

Why Am I Here?

Chapter 1

The Bible's Answer

Down through the ages, men have pondered the meaning of life. Why are we here? What is our purpose? Is there such a thing as true happiness? Where are we going? Is there life after death? Perhaps you have wondered about these very things yourself? Perhaps, like Solomon, upon considering life on this earth, your initial conclusion has been that *"all is vanity and grasping for the wind"* (Ecclesiastes 1:14).

The Bible, which is God's revealed will to mankind (more on that later), provides very clear answers to all of these questions. In this chapter, we want to notice some passages of Scripture that very plainly show us why we are here and what our highest priority should be as we live from day to day.

Why are we here? What is our purpose?

The Bible states that we are here, first of all, because God put us here. He created mankind in the very beginning. Read Genesis 1:26-28.

1. Whose image do we bear?
2. Where does mankind stand in regards to the rest of earth's creatures?
3. In verse 31 of Genesis 1, how does God describe His finished creation? How does this compare to the descriptions given prior to mankind's creation (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25)? What do you think this indicates?
4. Many wonder if there is life beyond planet earth. Read verses 14-19 of Genesis 1. What is the reason given for the creation of the universe all around us? What does this say about where God's focus lies?

The passages above certainly explain how we got here, but for what reason were we made? To answer this question, turn and read Isaiah 43:1-7; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; and Ephesians 2:10.

1. In Isaiah 43:7, what is the reason given for man's creation?
2. What is the conclusion Solomon reaches after considering life under the sun in Ecclesiastes 12:13?
3. We will discuss how one is created in Christ Jesus in Chapter 4, but what is the reason stated by Paul in Ephesians 2:10 for such a creation? Compare this passage with what Paul writes in Titus 2:11-14.
4. Summarize in your own words the passages we have just noted.

Is there such a thing as true happiness?

There are many roads that men travel in an attempt to find happiness, peace, and contentment. It is ironic that, generally, the most unhappy, anxious, and discontent people are those who are rich and famous – those who have everything that society tells us is most important. Solomon wrote long ago that, *“He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them; so what profit have the owners except to see them with their eyes?”* (Ecclesiastes 5:10-11). The Bible tells us that there is such a thing as true happiness, peace, and contentment. Read John 3:16; 10:10; 15:11; and 16:33.

1. What has God done to demonstrate His love for us?
2. What kind of life did Christ come to give us?
3. How much joy does Christ desire for us?
4. In Christ, what can we have even in the face of tribulation? (cf. Philippians 4:6-7)

Where are we going?

Is there life after death?

Observation and history alike demonstrate that all men eventually die. The Bible states in Hebrews 9:27 that *“it is appointed for men to die once.”* But, is that the end? Is there a part of us that lives on? Job asked the question in Job 14:14: *“If a man dies, shall he live again?”* While the philosophies of men differ on the answer to this question, God, through His Word, is very plain. Read Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 16:19-31; John 5:28-29; Matthew 25:31-46; and 2 Corinthians 5:10.

1. Given what you have read, do men cease to exist after death?
2. Where does the spirit of man go after death? What determines our ultimate destination?

It is apparent, given the passages we have noted, that the Bible has very plain and easy to understand answers to what many consider to be life's biggest questions.

Conclusion

Why are we here? We are here because God created us as living beings in His very image.

What is our purpose? Our purpose is to glorify and honor our Creator by living according to His statutes.

Is there such a thing as true happiness? Yes. In Christ, we can have peace, joy, and hope of eternal life in heaven.

Where are we headed? Is there life after death? We all are headed to the grave. The grave, however, is not the end of man. Our spirit will live on. If our lives on this earth are lived so as to fulfill our purpose, we will live on in a place of comfort and peace. Ultimately, we will be with our Creator in heaven. If our lives on this earth are lived so as to ignore our purpose, we will live on in a place of torment. Ultimately, we will be cast away from the presence of God into a place of eternal suffering and pain.

You may be wondering why a person such as yourself should place any stock in what the Bible has to say. Why should you or I trust the answers it gives us and further investigate its instruction? Is it really the Word of God as it claims to be (i.e. 2 Timothy 3:16-17)?

In Chapter 2, we will consider evidence that shows us that the Bible is indeed true, and, as such, needs to be given our utmost attention.

This is a sample of the material contained in
Why Am I Here?
by Devin Roush
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