

Listener Question & Answer 6

By Louis T. Talbot

[Song, We've a Story to Tell to the Nations]

Announcer:

The Bible Institute of Los Angeles Inc., half century old Christian training center of the West, presents Verse by Verse with Dr. Louis T. Talbot, Biola Chancellor and one of America's great evangelical leaders. Now once again your radio Bible teacher, Dr. Louis T. Talbot.

Dr. Louis T. Talbot:

Good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot, thanking you for the privilege of being with you in your home, once again, for another study in the Word of God together. And I think that we'll bring a few more questions for our study and bring them under the lens of the Holy Writ. I have some very interesting questions, and I think that this will be a very, very profitable way of spending the radio time together.

I want, first of all to thank you for your letters and especially for the assurance that so many of you had that you have given that you are remembering the Bible Institute of Los Angeles in your prayer. I am very, very gratified for this, and also are the members of the faculty and the student body. you know that the Lord has given to us a tremendous responsibility in that we have the in the Bible Institute about 700 young men and young women, who have come from all the states and the union and from the Dominion of Canada, And quite a few of them have

come from other countries. All these young men and young women are here because they have been called to the work of the Lord. The Lord has given to them a vision for service in fields home and afar. the Lord terry, and we are spared, it will mean that sometime in the near future that these young men and young women will be scattered all over this earth and they will be laborers together with the Lord in the gathering in of their harvest, that we shall all one day see and we shall rejoice together. I want you to remember the Bible Institute in your prayers, and also have a part in the training of these young men and young women.

Now my friends, I have quite a number of questions to ask and we'll just deal with them as briefly as we possibly can. Somebody has asked the question: "how would you explain the words of the Lord Jesus as recorded in Luke Chapter 13 and verse 32?" and they you find recorded these words: "Behold I cast out devils, and I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected." and the questioner wants to know just what the Lord meant by those words. "Behold I cast out devils," or demons, "and I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected." My friends, the Lord when He spoke these words, He had in mind His approaching death and glory. And here He was putting before the people, that on His way to the cross that He was not to be hurried or turned aside from His cause.

Do you see that God had planned His earthly career, and He was going to fulfill that career, and did at the very moment of His appointment? You know until His hour had fully come, that no one was able to touch the Son of God. Sometimes the mob tried to stone Him, but not a stone ever reached His body. On one occasion that they were going to throw Him over the brow the hill, that He walks through the crowd unharmed, and no unholy hand was ever laid upon Him until it was time for Him to give His life as our ransom for many. And you know that the Lord Jesus is putting that very thing before those to whom He is speaking. He says until His

hour was fully come, that no man could touch the Son of God because He Himself was God, as well as the humble servant of Jehovah. Do you remember how that He said "I lay down my life that I may take it again; no man take it from me, but I lay it down of myself? I have power to take to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my father." Now my friends, the Lord is saying here in the verse that we have read in the 13th chapter of Luke, that all of the Father had for Him to do each day, He was going to do it. He says "I do certain things today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfect." That is, at the close of His earthly ministry, "I will go to the cross and my ministry there will be perfected." You know that the Lord had a program for every day, and that program was made for Him by the Father. We oftentimes speak about taking a step at a time. But my friends, the Lord Jesus He lived a moment at a time, and you know everything that He did, and everything that He said was according to God's program; and He performed cures, and He taught that day and tomorrow, and then at the end He was going to finish His course.

Somebody has asked this question, and it reads on this way: "in James 2 verse 19 we are told that the Demons also believe and tremble. Why should they believe, and at the same time tremble?" my friends, if you read the context of that second chapter of James. You will find that the inspired writer is addressing the man whose empty profession of faith does not bear any fruit at all. That is a man that has head knowledge; He believes in God, but James says, he reminds them, that is the inspired writer does, so do the demon. He says "thou believest that there is one God, Thou doest well," that is so far so good, "that demons also believe that there is one God, and they tremble." And why do they tremble? Because they know that their doom is sealed, and that they will one day be cast into the lake of fire with the devil, and all of his angels, in spite of the fact, in spite of the belief, that they believe in one God. That is that they have a head

knowledge but not a heart knowledge. Have you ever thought of it, my dear friends, that there is going to be a lot of Orthodox people in hell? There will be in hell men who believe in one God, and maybe even who believe in the deity of Christ and that He was born of a virgin. But the things that they believe were just the head; they never believed with the heart. There will be many in hell who actually believe that Jesus Christ came into the world to die for sinners, and that He shed His blood in order that men might be redeemed. And it was just a head knowledge, and it never became a living reality in their own heart. You know that that is a terrible thing indeed. And that's what James is talking about; that demons also believe and tremble.

Now the same questioner arising, that it's the same questioner that asked this question: "Brother Talbot, do you believe in a literal place, a burning harbor, a literal place of burning hell and torture for all the wicked? And if so how do you reconcile that doctrine with the love of God?" My friends, the only way I have of knowing what God will do is by observing what He has done in the past, and then by turning to the Word of God to see what He says that He is going to do in the future. For instance, if you want to know what God has done in the past, you turn to verses 5-7 of the little book of Jude. That little book that is right in front of the Book of Revelation, and there you learn something of His dealings with angels which kept not their first estate, and also of the terrible judgment that befell Sodom and Gomorrah, and how the inhabitants of those wicked cities suffered the punishment of fire that is eternal. And I want to say that no one ever spoke words more solemn in regard to the destiny of wicked men and women than did the Lord, Jesus Christ. For instance, you take the words of the Son of God as they are regarded in Matthew chapter 25 and verse 46, and you'll find Him saying this: "and these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

You know that every effort is being made to make the word eternal mean something else besides what it obviously does mean. But it is the same Greek word that is translated eternal in connection with a destiny of the righteous. The Universalists and the Unitarians have attempted to show that the Greek word "aeon" just means age long, implying that there will be a limit to the punishment of the wicked. However, the same word is used 72 times in the New Testament: 3 times it is about eternal existence of God, 3 times it is used of the Holy Spirit, 4 times it is used of heaven, 62 times about the destiny of the wicked. Surely these are startling facts that speak for themselves. And surely God does not fail to warn men of the consequences of rejecting the only Savior from sin. My dear friends the one who said in John 3:16, that "for God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son," went on to say "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." I have often heard people dare to ask: "how can a God of love send men to hell?" Let me tell you, my dear friends, in the first place that God does not send any man to hell, every man decides for himself Whether or not he will accept or reject the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Savior from sin. It is not God that decides destiny, it is man himself. God has made you are free will. He has made you a free moral agent and in that way, you are distinguished from all the beasts that God has created. A god is given to you a will so you can, if you desire, Set your own will against God. You can say yes to Him, or you can say no to Him. My friends, and as you say yes or no, you decide your destiny.

Now here is another question along the same line: "What is the meaning of the expression everlasting fire, Prepared for the devil and his angels? Would this not imply that a hell is not for man?" It does imply, my dear friends that hell was not prepared for man. The Lord, Jesus Christ, distinctly declared that God prepared hell for the devil and his angels. And when men fell into

sin, that God prepared salvation for him. But it is clearly stated in the word of God, that if man rejects that prepared salvation, he will find himself in a place prepared for the devil and his angels.

Now, here are a few questions in regard to the human race, and how it came into existence. Now let me take this question, somebody asked this: "Was there a race of beings upon the earth before the Garden of Eden, and before the creation of Adam and Eve?" In answer of that question, my friends, I want to say that there are a few passages in the scripture that would lead us to believe that there was a race of beings on the earth before Adam was created. For example in Genesis chapter 1 verse 28, the following is the record of the creation of Adam, and we read this, that when God created Adam and Eve He said, it says, "And God bless them and God said unto them 'Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.'" I want you to note that word "replenish," my friends, because it is the same word that was given to Noah after the flood. And when Noah came out of the ark, that God said practically the same thing to him and to his family that they were to replenish the earth. Do you see that the inference is, that the earth and been inhabited before Adam's day. Now we must bear in mind, however, that the pre-ademic race, if there was one, was not a race of human beings. In all probability, they were and an angelic host led by Satan before his fall, and when he was called Lucifer. There are indications in the scripture that Satan once had the same dominion over this earth as was later given to Adam, which dominion Adam lost after his fall. Now this would account for Satan's interference with the world, and with the human race.

Have you ever wondered, my dear friends, why Satan has seemed to concentrate all of his endeavors upon this earth, and upon the present human race? It's because we have reason to believe that this interest that the devil has in the human race is because of the fact that it was

once the head of this creation. You know the description of Eden, in which Lucifer is placed, is recorded in Ezekiel Chapter 28, and my friends, it is evidently a reference to the earth before it became chaotic, as recorded in Genesis 1 and 2. You know that we read, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" now that is the only description that we have of the creation of the world. Verse 2 of chapter 1 we read the word "was." Now that word, "was," may be translated "became;" it's the same word as that applied to Lot, Lot's wife, and Lot's wife became a pillar of salt. That the earth became wisdom boy. Now, inevitably, it was it was turned into a chaotic state because of some catastrophe, and the catastrophe was evidently the fall of Lucifer and all the angelic beings with him. And God created, and God turned his dominion into a chaotic state, just as later on when God renovated the earth, he placed another head there in the person of Adam. And when Adam fell, his kingdom was so affected. I believe that many of the fossils that are discovered today, which would indicate life upon this earth millions and millions of years ago, may be the relics of the pre-adamic days to which the scripture refers. For instance, you take Jeremiah Chapter 4 in verses 23 and 26, for example. And this is what you read: "I beheld the earth, and lo it was without form and void, and the heavens, and they had no light. And lo there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were flat." You know that the words, "There was no man upon the earth," would indicate that this may be a description of a condition before the advent of man. We know that if there was a race before Adam that it was not a human race, because we read in the 5th chapter Romans that Adam was the first man. Well, we'd better not go into that in any more detail, because there is not very much given in the word of God concerning what were the earth's inhabitants before it was turned into a chaotic state, and before the creation of Adam and Eve. But there are inferences in the Word of God that when God created the earth as given in Genesis 1:1, that it was for the habitation of a race. And I think that

Lucifer was the head of it, and it was while he was the head of it that he said, as record in the 14 chapter of Isaiah, "I will ascend and I will be like God." In other words, that when Lucifer was in the head of the original creation, he desired to be higher than he was, and to even unseat the Lord God of heaven and earth. All this is very, very strange but there are scriptures that would warrant that Satan, before his fall, was at the anointed cherub, and given a place of prominence in God's great creation.

Now, somebody asked another question and it is this: "Were the 6 days of creation solar days of 24 hours each, or were they longer periods of time?" Well, my friends, I believe that they were solar days of 24 hours each. However, there are those who think that that because, 2 Peter Chapter 3 and verse 8 imply, "sayeth that one day is with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day," that those 7 days in the first chapter of Genesis may be ages, each day representing an age. But my dear friends, there is an insurmountable difficulty in believing that that Genesis days were ages, and that is that the days were divided into two parts. God says "the light was called day and the darkness was called night." Now if each one of those days was say, a period of 500,000 years, and was divided into two parts. Well that would mean that 250,000 years would be in darkness, and 250,000 other years would be light. That is, if the days were while long geological periods. And my friends, if you had a long period of night like that, what would we become of the grass? What would become of all the things that God had created? But we read that on a certain day that the vegetable kingdom came into existence, and you could not have thousands of years of darkness with the grass, and with other things that belonging to the vegetable kingdom, continuing to grow. I think that the days were days of 24 hours.

Now here is another question, I've selected a bunch of questions that have to do with where the origin of man. A student writes this, "Why do you not accept the theory of the organic evolution of man? I do not accept the atheistic theory that there is no God, and that man sprang from the so called first cause. But if I believe that God created man by this method of evolution, then what is wrong with that? In other words, I had science instructor who called himself a theistic evolutionist, meaning that he believed that God created all life by this method that is the evolutionary theory." Well my dear friends, I just want to make a statement or two in regard to the fallacy of the evolutionary theory of the creation of man. You know many, many volumes have been written on this subject, and the time that we have on the radio this morning would not permit us to say very, very much, but just a brief statement. I am familiar with the arguments set forth by those so-called theistic evolutionists; a theistic evolutionist is a man who does believe in God, but he believes that the evolutionary theory was the way by which God created man. That is, that the lower forms of life just evolved, and they just went up, and up, and up, until we get the crowning act of God's creation, that is a man being evolved from the lower forms of life.

I want to say, my dear friends that all that is very, very misleading and it deceives the unwary. I know that a lot of scientists hold that view, and especially preachers; preachers do not like to be considered atheists, and so they do not want to be considered unscientific, and so they have accepted the evolutionary theory. But I'll tell you, my dear friends, what is the trouble with it. Those people who accept that view of the creation of man, they fail to see that the evolutionary theory is a flat denial of the fall of man, and thus they play into the hands of Satan, who would ever deceive man and try to lead him to believe that there is no sin, no need of a savior; man is going up, and up, and up, and up, and he is evolving all the time. My dear friends, there is no place for the fall in the evolutionary theory of the creation of man, even though you

believe that that there is a real God and that that was God's way of creating man. You know that the evolutionary theory has man evolving, and going up, and up, and up. There is no place for the fall of man. But my dear friends, in the book of Genesis You find that when man came from the hand of God, when he first came from the hand of God, he was distinct from all the rest of the all of the animal kingdom, in that God breathed into him the breath of life, and he became a living soul. And then he fell and he became a lost sinner. And in the evolutionary theory, there is no place for the fall. I want to tell you the evolutionary theory has man going up, and up, and up, and you know that if you follow it to its logical conclusion, he doesn't need a savior, and he never will need a savior because he's evolving, all the time.

I see my time is up. Thank you for listening, and tune in tomorrow for another study by question and answer period.

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Announcer:

You've been listening to your radio Bible teacher, Dr. Louis T. Talbot, Chancellor of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles Inc. Address all mail to Dr. Louis T. Talbot 558 South Hope St. Los Angeles 17, California.