

GIVING AN ANSWER: PART 1

- I. Confidence: **Hebrews 6:17-20**: ¹⁷*In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the 1) unchangeableness of His purpose, 2) interposed with an oath, ¹⁸so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have **strong encouragement** (ijscura;n paravklhsin: drawing near [to the Holy Spirit]) to **take hold** (krath:sai: seize with strength, grasp tightly) of the hope (our assurance and expectation in the promises of God revealed to us in His Word) set before us. ¹⁹*This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, ²⁰where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**
- II. Where Do You Get Confidence?
- A. Salvation: You Will Be My Witnesses — **Isaiah 43:8-13**: ⁸*Bring out the people who are blind, even though they have eyes, and the deaf, even though they have ears. ⁹All the nations have gathered together so that the peoples may be assembled. Who among them can declare this and proclaim to us the former things? Let them present their witnesses that they may be justified, or let them hear and say, "It is true." ¹⁰"You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me. ¹¹I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me. ¹²It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, and there was no strange god among you; so you are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And I am God. ¹³Even from eternity I am He, and there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?" — **Acts 1:7-8**: ⁷*He [Jesus] said to them [His disciples], "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."**
- B. Confidence in God — **Psalms 103:7**: *He [God] made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel.*
1. His Works — **Isaiah 25:1**: *O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; for You have worked wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness. — To know God's acts is the beginning, head-knowledge – but it is not enough.*
 2. His Ways — **Psalms 128:1**: *How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways. — To know His ways is to walk in them. It is the deeper knowledge of the experience of faith.*
- C. The Fool Hath Said — Unbelievers are Not In the House
1. **Psalms 10:4**: *The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, "There is no God."*
- D. Dealing with Misused Passages – Proper handling of Scripture (the cultist never does this)
1. Never argue verses against verses
 2. The Scripture tempers itself; it never contradicts itself
 3. EXAMPLE: **Romans 3:20**: *... because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.*
 4. **James 2:24**: *You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.*
 5. Did Paul forget what he had just written? **Romans 2:13**: *...for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.*

6. Does God need to be justified (saved)? **Romans 3:4:** *May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, "THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND PREVAIL WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED."* (Psa 51:4)
7. So the word "justified" is used in different ways:
 - a. Made righteous as a declaration of God based on Christ's death on the cross.
 - b. Vindicated, proven