally, mentally, financially, etc – but our spiritual lives are uplifted by your words.

V P, Hertfordshire

Thank you for your very informative magazine and for keeping us up to date with world affairs and how these happenings relate to Bible prophecy. We have learned a great deal.

S B, London

I'm so grateful for your kindness in sending me regular copies of *The Good News*. This super magazine is read and re-read. It is so well-informed. Please renew my subscription. It helps to lift the 'dark clouds' of news.

M W, Newton Abbot

How Our Literature Is Funded

The United Church of God – British Isles is registered as a charity in England and Wales (number 1079192). The publication of this Supplement and other literature is funded by the generosity of members of the Church, coworkers and our readers. Following Jesus Christ's instruction (Matthew 10:8), it is supplied free of charge to the recipient so that His message can be made available to all. We are grateful to those who assist financially so that others may receive this message.

Donations may be sent to: *The Good News* or United Church of God, PO Box 705, Watford WD19 6FZ, United Kingdom, or donated through your bank (ask us for our bank details), or online at www.ucg.org.uk/donate.html through Paypal or Charity Choice.