



Bible Q&A

Greentown Baptist Church
Wednesday, August 20, 2025

1. Who is on the Mount Rushmore of Philadelphian church leaders?

William Carey (The Father of _____)

- He believed that Matthew 28:18-20 was a binding command to all believers! He was publicly rebuked for this by another pastor at a pastors meeting. He was told that he was a "miserable enthusiast".
- He published "An Enquiry in the Obligations of Christians" encouraging Baptist churches to engage in foreign missions. He was asked to preach the associational sermon before the 1792 meeting of the Northamptonshire Association. His passage was Isaiah 54:2-3.
- One year later he moved to India where he would see over 700 converts, established 100 schools with over 10,000 students, translated the Bible into 5 languages and parts of the Bible into another 29, while inspiring many others to engage in the foreign missions building on the foundation that he laid.

Hudson Taylor (The Pioneer of Inland Missions)

- Taylor felt a call to become a missionary as a teenager. He felt a call to the inland and remote regions since most of the coastal cities were being reached.
- He founded the China Inland Mission (CIM) in 1865 which was known for immersing itself into Chinese Culture and not forcing Western Culture into China.
- At the time of his death the CIM sent over 800 missionaries in China, had around 20,000 converts across 18 reached provinces, started 125 schools, and 300 mission stations.

Charles Spurgeon (The _____ of preachers)

- He was saved at 15, and a pastor at a church in London by age 19, and by 22 he was preaching to crowds of over 10,000. The largest crowd was nearly 24,000. He later founded a pastor's conference in 1886.
- Spurgeon struggled with depression as a result of personal tragedies, illness, and stress. His wife, Susannah, wrote, "My beloved's anguish was so deep and violent, that reason seemed to totter in her throne, and we sometimes feared that he would never preach again."
- By the time of his death, his sermons had sold over 50 million copies worldwide, authored 150 books, trained over 900 pastors, started an orphanage and multiple tract societies.

George Whitefield (The Grand Itinerant)

- George Whitefield was one of the most influential preachers of the 1700s and a key leader in the Great Awakening, (a religious revival that spread through Britain and the American colonies).
- He was ordained as a deacon in the Church of England. In 1738, he traveled to Georgia to work with John Wesley. There Whitefield began preaching to large crowds, sometimes up to 30,000 people, multiple times a day, for months on end.
- There are a few accounts of Whitefield preaching so hard and loud, that his throat began to bleed.

2. The doctrine or teaching of dispensationalism seems to be a recent teaching, popularized by John Darby. Some have said that the idea of dispensations can be traced back to British clergy from the 17th and 18th centuries. The recency of this teaching gives me pause.

- a. What is Dispensationalism? What does it mean?
 - Distribution: The manner in which God deals out (dispenses) his grace/truth in specific ways to specific people. That which is dispensed or bestowed.
- b. John Darby was the one to " _____ " dispensationalism in the 1800s and is known as "The Father of Dispensationalism." But just because he popularized the term as we use it today, that does not mean that it has not always been around. Darby's teachings:
 - Divided history into distinct dispensations (usually 7 or 9).
 - Taught a distinction between Israel and the church.
 - Emphasizes a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the church.
- c. Just because it was popularized later, does not mean it's not biblical.
 - The word rapture did not show up until the 18th or 19th century.
 - The word trinity was not used until the 2nd or 3rd century.
 - Missions/Missionary was not popularized until the 16th century.
- d. This belief was not created by Darby but was inspired by God through Paul.
 - You must rightly divide the word. 2 Tim. 2:15, 3:16-17
 - God speaks differently to different people at different times. Heb. 1:1-2.
- e. How does God divide his word?
 - Through times and seasons Dan. 2:21; Ecc. 3:1-8; Acts 1:7
 - Through dispensations 1 Cor. 9:17; Eph. 1:10, 3:2; Col. 1:25

3. In Genesis 11 with the tower of Babel it says they were building a tower to reach heaven. Is it possible that they found technology that was demonic? Do you think they were trying to build a portal into heavenly or demonic realms?

- a. They were trying to build a tower whose height may reach unto heaven. Gen. 11:1-9
 - What they were trying to do was possible. Gen. 11:6
- b. The word Babel means - " _____ of God"
 - If anyone would have known how to build a gate to God, it would be Nimrod the giant. (The offspring of a fallen angel. Gen. 6)
- c. We know that Heaven has gates and windows. Gen. 7:11, 8:2; Rev. 4:1

- d. It is possible that _____ are gates or portals to Heaven. Eze. 1:1-4, 22
- A whirlwind, a great cloud is descending out of the north. There are 4 wheels which show a chariot-like throne descent. Isa. 66:15
 - There seems to be no mention of the 2nd Heaven here (space), just a third heaven and the first heaven.
 - He has this vision by the River of Chebar in captivity in Babylon
- e. Clouds are a barrier between God's light and the earth. Job 36:29-32
- f. A few times in the bible it seems that clouds could be a portal to the _____ heaven.
- The Rapture of the church - 1 Thess. 4:17-18
 - The Mid-Tribulation Rapture – Rev. 11:12
 - The 2nd Coming – Rev. 14:14
 - Jesus' ascension into Heaven. Acts 1:9-11
 - The manna of Heaven – Ps. 78:23-24
- g. Jacob saw a ladder on the earth that reached unto Heaven. Gen. 28:12
- h. Multiple times in the OT we see God appear in a cloud.
- Pillar of cloud – Ex. 13:21
 - Mercy Seat – Lev. 16:2
 - When God gives Moses the Law – Ex. 24:15-18