



To address questions about the Bible, we first need to affirm the authority of Scripture. See 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Question: When God spoke at the beginning why did everything appear?

What we can discern from Genesis 1 is that God created all things out of nothing by His creative, powerful spoken word. The words “God said” mark off the stages of creation, showing that God created by the word. God’s words were not empty, for the Spirit, who was present over the waters, empowered God’s words, bringing into being what God had spoken. See Psalm 33:6, 9; John 1:3; Romans 4:17. If things existed before God created them, what was the cause of their creation? In God’s creative power, He creates something from nothing. Hard for us to understand because all of our creation involves created things. That is why Hebrews 11:3 calls us to respond to this by faith.

Question: Did Adam have a 1st wife named Lilith before Eve?

Simple answer according to scripture is “No.” The legends vary significantly, but they all essentially agree that Lilith left Adam because she did not want to submit to him. According to the legends, Lilith was an evil, wicked woman who committed adultery with Satan and produced a race of evil creatures. None of this is true. There is no biblical basis whatsoever for these concepts. There is no one in the Bible named Lilith.

Question: Where in the Bible does it say to give your brother a help up not a help out?

There isn’t a verse in Scripture that is stated in this manner. There are Scriptural principles of helping others. See Philippians 2:3-4; 1 John 3:17-18; Proverbs 3:27. It would seem the essence of this question deals with truly helping a brother for his own good, not just allowing him to stay in his own trouble. In other words, we should be helping people in ways that truly help them — not in ways that condone laziness or an unwillingness to change. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 speaks to this concept.

Question: Can you address Mark 4:10-12; 4:33 where Jesus agrees to disclose the meaning of his parables to his disciples but hide them from everyone else? It seems inconsistent with John 3:17 and other passages of salvation.

A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. A parable, then, is a teaching method which serves specific goals of Jesus, the Master Teacher. First, it is a familiar story which finds people where they live and gets their attention. Second, a parable has enough mystery to attract earnest seekers after Truth.

Here in Mark the *mystery* is the disclosure that the kingdom of God has drawn near in the person of Jesus Christ. The *secret* has been given to the disciples because they have responded in faith. “Those on the outside” alludes to Mark 3 and the rejection of Jesus by the teachers of the law and by his own family. For those with hard hearts, all things come “in parables.” To really get to the meaning of what Jesus is saying, let’s take a look at the context of the Isaiah passage that is quoted (see Isaiah 6:9-10).

The main point is not salvation. But rather to examine what sort of heart a person brings to the teaching of Jesus. Jesus therefore teaches in parables both to reveal the truth to those who are receptive and to conceal it from those whose hearts are hardened. Read John 3:17-21.

The key to understanding this Luke parable passage is that Christ has a specific mission he was trying to accomplish. He needed to instruct his authentic disciples so that they could continue to build upon the basis of the gospel after His ascension into heaven. However, those whose hearts were hardened against Christ’s message also served His earthly mission for they were the very ones who would demand his crucifixion which became the means of our salvation.

The truth is that we need a Holy Spirit birthed revelation when we hear or read the good news of the gospel. The work of the Holy Spirit accompanies the message of the Gospel. Read Luke 10:21-22; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16. To be certain, God doesn’t want any to perish but all to come to repentance. However, their heart has to be open to the truth to actually receive it.

Question: In the song “God gives and takes away” my question is if he gives you something why would he take it away?

See Job 1:20–22. All of these events were allowed by the Lord to prove Job’s integrity, character and devotion to the Lord. It takes real faith to say in the midst of sorrow and suffering, “Blessed be the name of the Lord.” In this passage we see a couple of great principles: First, he renounces any claim on all that had been his (Naked I came ... naked I will depart). Second, Job affirms the freedom of God to give and take as he chooses (The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away). So in this context, the Lord gives and takes away to prove the love and gratitude of one who trusts in him. See 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

At other times, it is possible that the Lord may take away when we begin to form an unhealthy attachment to something and allow it to become more important to us than Him. It will also certainly remind us that all things come and go in our lives through the hands of God our provider.

Question: Revelation 3:15-16

In the Christian life, there are three “spiritual temperatures”: a burning heart, on fire for God (Luke 24:32), a cold heart (Matt. 24:12), and a lukewarm heart (Rev. 3:16). The lukewarm Christian is comfortable, complacent, and does not realize his need. The point is to never allow compromise to settle in. We must be people who continually grow in our love, commitment, and obedience to Christ as we follow Him. This requires attention and intention — just like maintaining hot water or cool water. The normal process is toward lukewarmness.