

HOUSE to HOUSE
HEART to HEART

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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 29 NUMBER 10

What Does God Do with HEAVEN'S TRASH?

Allen Webster



Trash has become a problem for America.

The average American generates four pounds of solid trash per day, for a total of 1460 pounds per year. Although Americans represent roughly five percent of the world's population, we generate 40 percent of its waste.

Landfills are full, and incinerators pollute the environment. Industrial waste and medical refuse spread disease. Houses are cluttered with old stuff that "we might have a use for some time," old appliances deface property, and residents are saddled with rising waste service fees and surcharges.

Does heaven have this problem? What does God do with His trash? The only "trash" we read of God having is the sins He removes from human souls. What does God do with this "trash"?

HE BURIES IT

Landfills are a popular way of getting rid of our trash, and so it is with God's

trash. David wrote, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Psalm 32:1; cf. 85:2; Romans 4:6-8). *Covered* means "completely covered over," as pitch covered Noah's ark (Genesis 6:14).

HE CASTS IT INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA

Though better regulated now, at times great amounts of trash have been taken out into the sea and dumped. The Pacific Ocean is actually the world's largest "landfill." The Eastern Garbage Patch, which floats between Hawaii and California, is estimated to be twice the size of Texas.

God uses "the ocean" as a dumping ground for a more "environmentally friendly" kind of waste disposal. He casts our forgiven sins there. "He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19).

Two thirds of the earth's surface is water, and the deepest places on earth are beneath it. Most of it remains unexplored—never visited by humans. Millions of varieties of plants and animals are thought to be yet undiscovered in its depths. So if you wanted to hide something, the best place on the third rock from the sun would be in the ocean.

This is the figure God chose to use to communicate to us how lost our sins become once they are forgiven. Bible commentators draw a comparison between this and the destruction of Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea. Not a single Egyptian soldier survived when God cast them into the depths of the sea; so no sin can survive this plunging (Exodus 15:9–10).

Sins are not simply cast into the sea, but into the depths of the sea. If they were carelessly tossed from the shore, they might wash back up to be seen again. They might be visible at low tide. There is no chance of that happening in this case. They are forever buried at such a depth they can never be discovered. Corrie ten Boom was known to say that God put our sins in the deepest sea and then put up a sign that said, "No Fishing." There is no fishing for our own sins, nor any for the sins of others.

HE FLINGS IT BEHIND HIS BACK (ISAIAH 38:17) AND HIDES HIS FACE FROM IT (PSALM 51:9)

We use the phrase "out of sight, out of mind" because we tend to forget things

we cannot see. For instance, have you ever forgotten to pay a bill because it got mixed in a stack of mail and you forgot it was due? An omniscient God never forgets anything—unless He does so on purpose. He purposely conceals our sins so they are not remembered. What a comforting thought!

When our sins are forgiven, they are forgotten. The past is gone, dead, crucified, remembered no more. What God forgives, He forgets.

HE EXPORTS IT

Some trash has been exported to poor countries, who either thought they could salvage something from it or felt the price they were paid was worth it. God exports our sins. He removes them from us "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12). It is interesting that God did not use the similar figure of "as far as the north is from the south" because you can only go so far north and then you must go south. Therefore, the distance from the North Pole to South Pole is a specific distance: 12,403 miles. But when will east meet west? It never will, because you can go east for the rest of your life and never start to go west. How far is it from east to west? It is infinite. That is how far God removes our sins from us!

HE OBLITERATES IT

Some types of rubbish (military munitions, for instance) are destroyed by ex-

ploding them. They are obliterated. You could say that God obliterates our sins. They are erased from His memory forever (Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 8:12; 10:17). One man complained to his coworker about a fight he had with his wife the night before. "She got really worked up. I mean, eventually she got historical."

His friend laughed and said, "You mean she got hysterical."

"No, she got historical. She brought up every mistake I have made in the last ten years of our marriage."

That is the way we sometimes "forgive." We keep a mental record of offenses and bring them up again later. But God is not like that. Forgiven sin has no "history." It is forever gone. Jesus came to "make an end of sins" and to bring in "everlasting righteousness" (Daniel 9:24).

Our sins are expunged from our official file (Isaiah 44:22) when we obey His gospel by believing in Jesus (John 3:16), repenting of sin (Luke 13:3), confessing Christ (Matthew 10:32), and being baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Since they are erased, they cannot be imputed (Psalm 32:2; Romans 4:7–8; 2 Corinthians 5:19). That is, God does not reckon this sin against us. The word "impute" is a mathematical or bookkeeping term. God keeps a record of our debts (sins); but, in forgiving them, He no longer keeps up with it. The ledger has a zero balance (Ezekiel 18:22; 33:16).

Rest easy; God has heaven's trash under control.





What Is So Great about *Following Jesus?*

Following Jesus puts us in association with the best people in the world. In God's church, we are His house or family (1 Timothy 3:15). The relationship with each other is that of brothers and sisters (Galatians 3:26–27).

My brothers and sisters understand what I go through as a Christian. They are pulling with me and for me. Who would not enjoy a family like that! Our fellowship is with saved people, the children of light (Ephesians 5:8).

Though none is perfect, so many of my brethren set a wonderful example for me to imitate (1 Timothy 4:12). You

cannot put a price tag on that type of positive influence. So many saints of God do great works and labors of love (Hebrews 6:10). They are ready to sacrifice for His cause, like Aquila and Priscilla did (Romans 16:3–5).

How wonderful it is to have sisters and brothers who really care, desiring that all make it to heaven. We are blessed to have special brothers who serve as our shepherds and watch over our souls (Hebrews 13:17). You just cannot top the delightful association and comradeship that Christians have in serving God together.

—Anonymous

My Cup Has Overflowed

I've never made a fortune,
and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much;
I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way,
I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'cause my cup has overflowed.

Haven't got a lot of riches,
and sometimes the going's tough—
But I've got loving ones all around me;
that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for His blessings,
and the mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong;
My faith wore somewhat thin.

But all at once the dark clouds broke,
and the sun peeped through again.

So Lord, help me not to gripe
about the tough rows I've hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage
when the way grows steep and rough,
I'll not ask for other blessings;
I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy
to help others bear their loads.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer,
'cause my cup has overflowed.

—John Paul Moore

*"Blessings are on the
head of the righteous."*

PROVERBS 10:6



The Big Bang Theory

I have to come clean and confess that I believe in the "Big Bang." Now wait! Do not stop reading here. Let me explain. The Bible teaches a "Big Bang." Read it for yourself: "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10).

There you have it—the "Big Bang." The evolutionists are partly right, but their timing is wrong. The biblical "Big Bang" did not occur at the beginning of time, as the evolutionists teach.

However, it will occur at the end of time. The "Big Bang" did not bring things into existence, but it will take things out of existence. —Steve Higginbotham

God's Plan for Saving Man

Divine Love: John 3:16

God's Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ's Blood: Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit's Word: 1 Corinthians 2:12–13

Sinner's Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner's Repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner's Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner's Baptism: Acts 22:16

Christian's Love: Matthew 22:37

Christian's Work: James 2:24

Christian's Hope: Romans 8:24

Christian's Endurance: Revelation 2:10

Watch
on youtube





Do Not Forget to Live

Someone wrote, "The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon, but that we wait so long to begin it."

- First I was dying to finish high school and start college.
- And then I was dying to finish college and start working.
- And then I was dying to marry and have children.
- And then I was dying for my children to grow old enough for school so I could return to work.
- And then I was dying to retire.
- And now, I am dying, and suddenly I realize I forgot to live.

"For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."

JAMES 4:14

In Case of Accident

As he was filling out an employment application, a man paused over this question: "Person to notify in case of an accident." Finally he wrote, "Anybody in sight."

—Good Clean Funnies List



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More Is Caught than Taught

If a child is taught that he is his own authority, he will look upon all other authority with disrespect. If a child is taught that God and His word have final authority, he will look upon all authority emanating from Him with respect.

If a child is taught he is part of the theory of evolution, he will look upon himself as an advanced animal. If a child is taught that he is created in the image of God, he will look upon himself as an immortal soul.

If a child sees the Bible is only read in church assemblies, he will look upon it as unrelated to daily life. If a child sees the Bible read and obeyed in his house and education, he will look upon it as a guide to life and eternity.

If a child is taught that there is no absolute truth, he will look upon morals as subject to his emotions of the moment. If a child is taught that God's word is the absolute

truth, he will look upon morals as subject to firm biblical precepts.

If a child is allowed to watch profane and foul videos, he will look upon life as permissive and perverted. If a child is taught that God hears and answers prayers, he will look upon prayer as a source of strength to help through life.

If a child is taught that reasonable parental discipline is an infringement upon his right, he will look upon his parents and teachers with contempt. If a child is taught that parents are responsible to God to discipline him for his highest eternal good, he will look upon his parents with love and respect. —Anonymous

"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

EPHESIANS 6:4

Just for Fun Word Search (Matthew 11:28–30)

Y Y I V S S T Q O Q R E S T
 H Q C G I M A T T H E W P O
 E C X P N A L W S A W A M N
 L O W L Y C A P R W K T S N
 L E A R N P B G K B Y E X H
 S D I P I A O L L R P Q E E
 H B G P K L R T I Q M A E A
 E Z J Z C W G B Y G R P A V
 A S O U L S Q Y U C H B J Y
 R R G I V E A O D R B T R I
 T K R E V U U K C X D N U N
 D T I A W O B E P P D E Z Y
 Z E A S Y F I P D Y K U N W
 K G E N T L E S M P H W Y W

Find the words in blue.

Come to Me, all you who **labor** and are **heavy** laden, and I will **give** you rest. **Take** My **yoke** upon you and **learn** from Me, for I am **gentle** and **lowly** in **heart**, and you will find **rest** for your **souls**. For My yoke is **easy** and My **burden** is **light**."

—MATTHEW 11:28–30

The Resurrection of Jesus

The same God Who rightly expects His human creation to examine the evidence and come to a knowledge of Him without ever literally seeing Him is the same God Who expects man to follow the facts that lead to the resurrected Jesus without ever personally witnessing His resurrection. No one believes in God because they can put Him under a microscope and see Him. We cannot use the five senses to prove the actual essence of God (John 4:24; Luke 24:39). What we have at our fingertips, however, is a mountain of *credible* evidence that testifies on God's behalf. The very existence of finite matter testifies to a supernatural, infinite, eternal Creator. The endless examples of complex design in the universe bear witness to a grand Designer. The laws of science (such as the Law of Biogenesis) testify to God's existence.

A reasonable faith in Jesus' resurrection is, likewise, based upon a mountain of credible testimony. Just as trustworthy testimony (and not firsthand knowledge)

has led billions of people to believe, justifiably so, that Alexander the Great, Napoleon, and George Washington were real people, millions of Christians have come to the logical conclusion that Jesus rose from the dead.

- Nineteen-hundred-year-old eyewitness accounts of Jesus' resurrection exist in the most historically documented and accurate ancient book in the world—the New Testament.
- The event was foreshadowed and prophesied in the Old Testament (Psalm 16:10; Jonah 1:17–2:10; Matthew 12:40).
- Though very serious preventative steps were taken to keep the lifeless body of Jesus buried (Matthew 27:62–66), the tomb was found empty on the exact day He promised to arise.
- The body of Christ was never found (and, no doubt, first-century skeptics, especially the impenitent Jews who put Him to death, would have loved nothing more than to present Jesus' dead body to early Christians).

- The once fearful and skeptical disciples quickly transformed into a courageous, confident group of Christians who suffered and eventually died for their continual belief and teachings regarding the resurrected Lord.
- Hundreds of early Christians were able to testify to having seen Jesus firsthand after His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:5–8).
- Tens of thousands of once skeptical Jews, including Saul of Tarsus, examined the evidence, left Judaism, and confessed Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Acts 6:7; 21:20).
- What is more, these same Jews changed their day of worship from Saturday to Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2).

As with evidence for the existence of God or the inspiration of the Bible, the logical, cumulative case for the resurrection of Christ from credible testimony lies at the heart of a fortified faith. —Eric Lyons



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Bible Quiz

VOLUME 29:10

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "Patriarch Timeline" as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State: _____
 Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 29:8 Starts with the Letter "S": 1. Shepherd (Psalm 23:1); 2. Sabbath (Exodus 16:23, 26) 3. Samson (Judges 16:9) 4. Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20) 5. Sapphira (Acts 5:1) 6. Sarah (Genesis 17:15, 19) 7. Satan (Matthew 4:10) 8. Saul (1 Samuel 15:1) 9. Seth (Genesis 4:25) 10. Shamgar (Judges 3:31) 11. Shem (Genesis 5:32) 12. Sabachthani (Matthew 27:46) 13. Sihon (Numbers 21:21) 14. Silas (Acts 15:40) 15. Sin (1 John 3:4) 16. Sodom (Genesis 19:24) 17. Solomon (1 Kings 1:17) 18. Stephen (Acts 7:58–60) 19. Shield (Ephesians 6:16) 20. Sheep (Psalm 100:3) 21. Salt (Genesis 19:26) 22. Sadducees (Matthew 16:6) 23. Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16) 24. Spider (Proverbs 30:28) 25. Snow (Isaiah 1:18).

V. 29:9 One "Killer" Sermon: 1. The God of glory (Acts 7:2); 2. No child (7:5); 3. Eighth (7:8); 4. Egypt (7:9); 5. Time, promise (7:17); 6. Expose, live (7:19); 7. Deliver (7:25); 8. Angel, Lord (7:30); 9. I am (7:32); 10. Egypt, Red Sea (7:36); 11. Prophet like (7:37); 12. Hearts (7:39); 13. Calf (7:41); 14. Turned, gave (7:42); 15. According, pattern (7:44); 16. Temples made, hands (7:48); 17. Betrayers, murderers (7:52); 18. Standing (7:55); 19. Stoned (7:58); 20. Spirit, charge (7:59–60).

Starts with the Letter "K"

Find answers in Genesis 22:10; 25:1; 46:11; Numbers 16:1–32; 20:1; Job 42:14; Joshua 14:14–15, 15:54; 1 Samuel 9:3; 2 Samuel 15:23; Matthew 16:19; Luke 22:48; 1 Timothy 6:15 (not in order). Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

1. Abraham took a "_____ to slay his son."
2. Brook David crossed fleeing from Abalom: _____
3. Place where Miriam died: _____
4. Early name for Hebron; place Caleb inherited: _____
5. Father of King Saul: _____
6. Middle son of Levi: _____
7. Judas betrayed Jesus with this: _____
8. Led rebellion against Moses; swallowed by earth: _____
9. Youngest of Job's daughters: _____
10. The wife of Abraham, after the death of Sarah: _____
11. Jesus is "_____ of kings and Lord of lords."
12. Jesus promised to give to Peter the _____ of the kingdom.

Find the Hidden Bible Name

Find these Bible names in the sentences below: Abel; Adam; Amos; Asa; Boaz; Caleb; Eli; Elisha; Enoch; Eve. (Example: Ada made a speech to the crowd. Answer: Adam. Some names appear more than once.)

1. Dynamo sessions begin at two o'clock. _____
2. Please—No Children Allowed! _____
3. Give me a simple life! _____
4. The boa zipped through the grass. _____
5. Non-alcoholic ale beats turpentine for removing paint. _____
6. Use a sack for a Halloween mask. _____
7. The clever lad amused the king with his magical tricks. _____
8. The party started with the sound of a bell. _____
9. Nothing is as pesky as a mosquito. _____
10. The motel is half full tonight. _____

If only eight people were on the ark, where did the races come from?

The census of those on the ark included Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons (Genesis 7:13). With these four men and four women, the earth was repopulated after the flood.

The Bible does not tell us when the races developed from the division of mankind at the tower of Babel, although Moses only says that God confounded their language and scattered them abroad (Genesis 11:1-9). As people scattered and separated, the races could have developed from the gene pool in each area. As people intermarried within a region, certain racial characteristics developed, as well as individual languages.

Modern science has tried to differentiate among the races, recognizing

four basic races: Caucasoid, Mongoloid, Negroid, and Australoid. The problem with these classifications, however, is that the dominant characteristics that are specific to a race, such as skin color or hair type, are found in the other racial groups. Skin color, the most obvious racial characteristic, is determined primarily by the amount of melanin in the skin. Thus a "white" person may actually have darker skin than a "black" person. Although general racial characteristics may predominate among certain populations, all human beings are part of the same species, the human race.

We know that all humans came from the original man and woman, Adam and Eve, and that all living human beings are descendants of Noah and his family. Paul declared that God "made

from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26). The words "of one" literally mean "out of one male," thus all mankind has descended from Adam.

Since all humans descended from the eight people on the ark, then all racial characteristics must have been available in the genetic makeup of Noah and his family. It is likely that Noah's family members were a combination of all modern day races. The separation into current races was gradual over time.

Neither the biblical nor the non-biblical evidence supports evolutionary theory as coming from racial prejudice or that the races descended from different primates or "pre-human" men. Since all races of humans can intermarry, all humans are interrelated. —Bob Prichard

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If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Prayer requests or comments: _____

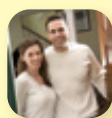
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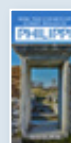
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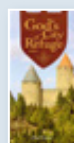
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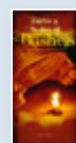
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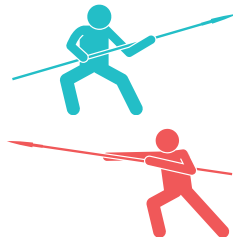
VOLUME 29:10



5 MODERN QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. WAS THE OLD TESTAMENT CRUEL AND PRIMITIVE?

The ancient world was harsh. However, the Old Testament's code of law brought justice, security, and order to a land that otherwise would have been ruled by brute force ([Deuteronomy 1:15–17; 12:8–9; Exodus 20:13–17; 22:9](#)).



2. DID THE OLD TESTAMENT CONDONE SLAVERY?



While chattel slavery was rampant in the ancient world, the Old Testament took unprecedented measures to end brutality and protect slaves. It made slaves more like hired servants and often freed them altogether ([Exodus 21:16, 26–27; Deuteronomy 5:13–15; 15:12–18; 23:15](#)).

3. DID THE OLD TESTAMENT OPPRESS WOMEN AND MINORITIES?

The Old Testament condemned oppression and gave unprecedented rights to women, foreigners, the poor, criminals, and slaves. Its laws and protections affirmed the inherent value of every human being ([Leviticus 25:17; Exodus 23:9; Deuteronomy 23:15–16; 24:14–22](#)).



4. IS THE OLD TESTAMENT OUTDATED?



The Old Testament was not meant to suffice forever, but to teach basic morality and show that mankind needed God. Still, its laws were so advanced that they provided many of the same rights and protections as our modern ones, while having far less complexity and infrastructure ([Jeremiah 31:31–34; Deuteronomy 18:9–16; Leviticus 19:9–18](#)).

5. WHAT SHOULD WE LEARN FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT?

The Old Testament's remarkable justice and sophistication are evidence that it came from a wise and moral God. Only this could explain such advancement in an ancient code of law ([Deuteronomy 4:5–8](#)).



“THIS IS YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING IN THE SIGHT OF THE PEOPLES WHO WILL HEAR ALL THESE STATUTES, AND SAY, ‘SURELY THIS GREAT NATION IS A WISE AND UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE.’”

—DEUTERONOMY 4:6

Jesus, the Master Craftsman

A distinguished British violinist named Peter Cropper was such an outstanding musician that the Royal Academy of Music in London honored him by lending him a priceless, 258-year-old Stradivarius. It is the dream of every violinist to be able to play such an instrument, but a terrible thing happened while Cropper was performing in Finland. He tripped and fell on top of the Stradivarius and broke it. Cropper's pleasant dream was turned into a horrible nightmare. He was inconsolable.

Then a London violin dealer told him of a master craftsman who could repair the Stradivarius. To make a long story short, the repairs were so perfect they could not even be seen, and the soaring notes of the instrument were more beautiful than they had ever been before—all because the broken parts were placed in the hands of a master craftsman who then applied his healing touch.

Jesus Christ is the one for whom we have been looking. Something terrible has happened; sin entered, and our lives are broken. Then we turn them over to Christ, who is the Master Craftsman. He takes the broken pieces and puts them back together again, and we are better than ever! —John Thomas

“Behold, I make all things new.”

REVELATION 21:5





But Then What?

You are born. You grow. You go from a baby to a toddler. But then what?

You go to school. You start in pre-k, and then kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, and high school. But then what?

You get a job, or you go to college. If you go to college, you pick a major. You write papers and take tests. But then what?

You get a job. Then what?

You work that job, or another one, for a few years. But then what?

You work long enough to save some money and retire. But then what?

You enjoy retirement. Hang out with friends and family. Live a long life. But then what?

Some of us leave this world early. Some of us are blessed to have long lives.

But then what?

“Just as it is appointed for man to die once, but after this the judgment.”

HEBREWS 9:27

“The Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

MATTHEW 16:27



At the end of life, we will face a judgment. Then what?



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