

The God Who Is There Questions
Chapter 1
CrossView Church

- 1) Summarize what the Bible is. i.e. what kind of documents make it up?
- 2) Was your understanding of how science and the Bible correlate with each other challenged or enlightened in any way?
- 3) What do you think about Francis Schaeffer's approach to Genesis where he asks "What is the least that Genesis 1 and the following chapters must be saying in order for the Bible to make any sense?"
- 4) What flows from the Bible's emphasis on the fact that God is a talking God?
- 5) What is the fundamental distinction between Creator and creature?
- 6) What significance is there that the Bible insists that human beings and human beings alone, are made in the image of God?
- 7) Why does Descartes' statement "I think therefore I am" start at the wrong place?
- 8) How does monotheism shape our outlook and our practice of worship in ways that are fundamentally different from polytheism?
- 9) How does the what the Bible says about creation establish human responsibility and accountability?
- 10) What is the correlation between shame and nakedness?

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- 1) Why is it important to notice that the serpent in Genesis 3 is not equivalent to God, but a creature who himself has rebelled against God?
- 2) What makes the serpent's initial question so disgusting and so essentially evil?
- 3) What elements in Genesis 3 show just how tragic and awful eating the forbidden fruit was?
- 4) How do you see people pronouncing their own judgment of what is "good and evil" today?
- 5) How, in Genesis 3, does human defiance of God end up in broken relationships?
- 6) Why is Genesis 3:15 sometimes called the "protevangelium"?
- 7) Why, in the Bible is idolatry the supreme evil?
- 8) In the section on the curse pronounced on Adam, the book states, "The whole created order of which we are a part is now not working properly. It is under a curse, subjected by God himself to death and decay." What are some evidences of this point?
- 9) According to the Bible, what do we human beings most need? What do you most need?
- 10) How does the imagery of the Lord's Supper where he says "Take and eat" give you comfort? Have you seen this insight before?

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- 1) How do you see people living out their belief in one of the first three models of what many believe God is like?
- 2) From what we have seen so far, how, according to the Bible, is God different from these models?
- 3) If we have nothing with which we can barter with God, on what basis must any relationship with God be established?
- 4) What promise does God graciously give to Abraham? What are ways in which God has kept these promises?
- 5) What do Suzerain – Vassal covenants typically consist of?
- 6) How is the covenant God establishes between himself and Abraham established?
- 7) What significance do you find in Genesis 22?

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Chapter 4

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- 1) Is it possible to have absolutely no absolutes? Why or why not?
- 2) Why did people formerly reject Christianity? Why do they do so now?
- 3) What are some things you learned about the 10 Commandments?
- 4) Where do our expressions "Old Testament" and "New Testament" come from? How does this enlighten your understanding of modern Judaism and Christianity?
- 5) God says that he is a "jealous" God. What does he mean?
- 6) Why is it significant that, according to Leviticus 16, God requires a sacrifice before anyone can enter his presence in the Most Holy Place?
- 7) According to Exodus 32-34, does God forgive sin or punish the guilty? If both, how can these twin stances ever be reconciled?
- 8) In what ways does the Law of Moses point forward to Jesus Christ?

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- 1) What image is conjured up in your mind as you think of the word “King”? What does it mean that God is not a Constitutional Monarch?
- 2) Do we take the initiatives in the course of God’s history of Redemption or does God take the initiative?
- 3) Are we able to “do favors for God”?
- 4) Why is a king in David’s Dynasty said to become God’s “son” when he begins his reign?
- 5) During his ministry, Jesus repeatedly announces the dawning of the Kingdom. When does Jesus’ Kingdom come?
- 6) What is the last enemy that Jesus must overcome? How is this relevant to you?
- 7) Explain Oscar Cullmann’s analogy about D-day and VE-day.
- 8) Are you a subject of Christ’s Kingdom?

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- 1) Why is Psalm 1 called a "Wisdom Psalm"? What did you learn about Psalm 1 from Carson?
- 2) Read the top of page 91. Why are the absolute moral polarities found in Wisdom literature so important?
- 3) Why does the Bible teach that it is the fool who says that there is no God?
- 4) Where did John Bunyan get the idea about Christian falling into a miry pit?
- 5) Why does David say to God, "against you and you only have I sinned" when he sinned against a lot of people?
- 6) Does the book of Job provide an answer to the question of innocent suffering?
- 7) Solomon warns us in Ecclesiastes that we ought to live in the light of the fact that we will all give an account to God; we must all face Him in the end. Is that good news or bad news? What does he say we should do about it?
- 8) What are some ways in which the Psalms and Wisdom Literature in the Bible leave us hanging and wanting to press on to clear resolutions?

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- 1) Six centuries before Jesus was born, the prophet Jeremiah promised a new covenant. What does this promise implicitly say about the old (Mosaic) covenant?
- 2) What does the name "Jesus" mean? Why is this meaning important?
- 3) Why is Jesus called The Word?
- 4) What does "Incarnation" mean?
- 5) What are some of the thematic connections between John 1 and Exodus 32-34? Taken together what do they mean?
- 6) We cannot look directly on God, according to John 1:18. What is, at present, the closest we can come?
- 7) In what ways does Jesus show that he is full of Grace and Truth?
- 8) What do you think about Carson's friendship with Muhammad? How is his relationship an example for us?

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- 1) What does “new birth” or “born again” terminology conjure up in our world?
What does it conjure up in Jesus’ mind?
- 2) Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus at night according to Carson?
- 3) What is the difference in the flow of logic between Barna’s poll and the Bible, so far as the new birth is concerned?
- 4) What does “born of water and the Spirit” mean?
- 5) According to John 3, why could Jesus speak with such knowledge and authority about the new birth?
- 6) What are the connections between this account of the new birth in John 3 and the Old Testament account of the bronze serpent in Numbers 21?
- 7) How do we receive the new birth?
- 8) Can you remember the emphasis of George Whitefield’s preaching? Did he preach the new birth?
- 9) Can you remember when/if you were born again?

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- 1) What does our culture think that "love" means?
- 2) How should we distinguish being morally discerning from being judgmental?
- 3) What are the 5 ways the Bible speaks about the love of God?
- 4) Does God love everyone exactly the same?
- 5) In the text "God so loved the world," what is the meaning of "world" that makes God's love so wonderful?
- 6) What is meant by the claim that the measure of God's love for us is Jesus?
- 7) What is the purpose of God giving us his Son?
- 8) How does the love of God for us rightly stir gladness and gratitude within us?

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Chapter 10
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- 1) Why does the Bible keep insisting that Jesus was born in order to die?
- 2) What are the ironies of the Cross?
- 3) In one sense, it is not correct to say that God died. Jesus is the one who died, not God the Father. Yet as we have seen, some New Testament texts stretch all the way to warranting the truth that in some sense, when Jesus died, God died. Why is there a difficulty in understanding this?
- 4) Why does Thomas doubt that Jesus has risen from the dead?
- 5) When Thomas sees Jesus alive on the second Sunday, he exclaims, "My Lord and my God!" Why does he say so much, instead of something smaller and weaker such as, "Wow, you really *are* alive!?"
- 6) Why is it that in the ultimate sense only God can forgive sins?

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Chapter 11
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- 1) Why is it impossible to be acquitted with justice on the ground of the good things we do?
- 2) What is the main theme of Romans 1:18-3:20?, i.e., the passage leading up to the paragraph we study in this chapter?
- 3) What are two or three ways in which the Old Testament anticipates or points ahead to Jesus?
- 4) Paul sets forth the availability of God's righteousness to all human beings without racial (or any other distinction) but on the basis of faith. Why is this good news?
- 5) What is Redemption?
- 6) What is Propitiation?
- 7) Explain what Paul means when he says that in the cross, God is both just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.
- 8) In the Bible, how is faith related to truth?

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Chapter 12
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- 1) Why is Christianity more than a list of “do’s” and “don’t’s”?
- 2) What is the purpose, according to Ephesians 2:8-10 of being saved by grace through faith?
- 3) Is it possible to be a biblically faithful Christian and separate oneself entirely from a local church? Why or why not?
- 4) We observed that one fundamental Christian motivation of great importance is not so much an abstract desire for obedience, as gratitude for what God has done for us in Christ. How is this way of looking at things utterly transforming?
- 5) Why is greed labeled idolatry?
- 6) The chapter being reviewed notes a number of New Testament passages that depict suffering because one is a Christian as a privilege, as a sign of grace. How can this be? How will such suffering transform our attitudes?
- 7) What do we learn from the reflection of John Newton, written toward the end of his life?

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- 1) Why does talk about the wrath of God tend to make us uncomfortable?
- 2) What is the "Eternal Gospel" referred to in Revelation 14:6-7?
- 3) How does Revelation 4-5 unpack for us what the Gospel is?
- 4) What do each of the two agricultural metaphors found in Revelation 14:14-20 teach us about the final judgment?
- 5) Many have charged that talking about hell is manipulative. When might such talk be manipulative, and when is it not manipulative?
- 6) Why should we insist that when Christians preach about hell, they should do so with tears and not with self-righteous rage?
- 7) Why don't we believe in annihilationism?
- 8) Why should we never make jokes about hell, or use the word "hell" in a way which does not consider what it really is?

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Chapter 14
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- 1) The words quoted at the beginning of the chapter, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" are found in the Sermon On The Mount in Matt 6:21. What do they mean? How do they apply to our chapter?
- 2) Why is the New Jerusalem built like a cube?
- 3) Revelation 21:4 describes the New Jerusalem in terms of negation, i.e., in terms of what will not be allowed to exist there. Why is it easier to describe the New Jerusalem in terms of negation than in positive description?
- 4) What is missing from the New Jerusalem? Why?
- 5) What is described here as the very best feature of the New Jerusalem?
- 6) What does it mean to live now in the light of the new heaven and the new earth?
- 7) Are you ready for the new heaven and the new earth?