

THE GREAT QUESTION; THE ANSWER

JOHN 7:11 • TV-028B

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John 7:11

“Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he?”

I’m reading a short verse of Scripture found in the **John chapter 7**; it’s **verse 11**; *“Then the Jews sought Him at the Feast and they said, where is He?”*

Now the wise men asked this question back in **Matthew chapter 2:2**; they asked this question that they might come and worship him. They said, *“Where is He that is born King of the Jews?”* “Where is He that we might worship Him that we might bring our gifts and praise Him? We want to know where He is.”

And then Herod asked this question, **Matthew chapter 2:4** because he wanted to destroy the young child. He felt that this King of the Jews would be a threat to Caesar’s throne. So he asked; (he sent for his wise men and brought them in and after they had gathered around his throne) he said, “Where is He, this person that claims to be the King of the Jews? Where is He to be born?”

And they said; “Well, we’ve searched the Scriptures and the Scripture says that He is to be born in Bethlehem.”

Infidels and atheists have asked this question of believers throughout the ages. I want you to listen to what David wrote in **Psalms 42:3** he said; *“My tears have been my meat day and night while they continually say unto me: Where is your God?”* David was suffering in sorrow and David was in trouble. And David was weeping and they kept coming around saying; “Well

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where is your God David? You trust in Him and you believe on Him; why doesn't He come to your aid?"

He goes on and writes in of that same **Psalms verse 10**: *"As with a sword in my bones; my enemies reproach me while they say; where is your God David?"*

David, when he is running from Saul, he is hiding in the mountains and in caves. David, persecuted, forsaken and cast out. His son Absalom had taken over the throne and driven him from the kingdom.

And as he wandered out there away from the kingdom, forsaken of those who claimed that one time they loved him; the people came around and said: "Well where is your God David; where is God?"

And then when Absalom was killed and David went up there into the room by himself and wept, cried, sobbed, and said; *"O Absalom would God I had died for you."* And they said, "Where is your God?"

I heard a story one time about a man whose son was killed and the preacher came by the house to see him and to comfort him. And when the preacher came in the man was bitter over the loss of his son.

And he said to the preacher; "Preacher, where was God when my son died?" And the preacher looked at him and said; "Well, when your son died God was in the same place He was in when His Son died; He was on the throne. That's where He is."

Where is He? Where is your God? Infidels and skeptics and agnostics have asked believers that for years, "Where is your God?"

And then the doubters have asked this question of believers; "when is the Lord coming back?" You know we do preach Christ is coming back to this earth. In fact, Paul preached it 1,900 years ago. We have been in the last days since Christ died on the cross. The Scripture calls these days from the cross to the present time, *"the last days."*

And we preach and will preach and will continue to preach. We have preached and will continue to preach that Jesus Christ is coming back. He may come back tonight. He may come back tomorrow. He may not come back for a 100 years; I don't know when, but He's coming back.

The angels announced that He would return. They said to the disciples as they watched the Lord ascend back into heaven; they said, *"This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as you've seen Him go."*

But the skeptics and the doubters have asked for years, **2 Peter 3:3**: *"Where is the promise of His coming? Since the fathers fell asleep everything continues like it was before; there's no difference."*

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Countries arise and countries perish and kings are born and kings die and millenniums pass but He still hasn't come back. Where is the promise of His coming? Where is He, where is He?

And then servants of God have asked this question; this is no new question, it's been asked for years and it's being asked today. Servants of God have asked this question. Men who know they're only men who need some strength and some power and some inspiration in the power of His Spirit and the message; they've asked that question: "Well, where is God?"

Old Christmas Evans was a one-eyed preacher. He preached in Wales years and years and years ago, a godly man. God used him to bring revival to that country.

Well, one day, right before church was supposed to start the minister wasn't in the pulpit. They missed him. They didn't know where he was and began to hunt him.

Finally, one of the deacons found him and he heard him pray in his study; "Lord, I've gone into that pulpit by myself for the last time. Now if you don't go with me I'm not going."

"Where is God?" Servants of God have asked that for years. Elisha asked it. Elijah was going to be taken up from him. He knew it. The prophets down at Bethel told him and the prophets at Jericho told him and the prophets at Jordan told him.

When he and Elijah came to the River Jordan, Elijah smote the water with his mantel and it opened up, and they walked across on dry land. Elijah was being followed by this assistant, followed by this young preacher Elisha, and when Elijah was ready to be taken up into heaven he turned to Elisha and he said, "*Now I'm leaving you; what do you want?*"

And Elisha said; "*I'd like to have a double portion of your spirit (power).*" Well, he said: "*That's not mine to give but I'll tell you this, if you see me when I go then you'll have it.*"

And about that time the fiery chariot came down from heaven and took Elijah up to glory. And as he went away the mantel fell at the feet of this young prophet. And he walked over to the River Jordan and wrapped that mantel around his arm and smote the water and cried out; "*Where is the Lord God of Elijah, where is He?*"

And then children of God in severe trial (and some of you know what I'm talking about here), when the valley is so dark and the way is so rocky, and the burden is so heavy, children of God in severe trial; they ask this question, "Where is God?"

In **Job 23:1**; listen to Job and you know something about his suffering; he lost everything. And he said this in **Job 23:1**: "*My complaint is bitter. My stroke is heavier than my groaning.*"

In Job 23:8-10; "*O that I might know where I could find God. I go forward and He's not there. I go backward and I cannot see Him. On the left hand I cannot behold Him. He hideth himself on the right hand; I cannot see Him. But I know this; He's with me. And when He has tried me and when He is finished trying me I shall come forth as gold.*" "Where is He?"

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You see, I've got a good question to serve as my text. The Jew's sought Him at the Feast crying: "Where is He?" But that's no new question. The wise men asked Him. Herod asked Him.

Infidels and agnostics and atheists have asked believers in ridicule and mocking; "Where is your God? Things are going rough for you aren't they? Where is your God?" Doubters have asked Him; "Where's the promise of His coming?"

Men of God trying to preach the Gospel have gone in the pulpit for hundreds of years powerless, "Where is God?"

And children of God in the darkest of valleys and roughest of roads with the heaviest of burdens have cried out of their grief; "Where is God, the heavens are brass. I pray and He doesn't answer."

David said, "*O Lord will thou forsake me forever?*"

And Job said, "*I cry out but I can't find Him. I turn to the left and to the right. I go forward and backward but He's not there. But I have this comfort and this consolation; I know He's with me. And I know that when He's finished trying me I'm going to come out of this pure gold.*"

"Where is He?" This is the question, "Where is He?"

Now I'm going to answer that question. I'm going to answer that question for every seeking sinner. I'm going to answer that question for every doubting soul. I'm going to answer that question for every servant of God. I'm going to answer that question for every child of God in trouble, "Where is He?"

First of all, let's let David answer; let's call in David, "*The man after God's own heart.*" And David writes in **Psalm 115:2-3**; now listen carefully, **Psalm 115:2-3**: "*Wherefore should the heathen say: Where is your God? But our God is in the heavens. He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased.*" Where is He? He's in the heavens.

Now, "*He dwells not in temples made by human hands.*" I know there are people who have the wrong notion about where God is. They think you go down to some cathedral or temple or synagogue or chapel to meet God. But He dwells not in temples or cathedrals made by human hands."

He said to David and Solomon; will you make for me a house? "Why the heaven of heavens won't contain me. The earth is my footstool and you're going to build for me a dwelling place out of stones and sticks and mortar and wood and brick?"

God dwells not in shrines and holy places visited by the pilgrims. We have people going over to Jerusalem to find God or going to Mecca to find God or going to some other place to find God.

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And then He dwells not in religious rituals and Holy Days. He dwells not in powerful Ecclesiastical organizations. He dwells not in traditions and legends and creeds. He dwells everywhere. He is the ever present living God:

**“God moves in mysterious ways
His wonders to perform
He plants His footsteps on the sea
He rides upon the storm.”**

“David; where is your God?” He said, *“Our God is in the heavens.”*

He created all things by the word of His power. He upholdeth all things by the word of His power. In Him we live and move and have our being. He’s God, Alpha and Omega, beginning and end. He’s God.

Listen to this, **Psalm 115:2-3**: *“Where is your God?”* David said, *“Our God’s in the heavens and He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased.”*

Our God is in the heavens and He’s an almighty God and He’s a sovereign God. Now I found this out through 30 years of preaching; only at a sovereign throne will a man really worship, that’s right now, only before an almighty sovereign God.

Men will play games before idols and false gods. They’ll bargain with equals. They’ll debate and argue with equals but they will only worship a sovereign; *“The Lord is in the heavens; let all the earth keep silence before Him. Be silent and know that I’m God. Be still and know that I am God.”*

And then only before a sovereign throne will a man find comfort when he knows that God controls everything. There may be second, third, fourth, or fifth causes, but God’s the first cause.

In all things in my life, *“All things work together for my good,”* my eternal good, and for His glory, because He works them, he works them out. He works them together.

And only at a sovereign throne will a man find a definite, permanent, eternal, salvation, a God who can save, a God who can save, and a God who can keep. *“Our God is in the heavens and He hath done whatsoever He pleased.”*

“Cannot I do with mine own what I will?” That’s what God says. *“I am the Lord. I form the light. I create darkness. I make peace. I create evil. I the Lord do all these things. No one can stay my hand or say unto me, what doest thou; I’m God.”*

“He worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.” We bow before God. We fear God. We stand before Him in absolute reverence and awe because He’s God. *“He hath done what He pleased.”*

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What did it please Him to do? Well, if you'll take your Bible and look through the concordance you'll find what it pleased Him to do. In **1 Samuel 12** it says: *"It pleased God to make you His people."*

He loves sinners. Aren't you glad? His everlasting love is upon us; He drew us with an everlasting love. God said, *"He commended His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."* It pleased Him to love sinners.

And then it pleased Him, **Colossians 1:19**; *"That in Christ should all fullness dwell."* It pleased Him to make Christ our Saviour.

And then it pleased Him, **Isaiah 53:10** it says; *"It pleased God to bruise Him."* It wasn't Roman soldiers that really put Him on that cross; it was the Father's will. It was the Father's covenant. It was the Father's purpose to redeem you and me. God sent Him to the cross, the Father did that for His people.

"It pleased God to reveal His Son to me." That's what Paul said; "It pleased God to stop me on my Damascus Road to hell and to arrest me and to break me and to humble me and reveal His Son. It pleased God to do that, to reveal His Son in me."

It pleased Him to do it; how? In **1 Corinthians 1:21** it says: *"By the foolishness of preaching it pleased God; by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."* Where is He? *"He's in the heavens. He hath done what He pleased."*

Let's let Peter answer that question. "Peter; where is He?" Well turn to **Acts 10:43**. Peter is preaching here and he says, *"To Him, (talking about Christ) to Him, give all the prophets witness."*

My friends; if you'll take this Bible and compress it until you get the essence of it and the substance of it and the heart of it and the life of it; it'll come down to two words, I mean from Genesis to Revelation; you just compress it and it'll come forth, the substance of it in two words, Jesus Christ.

That's what this book is all about, Jesus Christ, His love for sinners, His life for sinners, His death for sinners, His pleading for sinners, and His coming for sinners. That's right, His reward for sinners.

Christ said; *"Search the Scriptures, in them you think you have life. They are they which testify of me. Moses wrote of me."*

In Genesis He's the woman's seed. In Exodus He's the Passover Lamb. In Leviticus He's the great atonement. In Numbers He's the brazen serpent. In Deuteronomy He's the city of refuge. In Joshua He's Rahab's scarlet thread.

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In Judges He's the angel of the Lord. In Ruth He's the kinsmen Redeemer. In the books of the Kings He is the great King. In Job He's my Redeemer. In Psalms He's the Lord my Shepherd. In Proverbs He's the wisdom of God.

In the Song of Solomon He's the bridegroom. In Isaiah He's the substitute. In Jeremiah He's the physician, the Branch of Israel. In Ezekiel He's the glory of God. In Daniel He's the Beloved.

In Hosea He's the forgiving husband. In Jonah He's the sovereign Saviour. In Micah He's Bethlehem's infant. In Habakkuk He's the faithful one. In Haggai He's the desire of all nations. In Zechariah He's the foundation stone.

Go to the Scriptures and you'll find Christ. There you'll find Him. He's in the heavens. He's in the Word of God. He reveals himself in His Word: *"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."*

Don't depend on tradition. Don't depend on the works of men. Don't depend on the feelings or dreams or visions that you have; depend on the book. God said it; I believe it. And I dare not go one step beyond what He said.

"If they speak not according to the law and the prophets it's because there's no light in them." He's in the Word. If we preach Christ we will preach the Word of God.

And then; let's let John answer; "John where is He?" **John 1:10, 14:** *"He's in the world, He's in the world. The world was made by Him. The world knew Him not but He was in the world. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."*

Do you hear that? Do you understand that? Do you believe that? The ancient of days has become the infant of days. He who made the worlds, He in whom the worlds dwell, who holds the nations in His hand, is a drop in the bucket. He was in this world.

He who walks upon the clouds now walks upon the sand. Paul wrote in **Galatians 4**; *"In the fullness of the time God sent His Son into the world, born of a woman, born under the law, made of a woman to redeem them that were born under the law."*

He took our flesh. That's right; He took our flesh, *"Bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh."* The Lord of glory condescended to come down here to this earth and become a man.

He took our nature, not the seed of angels (nature of angels), but the seed of Abraham. The first Adam was of the earth; God made him out of the dirt. He was of the earth, earthy and we bear the image of the first Adam but the second Adam is the Lord from heaven.

And thank God someday because of His grace and His mercy we're going to, *"Bear the image of the heavenly."* The second Adam, the second man, the word Adam is (man) *"is the Lord from heaven."*

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**“Man of sorrows
What a name
For the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners
To redeem
Hallelujah, what a Saviour**

**Guilty, vile, and helpless we
Spotless Lamb of God was He
Full atonement can it be?
Hallelujah, what a Saviour.”**

He became what we are that we might become what He is. The sinless became sinful that the sinful might be sinless. A perfect righteousness was worked out by His obedience as a man right here on this earth. *“He was tempted and tried and tested in all points as we are without sin.”*

He thirsted, He hungered, and He was weary. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was rejected, despised, forsaken, and killed in our place.

John, where is He in this world? *“The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”*

Let's let Paul answer now. Turn to **Galatians 6:14**. Paul where is He? Listen to him; *“God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* In the cross of God; God has got to have a cross?

You know, you might follow my message up to now and a lot of people will I'm sure. God is in the heavens. God is in the Word. Even God is in the world. But wait a minute! Can God be on a cross? Can God die?

Go with me to Pilate's Hall. Do you see that man sitting there? They have lacerated His back with a cat of nine tails. The blood is streaming down His back. You can see His ribs. They've plucked out His beard. They spat in His face. They blacked His eyes.

He doesn't even look like a man. His visage is so marred that He doesn't even look like a man. And then one of His soldiers says; “Well, the King ought to have a crown.” So he goes out and gets some thorn bushes and he makes a crown and walks over and jams it down on the head of the Saviour.

And then somebody says; “Well a King ought to have a robe.” And so they go somewhere and find an old piece of a red bathrobe or an old piece of a red quilt and they come and they yank off His garment and throw that old robe, dirty robe, across His lacerated back.

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And then somebody says; “Well a King ought to have a scepter.” And they go out and break off a hollow reed and bring it and put it in His hand and then they all stand back and they begin to bow and mock and ridicule and cry, “Hail King of the Jews.”

Who is that? That’s God almighty in human flesh. That’s God taking our place, “*Numbered with the transgressors.*”

Wait a minute! Come on with me. Go to Pilate’s Hall. That’s the soldier’s hall there. Now go to Pilate’s Hall. And you see that man there standing before Pilate? He’s still got on that awful crown and that red robe and His hands are tied and He stands there and people come and they begin to give these false witnesses and lies and tales about Him and He listens to them.

And Pilate said, “Don’t you hear what they’re saying against you?” He opens not His mouth. “*He’s led as a sheep to the slaughter, dumb, opens not His mouth.*” He doesn’t reply. That’s the Son of God.

Wait a minute! Go to Calvary’s Hill, Golgotha’s Mount. And there’s a cross lifted up in the air between two thieves and there a naked man hangs on that cross in shame and agony. You can tell all of His bones.

His joints are poured out like water and the crowd’s laughing at Him and mocking and dancing around the cross and ridiculing Him. He’s crying to the Father, to forgive them and crying for water; because He’s thirsty.

Who is that dying such a horrible death? That’s God almighty. Where is He? He’s on a cross taking my place, bearing my sins. I should have been crucified but He took my place and He died.

“*He bore my sins in His body on the tree.*” Do you believe that? Well that’s the Gospel. “*God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself. The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanseth us from all sin.*”

He didn’t die as a martyr. He didn’t die as an example. He didn’t die as a failure. He didn’t die as a reformer; He died as a substitute. Now that’s so; He died as a substitute. He died on purpose.

He said, “*For this cause came I to this hour.*” He went to the cross to die for His people. There He paid the debt:

**“It’s paid; it’s paid in full
All the debt I owe
Sin left a crimson stain
But He washed it white as snow.”**

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Where is He? Well; let's let the angels answer, **Luke 24:6-7**. They took Him down from that cross and they put Him in a tomb. Three days later the women came to that tomb to anoint the body with spices and precious ointment.

And the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty. And the angels were standing there and the angels said; *"Why look ye for the living among the dead? He's not here but is risen."* Where is He? He's not here, He's not here. Why are you going to the Holy Land to visit an empty tomb? He's not there, He's not there.

Now you can go visit the grave of Confucius. He's still there where they put him. His bones are or what's left of him. You can go to the grave of Buddha and you can pay your respects because the old boy is still there or his bones are.

You can go to the grave of Mohamad; he's still right there. What's left of him is still there. You can't go to the grave of Christ. The angel says; *"He's not here, He's risen."*

**"Lo in the grave He lay
Jesus my Saviour
Waiting the coming day
Jesus my Lord
Death could not hold its prey
Jesus my Saviour
He tore the bars away
Jesus my Lord**

**And up from the grave He arose
The mighty triumph for His foes
He arose a victor over the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose."**

Where is He? He's at the right hand of God! *"There's one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."* And Paul said, *"He's right there on the right hand;"* that's the place of power, the place of love, the place of acceptance, and the place of victory.

"Come sit on my right hand until I make your foes your footstool." That's what God said to Him. I don't want to be one of those foes; I want to be a friend. I don't want to hear God say *"I'll make your foes your footstool; depart from me."*

He's on the right hand of God. Where is He? Well I'll quickly tell you this; He's in the furnace of trial. They looked in that fiery furnace and said; *"Didn't you put three children in there? Yes, there's four in there and one of them is the Son of God."*

He's in the assembly of believers: *"Where two or three are met together I am with them,"* He said.

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And then he's in the valley of the shadow of death. *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I'll fear no evil; for thou art with me."* He's with us.

Where is He? He's with me!