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**Questions**  
ON THE  
**BIBLE**

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## P R E F A C E

Of late our Christian brethren have been very active in weaning Hindus, especially Harijans, from the faith of their ancestors. It is not the truth of the Christian doctrine so much as the lure of the coin that is enticing the poor to leave the fold of their forefathers, still it is but opportune that we should examine the tenets of Christianity and see as to what this faith has to offer to us. We have, therefore, outlined some questions which our Christian friends must answer before they can expect us to join their fold. These questions are not put with any malice. The only idea is that a propagandist who launches out upon a mission of reclaiming the lost sheep must do a little heart-searching and should see whether his mission is really one that can stand the test of logic. It is hoped that our Christian friends will read these questions patiently and will try to answer them to themselves and to those for whose edification they seem to be 'Commissioned' by their religious-cum-political wire-pullers.



Questions on the Bible 30-5-59

I

1. Is not the Old Testament treated by Christians as divine revelation as much as the New Testament ?

2. If we are to understand that the Old Testament marks a preparatory stage for receiving the truth as given in the New Testament, is it possible that God could have permitted acts of gross immorality or turpitude on the part of His Chosen people ? To illustrate :—

“And the first born said unto the younger.....Come, let us make our father drink, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. And they made their father drink wine that night : and the first born went in, and lay with her father : ..... Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.”—Genesis, Chap. XIX.

3. If you say that ninety-nine per-cent of the objections are directed against the Old Testament, are you prepared to say that the Christian world has disregarded the authority of the O. T. as a scripture ?

4. If you declare your doubt in the O. T., is it not likely that the coming generations will similarly give up their faith in the New Testament as well ? In fact, does

not the Higher Church Criticism already contain a negation of supernatural powers and miracles related in the New Testament ?

## II <sup>o</sup>

1. Christ was born of a Virgin, so we are told. Would any Christian, however pious, covet a similar distinction of being born without a father through the special dispensation of Providence. How does such a miraculous birth constitute an additional ground for reverence towards any man, especially a Saviour, when society, attaches stigma to such a birth. Biologically, no reproduction of the species is possible without the union of the sexes. Where was the necessity for suspending this law in the case of *The Son of Man* ? How did it help him to fulfil his father's mission ?

2. What is the significance of the expression "Son of Man", applied to Christ in the Bible, when he was the son of no human father, as we are led to believe by our Christian friends.

3. At the birth of Christ, it is said, wisemen were sent by Herod, the king, to find out the place where he was born. The Bible says :—

"And Lo ! the star which they saw in the East, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was born."

Is it consistent with our knowledge of the movements of stars, or is it a matter to be decided according to the laws of Theological Astronomy ? Can the stars move like this and stand over our houses like doves and sparrows ?

4. When the wisemen sent by Herod to find out Christ's whereabouts proved false to Herod, he "was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethelhem and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under." When the God of the Bible was taking so much personal interest in the affairs of men at the event of the birth of Christ, why did he allow so many hundreds, if not thousands, of young innocents to be butchered, breaking the hearts of their parents ?

5. Before Christ was siezed by the Jews, he knew the impending calamity. He was very heavy and sorrowful, for says the Bible:—

"And he took with him Peter and the sons of Zebedee, and began to be be sorrowful and heavy. Then said He unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death, tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed saying, Oh my father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me."

Without derogation to the moral and spiritual grandeur of the great man, Jesus Christ, can we not say that these words of inward anguish uttered as stated above showed him to be but a mere human being, and not a God, as Christ is claimed by our Christian friends.

6. Christ was no doubt a great man but he was not the incarnation of God. Bearing this fact in mind one cannot wonder to see him in great grief and crying aloud while on the Cross. Says St. Mathew :—

"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice saying, My God , My God, why hast thou forsaken me."

Does not Christ betray here the weakness of an ordinary man. ? Krishna, Bhishma Pitamah and Dayanand of the Aryas were far better and nobler characters than the personality of Christ, for the former died with greater composure than the latter. Is it not then a mistake to call Jesus Christ an incarnation of God ?

7. Can we believe that such a man who according to the account given in the Bible wished to escape his death, who twice cried and lamented his fate, who was exceedingly sorrowful and heavy in his heart because of his impending death. did wilfully sacrifice his life for the sake of humanity ?

8. Christians seem to think that sacrifice necessarily involves the exhaustion on the part of one who sacrifices oneself and therefore they pity those who exclaim at the time of Christ's death : 'He saved others, himself he could not save'. Can this exhaustion be consistent with the idea of Omnipotent God with inexhaustible source of energy ? How could Christ be exhausted if he was God or a part of Divine Trinity ?

9. No doubt divine grace can bring about great change in human life, but what connection this grace can have with the sacrifice of a human being say, that of Christ. Would our christian friends prove logically how a finished, exhausted and sacrificed being, thousands of years after his sacrifice, can bestow his grace upon others and consequently save them ?

10. How can the whole of humanity be saved by the murder of one man for other's sins ?

11. Instead of sending the *Divine son* to die for us, would it not have been more just for the *Divine Parent* himself to come in to this world to die for our sins. Is it too much to say that the story of divine compassion taking such grotesque turns is an outrage on human intelligence and human notions of right and wrong? How can the faith in Christ wipe out the life-time sins of a sinner? Is not the doctrine of divine grace a contradiction of the law of cause and effect?

12. Christians believe that the body of Christ was taken to heaven, but if the body of Christ as *son of man* really consisted of flesh and blood, how could it have been taken to heaven? Is not there enough reason to believe that his body was stolen, by his disciples, from the grave?

13. When questioned whether Christ was really the Son of God, Christ remarks to the heathen high-priest:—

“Jesus said unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven.”

It would be amusing to see the glory of the son of God shining on a clouded rainy day. Once Christ seen in this glory would not require the waste of breath of missionaries who are imported into India to save our heathen country. Why don't our christian missionaries pray in earnestness so that Christ may appear to humanity sitting at the right hand of power in the clouds and all may see him and all doubts regarding him may disappear.

## III

I. Says St. Luke :—

“And Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him (Christ), and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son, in thee I am well pleased.”

Does it not mean that your God, who lives in the sky or clouds, who speaks and is pleased with his son and has a bodily shape is a corporeal God? Corporeal God must be limited. Being limited, He cannot be Omnipresent. Being unomnipresent, He cannot be Omniscient. How can such a God be a just ruler of the universe who does not know everything of the universe? Is this the idea of God that Christianity represents? Thousands of years ago the Vedas declared :

“Formless, bodiless, pure is the all-pervading wise and blissful God, minutest of the minute, greatest of the great.”

2. Does not your belief in God the father, God the son and God the Holy Ghost and so many angels besides land you in poly-theism? How can Christians call themselves Mono-theists when they believe in Trinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy-Ghost?

## IV

1. Can one not be redeemed without believing in Christ? If so :

2. What was the fate of Humanity before the Savior Christ appeared on the surface of the earth? Was not God unjust to those who preceded Christ chronologically



because they were not shown the right path through His loving Son? How Moses and the prophets who preceded Christ and had not the opportunity of coming in touch with Christ or his teaching could be redeemed? If they could dispense with Christ, where is the necessity of bringing people round to believe in Christ?

3. If certain stage of evolution of the human mind was required to understand the ideas of Christ and therefore the Old Testament preceded the New Testament, would it not be reasonable to say that human mind, as a whole, has much more progressed than its stage of evolution when Christ appeared on the earth: and do we not now require a more comprehensive, more reasonable, more scientific and more up-to-date revelation than the Bible which is partial, unreasonable, unscientific and out-of-date?

4. Is the idea of Eternal Hell and Eternal Heaven, as preached in the Bible in keeping with the idea of Just and Loving God? Is it reasonable to reap an indefinite reward or an unending punishment of definite or limited good or bad actions?

5. Do our Christian friends believe in the existence of soul in woman according to the Bible? For, we read in Genesis, that "God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and He took one of his ribs and closed the flesh thereof. And the rib.....made He a woman." While a breath was instilled into the nostrils of man whereby he became a living soul no such breath was breathed into woman. In fact, is it not true that for this very reason for centu-

ries Christians believed that man had a soul whereas woman had no soul.

6. And then if woman was made out of rib taken out of man, why are not all men short of one rib? Besides there should be only one rib in the body of woman as she was made out of one rib.

7. Do you think that your religion has higher and nobler truths than the Vedic religion in which Indians believe, and which was fountain-head of all the religions of the world, yours included?

8. What new message have you brought to India and what new truths you want Indians to believe in, which their own ancient-most Vedic religion, as preached by their saints and sages, and following into their footsteps by the Arya Samaj, does not give them?

