

## Challenge Questions:

Please determine (and select) which is/are the best answer(s) for each question, **keeping in mind you will need to defend your choice.**

My hope is that you will find this enjoyable, rewarding and better equip you for challenges you may encounter when we share our faith with others.

NOTE: The beginning questions are fairly mundane and may even be boring to some. However, each question is attempting to lay a “foundation” for better understanding of successive questions and answers. Keep in mind that, while an answer(s) to a question may appear obvious and/or simple on the surface, they may not be when you start digging into the possible proof(s) of your answer.

### Goals:

- \* To gain a better understanding of Scripture, OT prophecy and NT fulfillment; Jewish history and scripture;
- \* To confirm and increase our faith in the reliability and accuracy of the Bible;
- \* To encourage and built your confidence and ability for sharing the Gospel and answering challenges to the Bible with authority.

**Please take time to review these questions and determine your answers before our next mini-church meeting on May 17.**

**(I added additional questions at the end for you to look at and determine if there is interest in developing and discussing responses to any of them in the future.)**

**My objective, because of our limited time, is to determine - as a group - the appropriate answer(s) to each question and get through them as quickly as possible during our next meeting. (My ideal objective would be answering all questions in one quick pass in one session.)**

**Realistically, I would like to move as quickly as possible during this “1<sup>st</sup> pass”, taking note of any questions we may desire to explore/discuss in more detail for our next session.**

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**Please print off a copy for yourself, research and answer questions as best you can, and then bring with you to our next meeting.**

**If you are unable to print, just let me know and I will be happy to make a copy for you.**

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**Q: Jewish calendar was based on what type of calendar system?**

1. Solar
2. Lunar
3. Lunar – Solar combination
4. 364-day calendar
5. Agrarian / Seasonal
6. Festivals
7. God gave it to them

**Q: Does the Jewish calendar have a leap year?**

1. Yes
2. No

**Q: The Jewish calendar has never changed since the time of Noah?**

1. True
2. False

**Q: The Jewish calendar has special names for days of the week?**

1. True
2. False

**Q: When following the Jewish religious calendar, clocks have no use.**

1. True
2. False

**Q. According to Jewish calendar system, time never changes.**

1. True
2. False

**Q: According to the Jewish religious calendar, their new year is celebrated**

1. Before Passover
2. On Passover
3. After Passover

**Q: When did the day begin in Jesus time?**

1. Same as ours today
2. According to Roman tracking of time.
3. 6 p.m.
4. 12 a.m.
5. Sunset
6. Dusk
7. Appearance of a star
8. Appearance of multiple stars
9. Appearance of the North Star
10. Sunrise

**Q: Could the Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) be on any day of the week besides the last day?**

1. Yes
2. No

**Q: The Shabbat is included in the Decalogue.**

1. True
2. False

**Q: There is no difference between a Jewish religious “Feast” or “Festival”.**

1. True
2. False

**Q: What Jewish festivals were established by God?**

1. The Passover (Pesach)
2. The Feast of Unleavened (Bread) (Matzah)
3. Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) (Shavu'ot)
4. The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)
5. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kipur)
6. The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot, also known as “Booths”)
7. The Feast of Lights [Hanukkah or Chanukah]
8. The Feast of Purim

Bonus Points: Is this the correct order in which they occur during the year? Yes/No

Which of one(s) established by God, did not come through Moses / Torah?

**Q: Passover and other major Jewish feasts occur on the same dates (i.e., day and month) every year?**

1. True
2. False

**Q: What Festival(s) required a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Temple every year?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: What 6 things do these Jewish feasts or festivals have in common?**

**[Passover, Unleavened, Firstfruits, Pentecost?]**

- 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: What is the meaning of “Omer” with regards to Jewish festivals?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: What is meant by “between the evenings” regarding the Passover?** (Choose all that apply)

1. Between the end (evening) of first and start (evening) of second day
2. Between dusk and sunset
3. Twilight time
4. Between 12:30 and 3:30
5. First evening is sunset, the second is darkness
6. 3 p.m.
7. 2 p.m.

**Q: There is more than one kind of Sabbath (Shabbat)**

1. True
2. False

**Q: What Jewish Feasts / Festivals did Jesus observe according to the Gospels?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: What day of the week are Christians today required by God to keep the Sabbath?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: Jesus born in what year, according to Dionysius Exiguus?**

(Anyone want to also attempt month/day?)

1. 1 A.D.
2. 0 A.D.
3. 1 B.C.
4. 2 B.C.
5. 3 B.C.
6. 4 B.C.
7. 5 B.C.
8. 6 B.C.
9. 7 B.C.

**Q: During what month did Jesus' Last Week, including his Death and Resurrection occur?**

1. Abib
2. Aviv
3. Nisan
4. Tishrei
5. Tishri
6. March
7. April
6. Other – specify

**Q: Which of these Gospels make up the Synoptic Gospels**

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John

Bonus Point: What is the definition of Synoptic?

**Q. Is there any special significance of the Triumphal Entry by Jesus?**

1. Yes
2. No

**Q: Jesus' donkey (during his Triumphal Entry) wore a coat.**

1. True
2. False

**Q. Triumphal Entry was in the Mount of Olives.**

1. True
2. False

**Q. After the Triumphal Entry Jesus went to Bethphage.**

1. True
2. False

**Q: How many entrances into Jerusalem did Jesus make on (a) Donkey(s)?**

1. One
2. Two
3. Three
4. Four

**Q. How many days was Jesus in the Temple during his last week?**

1. One
2. Two
3. Three
4. Four
5. Five

**Q: When the religious leaders asked Jesus for a sign, what sign(s) did he give them?**

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: How many times and by how many women was Jesus anointed with expensive oils?**

[Anointing of Jesus with expensive oil was mentioned at least once in all four Gospels]

1. 1x – same woman
2. 1x – 2 women
3. 1x – 3 women
4. 2x – same woman
5. 2x – 2 women
6. 2x – 3 women
7. 3x – same woman
8. 3x – 2 woman
9. 3x – 3 woman
10. Other – specify

For Bonus Points: Provide location(s) and relative date(s) if available.

**Q: Chametz (chamets, hametz) is to be destroyed by 11 a.m. on the Passover “Day of Preparation”.**

1. True
2. False

Bonus point: What is “Chametz”?

**Q: The Last Supper was a Passover Meal**

1. True
2. False

**Q: The bread broken by Jesus and eaten at the Last Supper (in Gospels & 1 Cor.) was...**

- |               |                      |              |   |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------|---|
| 1. Unleavened | Greek: azumós        | [Unleavened] | Hebrew: maṣṣāh matstsah (matzah, matzo) |
| 2. Leavened   | Greek: artós (,zume) | [Bread]      | Hebrew: leḥem, (chamets, chametz)       |

**Q: What is the relationship (if any) to the breads used in the 2 feedings (5000 and 4000) and the Temple breads?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: Peter denied Jesus at night before Jesus was sentenced.**

- 1: True
- 2: False

**Q: How many times did this happen?**

1. One
2. Two
3. Three
4. Four
5. Five
6. Six

**Q: What sound did Peter hear when the denial(s) occurred?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: How many times did it occur before he realized what he had done?**

1. One
2. Two
3. Three
4. Four
5. Five
6. Six

**Q: Judas was forced by God into betraying Jesus.**

1. Yes
2. No

**Q: Did Jesus receive a religious or civil trial?**

- 1: Religious
- 2: Civil (Roman)
- 3: Both a religious and a civil
- 4: Neither

**Q: How many trial stages did Jesus undergo prior to his crucifixion?**

- 1: One
- 2: Two
- 3: Three
- 4: Four
- 5: Five
- 6: Six
- 7: Seven

**Q: When (time and day of week) did Jesus arise after the crucifixion?**

1. Saturday afternoon
2. Saturday at sunset (dusk)
3. Saturday at 6 p.m.
4. Saturday (later after 6p.m.) evening
5. Sunday morning before light (a.m.)
6. Sunday at dawn
7. Sunday at sunrise

**Q: Was there any special Jewish significance to the day Jesus arose?**

1. Yes
2. No

**Q: When was Jesus Crucified?**

1. Wednesday
2. Thursday
3. Friday
4. Later revelation from God states that it didn't happened.  
[a belief currently held by well over one billion people]



## **Judaism**

**Q: The Shemitah is still a current observance?**

1. True
2. False

**Q: Is the year of Jubilee still currently observed?**

1. Yes
2. No

**Q: Do “blood moons” have any Biblical Relevance?**

1. Yes
2. No

**Q: The Torah is the word of God for Jews and Christians?**

1. True
2. False

**Q: The TaNaK was and is the word of God for all Jews and Christians?**

1. True
2. False

**Q: According to some Jewish religious beliefs, there were how many Torahs given by God to Moses at Mt. Sinai?**

1. One
2. Two
3. Three
4. Four

**Q: The Talmud is the Torah?**

1. True
2. False

**Q: The Misnah and the Gemara are related only to The Torah?**

1. True
2. False

**Q: The Jerusalem Gemara and Babylonian Gemara are different language translations of the Talmud?**

1. True
2. False

**Q: The main language in which the Talmud is written is:**

1. Hebrew
2. Greek
3. Aramaic

**Q: What is a minim (or min)** (minim [also minuth?] are plural; min is singular)?

1. A kafir
2. A specific unit of time
3. A relative unit of time
4. Unit of measure – a small unit (Specifically it is  $\frac{1}{60}$  of a fluidram or  $\frac{1}{480}$  of a fluid ounce)
5. Follower of Talmud
6. Not a follower of the Talmud

**Q: Which of the following relate to Rabbinical Judaism:**

1. Essentially a result of the destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple in 70 AD.
2. Traces its origins back to the Pharisees.
3. The mainstream form of Judaism since the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD and the codification of the Talmud.
4. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple destruction the Rabbis claimed leadership of all Jews (Pharisee name dropped).
4. “Rabbi” became an official designation, not just a title of respect (“my teacher” or “my master”).

[Hint: Wikipedia – Rabbinical Judaism has most of this information]

**Q: Which one is NOT a Jewish religious sect or branch or group?**

1. Samaritan
2. Karaite
3. Pharisee
4. Sadducee
5. Sanhedrin

**Q: The following are separate Jewish religious groups:**

**Orthodox, Ultra-Orthodox, Haredi, Hassidic (Chassidic)**

1. True
2. False

**Q: Not all Jews are Zionists.**

1. True
2. False

# Islam

**Q: “Islam” is similar in meaning to “Muslim”**

1. True
2. False

**Q: Judaism, Christianity and Islam all have in common the same God.**

1. True
2. False

**Q: Jews, Christians and Muslims have the same genealogy going back to Abraham, Noah and Adam.**

1. True
2. False

**Q: What is The Table of Nations?** (Select one or more)

1. Conference (Table) of Nations
2. Mentioned by name in the Bible
3. Decedents/Genealogy of Noah
4. Listed in Genesis Chapters 10 and 11
5. Is still relevant today

**Q: Judaism, Christianity and Islam have and similar or parallel End-Times belief.**

1. True
2. False

**Q: From what religion(s) did Muhammad incorporate various beliefs and practices into Islam?**

1. Judaism
2. Christianity
3. Zoroastrianism
4. Various forms of Arabic pagan worship
5. Sabeanism (Sabians)

**Q: According to the Qu’ran, who is the greatest deceiver of all?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: What do Taqiyya, Kitman, Tawriya, Muruna, Taysir, and Darura have in common?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Mormonism**

**Q: Mormons believe in and celebrate Jesus Christ just like we do.**

1. True
2. False

**Q: Mormons wear special underwear.**

1. True
2. False

**Q: Mormons believe in the Trinity the same as we do.**

1. True
2. False

**Q: Most Mormons treat the U.S. Constitution as sacred.**

1. True
2. False

**Q: What are common symbols you may see on Mormon churches?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: Is Joseph Smith just a Prophet?**

1. Yes
2. No

**Q: Mormons do not accept the KJV of the Bible.**

1. True
2. False

**Q: Mormons believe that the Bible is God inspired**

1. True
2. False

## Evolution

**Q: What is a basic question that Evolutionists can only answer with blind faith and conjecture?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: Darwinian evolution requires changes of kind (one type of creature becoming another). Is natural selection the same as Darwinian evolution (molecules to man)?**

1. Yes
2. No

**Q: Can you think of any observable evidence for Darwinian Evolution where there is a change of kind?**

1. Yes
2. No

**Q: Evolutionists claim that the fossil record provides proof of Darwinian evolution, but (to the unbiased) which explanation of origins does it fit the best?**

A: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q: Evolution is a proven fact.**

1. True
2. False

Ref: Ray Comfort - "Evolution vs God"

## **Social and Ethics Issues (to be Discussed)**

Q: When does God recognize the birth of an individual?

Q: Does the Bible make a clear distinction between killing and murder?

Q: Is it okay to defend ourselves or our family or our nation when attacked?

Q: According to the Old Testament, marriage is between one woman and one man.

Q: Marriage between people of the same sex is never addressed in the OT or NT.

Q: Monogamy is a requirement for Christianity. [What about Judaism?]

Q: People who have non-marriage sexual relations with opposite sex can still be a Christian.

Q: People who have sexual relations with the same sex can be a Christian.

Q: Marriage is a God-ordained relationship between a man and a woman.

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER IF THERE IS TIME AND/OR INTEREST**

### **Apologetics – Answering Objections to Christianity**

**Q: If someone says that he doesn't believe in the existence of God (or of gods), how would you answer?**

**Q: Explain why someone must have absolute knowledge to say, "There is no God."**

**Q: How is it possible to say that God does exist when we don't have absolute knowledge?**

**Q: Someone says, "When you are dead, you are dead. Nobody knows what happens after we die." How would you address that?**

**Q: Why does believing in evolution get rid of moral accountability?**

**Q: Evolution is a proven fact.**

.... More ....

### **How should we respond to:**

**If God is all-powerful and well-meaning, why is there pain, starvation, war, and sickness? Terrible things happen in this world. Human tragedy seems like proof that God could not possibly be both all-powerful and well-meaning. If He loves us and has the power to change our situation, He would prevent our pain, wouldn't He? (It seems God is either omnipotent and uncaring, or benevolent and powerless to help.)**

**If there really were a God of love, the innocent wouldn't suffer.**

**No loving God would let a bystander be maimed by a drunk driver.**

**There is no God.**

**Who made God?**

**God, if he existed, would be impersonal.**

**I hate God.**

**If God made us, our moral failings are God's fault.**

**What's in it for me?**

**Science has crippled Christianity.**

**Pleasant near-death experiences of non-Christians disprove Christianity**

**I don't need God.**

**Christianity is a crutch.**

**The church is full of hypocrites.**

**Christian superstars are after money.**

**Christians support environmental vandalism.**

**Christians are bigoted, racist, sexist and homophobic.**

**Religion has sparked wars and exploitation.**

**Christians have a low and negative view of humanity.**

**What about all those who have never heard of Jesus?**

**All religions are much the same.**

**What does it matter whether it's Jesus you worship, or some other religion? It's all religion.**



**It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you're sincere.**

**There are so many religions: how could anyone know which is right?**

**Even Hare Krishna's are more Christian than Christians! The Bible says we are not to kill. Doesn't that include animals?**

**The Bible contradicts itself.**

**Christianity is out of date.**

**I'm not convinced.**

**I'll think about it.**

**Faith is what you exercise when the object of your beliefs cannot be demonstrated. It does not involve reason, it involves a leap into the unknown.**

**I'm offended that the Bible gives such repugnant, graphic descriptions of sin in recording the lives of some Bible characters. Is this really necessary?**

**Is all of the Bible inspired? Many believe only parts of it are.**

**The Bible is an ancient book with old-fashioned wording and concepts. Don't you feel it is unsafe to rely on something so far removed from our enlightened day?**

**Some of the most brilliant people in the world, who have carefully studied the Bible, believe no one can understand it. If the Bible is truly God's book, shouldn't everyone be able to understand it?**

**The Bible is full of errors. How can you believe it is inspired?**

**All we need is man's reason to decide what is right and wrong. Education will stop people from doing evil, because educated people are more likely to do good than evil.**

**I lead my own life...there is no master over me.**

SEE ALSO:

**Q: If someone says that he doesn't believe in the existence of God (or of gods), how would you answer?**

**Q: Explain why someone must have absolute knowledge to say, "There is no God."**

**Q: How is it possible to say that God does exist when we don't have absolute knowledge?**

**Q: Someone says, "When you are dead, you are dead. Nobody knows what happens after we die." How would you address that?**

**Q: Why does believing in evolution get rid of moral accountability?**

**Q: Evolution is a proven fact.**

A: The burden of proof lies with the believer in evolution, but there is no proof because nothing can be observed. How can that which supposedly happened over millions of years, be observed? It is all founded on faith in men's ideas, old bones, and in fallible dating methods.

....more...

Ref: Ray Comfort - "Jaws Without Teeth"