

**Question 1. How old was Jesus when he was nailed to the cross?** It's really amazing how much Jesus accomplished at such a relatively short period of time, yet little is said about the age of Jesus. We are told in Luke 2 that he was twelve years when he went to the temple where he disputed with the doctors and lawyers. Next we have recorded in *(Luke 3:22-23 KJV) And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. {23} And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age....* Immediately after Jesus was baptized he started his earthly ministry. From there we don't have any more dates for Jesus age. We have to make an educated guess based on Biblical events. The event most helpful in determining the age of Jesus when he died was the Passover. The Passover was a Jewish festival which commemorated the Israelites deliverance from Egypt. It occurred once a year in the city of Jerusalem. The first time following his baptism is recorded in John 2:23. This event would put Jesus about 31 years of age. The second time to the feast in Jerusalem is found in John 5, which would now put Jesus at 32 years of age, with the final and third Passover (John 12) being the time of his crucifixion. Adding the three Passovers to the 30 years when he was baptized, we conclude that Jesus was about 33 years old when he was nailed to the cross. Jesus did so much during those 3 years that changed the world.

**Question 2. Do we have guardian angles?"** The Bible has much to say about angles. "Angles" are found 94 times in the Bible and "angel" is found some 200 times. Compare this to the 61 times the word "devil" is found. They are spiritual beings made a little higher than man a lower than Jesus. The term "angel" is derived from the Greek word angelos which means "messenger." Angelos and the Hebrew equivalent, malak, are the two most common terms used to describe this class of beings in the Bible. In general, in texts where an angel appears, his task is to convey the message or do the will of the God who sent him. Since the focus of the text is on the message, the messenger is rarely described in detail.

The writer of Hebrews defines for us the duty of angles. With reference to angels, *(Heb 1:14 KJV) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?* But the question is how do angles minister to the saints? My answer to that is that they carry out the providence of God. It's through the daily events of life that God uses his messengers to providentially care for the heirs of salvations – i.e. faithful Christians. We notice how God cared for his people in the past with angles. One such instance is recorded in 2 Kings 6:14-17. In this text we have the king of Syria dispatching his army to Dotham where Elisha, God's prophet was. Fearfully, Elisha's helper disclaimed how they

were surrounded by the armies of the enemy, but Elisha insured him there was no need for fear. *(2 Ki 6:16-17) And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. {17} And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.* You see, God had his army there too.

Over in the New Testament that are several examples of angel intervention. Of those 94 Biblical reference to “angels”, 81 are in the New Testament. For instance, in Acts 27:23-25 we have Paul involved in a storm and eventual shipwreck. In the midst of those troubled times. *(Acts 27:23-25) For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, {24} Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.* So we see how God providentially cared for Old Testament and New Testament characters. But the real question is what about us today. Does God send angels on our behalf? Well, in all the Biblical references to angels, it is not very clear whether we have guardian angels or not. Jesus said *(Mat 18:10 KJV) Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.* This passage certainly implies that children have “their angels” (not angel) in heaven watching over them. This verse along with Hebrews 1:14 favor the idea that angels do indeed watch over God’s children. As already stated, it seems to me that it’s through the work of angels that God carries out his providential will. Whether or not you have an individual angel assigned to you specifically whose assignment is to watch and care for you, I can’t say. Reread Hebrews 1:14 and Matt 18:10 to draw your own conclusion. Angels announced the birth of Jesus, they announced the resurrection of Jesus, they were instrumental in Cornelius hearing the truth and in Peter’s rescue from prison. Who knows what they do today in the lives of faithful men. We know that God has an ample supply. *(Mat 26:53 KJV) Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?* A Roman legion equaled 12K soldiers.

Question 3. If you disagree with the words of a song, is it wrong for you to sing it? Example: When we all get to heaven. All of us won’t get to heaven. This is an interesting question. Let me address the last part first and then I’ll attempt to answer the question. The example cited was the song we often sing entitled, **When We All Get To Heaven** (756) and the observation was that we all will not get to heaven so is it right to sing those words. Now the Bible clearly teaches that all people will not get to heaven. In fact, on the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught about two roads, a wide road to destruction

and a narrow road to life. Many he said will be on the wide road while only a few will be on the narrow road. So the majority of mankind will be lost. However, when I sing that song, I'm usually, if not always, surrounded by fellow Christians who love the Lord and are walking in the light and I would not go so far as to say that some of them were lost. Non-Christians yes, but I would not say that of my brother.

However, that was not the intent of the question. The question is centered on singing words to a song when you think those words were wrong and in violation to scripture. I appreciate this question because it implies that you are giving attention to the words. I'm afraid we often sing words with little attention at all to the message we are singing.

There are some nine references of singing in the New Testament and one of those is 1 Cor. 14:15. ***(1 Cor 14:15 KJV) What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*** This passage instructs us with truth that we need to sing with the proper attitude (spirit) and also with understanding. We should not be singing words or a message that we do not understand. Jesus told us to that our worship ought to be in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) which means that the things we do in worship are to be done in the proper frame of mind or attitude (spirit) and in truth (according to Biblical authority). This would certainly entail our singing. We need to sing songs which have a message that is in harmony with the word of God. If the song has an unscriptural message, then we should not sing it. For instance, we sometimes sing "Sweet Hour of Prayer." What do we mean by that? The hour of prayer is a Law of Moses concept which has been taken away and nailed to the cross. (Col 2:14). Today we can pray at anytime and anyplace. ***1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.*** There is no hour of prayer.

Another song we sing often that I have a problem with is "Jesus is Coming Soon". Well, we don't know that. Now I realize that "soon" is a relative term, but the implication to me in the immediate near future and we just don't know that to be. There are other songs that I've heard Jerry say that he could not lead because of the message. So words are important and if they are not proper, we should not sing them.

Now, what about a song that you personally have a problem with while others don't – like "When We All Get To Heaven?" If it goes against your conscience and you think it is wrong, then you should not sing it. Romans 14 is a chapter that deals with matters of opinion and conscious. Specifically, they had an issue of eating meat and observing certain holidays. Paul tells them in essence that there is nothing wrong with doing these things in and of themselves, but if you think they are wrong, you should not do it. ***(Rom 14:14 KJV) I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.*** This principle applies to singing words of a song. So in answer to the question, if you think certain words of a song are wrong, then yes it would be

wrong for you to sing them. You know some songs may be good but you should not sing them if you don't mean it. For instance, *Here Am I Send Me* or *Lead Me To Some Soul Today*.

**Question 4 How did God Make People?** I assume the question is aimed at Adam and Eve and not the natural reproduction process within mankind. So we will address it from the prospective of the creation. Gen 1:26 says, ***Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.*** Man was made and just like the rest of creation, it was a miraculous creation in which God made it happened. However man was different than all other creation in that he took on the image and likeness of God. Now this doesn't mean physically for we see people that are nearly seven feet tall and others that are five feet or less. We see people with blue eyes and others with brown. We see people with hair and others without hair. Simple observation and logic tells us that man's likeness to God is not physical. Man is like God in that he is a living soul and the soul of man never dies. So we are told in Gen 1:27 that ***God created man in his own image.*** The way he did it is provided for us in Gen chapter 2. ***(Gen 2:7 KJV) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*** Man was made from the dust of the ground but that was not all that unique because so were the animals. ***(Gen 2:19 KJV) And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air.*** The thing that made man different was that after God formed him from the dust of the earth, He breathed into him the breath of life by which man became a living soul. God imparted to man a spiritual nature that animals do not possess. So God took some dust from the ground and shaped and formed it into the image of man, then He breathed life into his nostrils and man became a living soul. ***(Isa 64:8 KJV) But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.***

**Question 5. Who is the anti-Christ and is he living today?** There is much said today about the anti-Christ and the mark of the beast and the end of time. Some have tried to attach the figure anti-Christ to a particular person – like a ruler and leading world figure. I've heard names like Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, to more recent names like Saddam Hussein, Henry Kissinger, Fidel Castro and even Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft. Well let me tell you, the Anti-Christ is not a particular person in world history. Open your Bibles to the book of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, John and there we find all the Bible has to say on the subject along with a seemingly simple definition of who the anti-Christ really is.

John was the last remaining apostle and he had to deal with a rising problem of some teaching that Jesus Christ did not come in the flesh. Thus they were denying the deity of Christ. ***(1 John 2:18 KJV) Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*** We learn from this passage that the antichrists (plural) were in existence during the time of John's writing for he says "even now are they are there many." Verse 19 goes on to say that some of the antichrist "went out from us."

***(1 John 2:22) Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.*** The antichrist is one who denies God and Jesus as being the Christ, the Son of God. "Anti" means against. Logically then, antichrist are those who are against and deny the deity of Christ.

***(1 John 4:3) And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*** The antichrist is the person who does not confess Jesus was from God – thus denying his deity. Again notice that John tells us that they were already in the world during his writings.

***(2 John 1:7 KJV) For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*** The antichrist is any person who does not believe and confess that Jesus came to this world and is the Son of God. They existed during the days of John and they exist today. But those who try to make the antichrist to be a world wide figure who will bring havoc on the Christian community need to read John.

The last part of the question was "is he living today." Well, it's not a he, but yes they are living today just as they were some 2000 years ago.

Question: Do you need to respond to the Lord's invitation.