

1) Why did Potiphar not kill Joseph?

A. Story details from Genesis 39.

1. Joseph finds himself in Egypt as property of the Ishmaelites. Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, buys Joseph from the Ishmaelites and makes him his own personal servant after he realized that a lot of good things happened for him. Eventually, Joseph was put in charge of Potiphar's entire house. **(v.6)**
2. Joseph was a good looking man and Potiphar's wife took notice of this fact. She tries to seduce Joseph, but he refuses to go with her. **(vv.8,9)**
3. She then tries to catch Joseph off guard by surprising him when they were alone in the house. Joseph runs away from her and literally leaves his garment in her hand. Potiphar's wife takes advantage of this and lies about what actually happens. She says that Joseph tried to seduce her **(vv.17,18)**, and Potiphar is infuriated, and rightly so. He throws Joseph in prison. However, once again, Joseph is put in charge of the prison and we know how he continues to gain prominence within Egypt all the way till his death.

B. Perhaps Potiphar intended to kill Joseph at some point, but first committed him to prison in the meantime.

C. What we do know is that God was with Joseph and he prospered because of this. The fact that God smiled upon Joseph and blessed him is mentioned 5 times by my count.

D. Applications:

1. Joseph did not fall into the temptation of a perfect situation to sin before God.
2. He did not use "she came onto me" as an excuse to have another man's wife.
3. Because of Joseph's faithfulness, God blessed him immensely. God's will was to be done and God used a faithful man to accomplish His plans.

2) How advanced were the people of the Bible?

A. The people of the Bible accomplished some pretty impressive tasks

1. Noah built a HUGE boat and housed a great number of animals in it for many days. **(Gen. 6)**
2. The Egyptians were able to erect gigantic monuments, statues, and pyramids.
3. The tower of Babel would have been a very impressive structure. **(Gen. 11)**
4. Solomon's Temple was an architectural master piece. **(I Kings 6)**
5. The Romans built roads that were far superior to anything that had been seen before 500bc.

B. The Children of Israel were highly advanced in the field of medical sciences.

1. They were very sanitary in their practices. They wouldn't mix bodily discharges, and would immediately wash if they came in contact with blood and other fluids. They were instructed to bury or burn their human and animal waste. **(Num. 19:3-22; Lev. 11:1-47; 15:1-33; Deut. 23:12)**
2. They were very careful with the bacteria that caused leprosy and burned the garments of those who suffered from it so nobody else could be infected. **(Lev. 13:52)**
3. They quarantined people who had infectious diseases. The Law of Moses was given so the infections wouldn't spread throughout all the people. **(Let. 13,14,22; Num. 19:20)**
4. They used hyssop oil as a purifying agent. **(Num. 19:18; Psalm 51:7)**

5. The procedure for circumcision was done on the 8th day because 2 blood clotting agents are at their highest on the 8th day. (**Gen. 17:12; 21:14; Lev. 12:3; Luke 2:21**)
6. The dietary restrictions of the Law of Moses has been proven to optimize the lifespan of the human body.

**Information gained from www.bibleevidences.com/medical.htm*

C. Applications:

1. Some have said that people in the age of the Bible had an easier time following God because they were not as “advanced.”
2. I believe that is a false statement. The people of Bible times were not neanderthals who had no intelligence. They had their sciences and technologies. Our advances in technology might open up new avenues to sin, but sin now was still sin before God back in those days. God is worthy to be served, and let’s not seek to find excuses for why we shouldn’t take our sins against God seriously.

3) Who/what is Teman in Habakkuk 3:3?

A. Teman is both a person and a place.

1. He was a grandson of Esau, one of the chiefs of Edom. One of Job’s friends was Eliphaz the Temanite. (**Job 2:11**)
2. Teman is also a city in Southern Idumea. It is frequently mentioned as the land of the “sons of the east.” It is a city that is well noted for the wisdom of its inhabitants. (**Amos 1:12; Obadiah 1:8; Jer. 49:7; Ezek. 25:13**) It is often associated with the place of Edom.

B. Why do this verse matter?

1. Some abuse this text and tie it into an earthly return of Jesus where He will rule on the earth. The teach goes as follows:
 - He will arrive on a white horse at Mt Sinai. He will travel the way the Jews traveled up to Edom. He’ll proceed up the king’s highway. Then He’ll turn at Mt. Paran, and then head to Jerusalem from the east where He will dismount at the Mount of Olives.
2. Obviously this is not true. The Bible does not teach that Jesus will return to rule here on the earth. Nowhere in Scripture can we find where Jesus will step foot back on the earth again. We do know that the earth will burn upon His next coming. (**II Peter 3:10**)

C. So what is this verse referring to then?

1. It bears great resemblance to what is said by Moses in **Deut. 33:2**. Moses is praising God for His mighty power and Habakkuk seems to be doing the same. He’s simply speaking of God’s glory shining brightly from the east as a new start for the people just as a new day comes from the east.
2. Habakkuk acknowledges God’s mighty power to save and he offers up this prayer in hope, that just as God delivered His people from Egypt, He’ll do the same thing for His people in this time of distress and captivity. (**Hab. 3:3ff**)

4) What do the 7 stars, 7 spirits, and 7 churches mean in Revelation?

A. The book of Revelation is full of figurative language and numerology.

B. The number 7 is used throughout the Bible and it stands for totality and/or completeness.

1. Although it is “addressed” to only these 7 churches, we can infer that the lessons of this book apply to all.
2. The repetition of the phrase “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” seems to indicate that all people need to listen and learn from what Jesus is saying to these churches at this time.

C. Who are the 7 stars?

1. First mentioned in **1:16** as being in the right hand of Jesus.
2. **1:20** seems to answer the question by stating that the 7 stars are the angels of the 7 churches. The word “angel” means messenger, so this could easily and simply refer to the 7 people that would deliver this revelation to these 7 churches.

D. Who are the 7 spirits?

1. Mentioned 4 times in Revelation. (**1:4 seven Spirits who are before His throne; 3:1 seven Spirits of God; 4:5 seven Spirits of God; 5:6 seven Spirits of God equated with the horns and yes of the slain Lamb**)
2. Because 7 represents completeness it is possible that this is simply referring to the complete and whole Holy Spirit.
3. Another possibility is that it refers to seven angelic beings such as seraphim or the cherubim.
4. Lastly the seven Spirits here could be in reference to what is said in **Isa. 11:2**.
5. The first option seems to be the best explanation to me.

E. Who are the churches?

1. These are all literal churches that would have been located on the western side of modern day Turkey.
2. It is interesting to note that the order in which the letters are recorded makes a circle starting in Ephesus and works its way clockwise to the other cities.

5) Will we have free will in heaven?

- A. God created us with the ability to think for ourselves and makes decisions. Joshua told the tribes of Israel that they needed to choose whom they would serve, whether the God of heaven or false gods. (**Joshua 24:15**)
- B. No reason to believe that we would not have free will in heaven, but that raises some interesting theological questions. That might be the point of the question.
1. With free will, would we then have the chance of sinning while in heaven? Free will alone does not result in sin unless there is first some desire and opportunity. (**Jam. 1:14,15**) As humans, we make wrong choices when presented with temptation and we give in to it, but will we be tempted in our glorified bodies? God certainly won't tempt us? (**Jam. 1:13**)
 2. Satan is the master tempter and he'll be in hell.... does that mean that there won't be any avenue of temptation? That's an interesting question to think about.
 3. We know that there will be no death, mourning, crying, or pain and all things will be made new. We know that those bad things are a result of sin, so if they are absent, I have to believe that there won't be any opportunity to sin.
- C. As a friend shared with me, “it's kinda hard to sin when you're constantly on your knees praising and glorifying God.” If that is what heaven will be like then I doubt there will be any worry of sin even if we have the ability to choose.