1. Is it a sin to have a doubt about God's ways of dealing with good and bad people? Give 2 examples of genuine Saints having doubts. Whom did they approach to clarify their doubts?

Ans…When we meditate and study God’s word, it is inevitable to have some doubts as to how some things in the Word of God can even be real or possible. . It is not a sin to doubt the God’s mysterious ways because of our limited understanding, however it is important that we have the right attitude when dealing with doubts. We should not be bound by pride and unbelief but rather with a childlike curiousity and faith in the Lord, we should take our doubts to the Lord. We see two examples of genuine Saints having doubts in the Bible and how they clarify their doubts.

In Psalm 73 ( A Psalm of Asaph), the Psalmist genuinely has doubts as to how the wick prosper and the righteous suffer. From verses 1 to 14, he is plagued with doubts and he says that these thoughts bothered him every morning, but he understood the true meaning of this reality only when he mentions in verse 17 that he went into the sanctuary of God and then he understood the end of the wicked, that they are in deception and one day they will be fully destroyed. He goes on to praise God because God is always with him, even if he does not have anyone else and rejoices in the truth that He receives from the Lord as he says in verse 24 that God will always guide him with His counsel. Thus, when in doubt, we need to go to the source of all wisdom, which is God Himself.

In the New Testament, John the Baptist was the one who testified that Jesus is the Messiah sent by God and that He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He leads all his disciples to Jesus and hears God’s testimony of Jesus “He is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” (Matt 3:17). Jesus Himself testified of John that he was the greatest to be born of a woman. However, even John had a doubt. When John is imprisoned by Herod and in the dire circumstances of life in prison, knowing that Jesus the Messiah was walking in his territory, he had doubts as to why Jesus did not rescue him if He was the Messiah. So he took his doubts to Jesus Himself in Luke 7: 18-19 ‘Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” On hearing about the mighty miracles performed by Jesus, John had this doubt that if Jesus was really the Messiah, then He would have done a miracle and he, John should have been freed from prison. So Jesus clarifies John’s doubt and emphatically states in verse 22-23 “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. “ The Bible does not say what goes on in John’s mind after hearing the witness of Jesus, but we know that Jesus in all His humility clarifies John’s doubt.

2. What gives excitement which can lead to spontaneous worship of our Heavenly Father?

Ans…Human beings are always excited when they have their “Eureka” moment (remember Archimedes when he discovered the secret behind the apparent weightlessness of objects in water) , when an amazing truth dawns on them and they come to know of something that they did not know before. When God reveals secrets and mysteries to us, we are filled with awe and wonder and this SENSE OF DISCOVERY leads to spontaneous worship of our Heavenly Father. It is a known fact that the angels of God are always worshipping God in heaven 24/7. When a saint of God, had a doubt about whether or not the Angels get bored by doing this activity repetitively, He asked God and God told Him that among the many secrets of His creation of the cosmos, God reveals one secret to the Angels every day. This fills them with excitement and the sense of wonder and awe and they break into spontaneous worship. Thus when secret mysteries are revealed to us, we automatically worship our Heavenly Father.

3. What is the opposite sentiment of excitement leading to spontaneous worship? What causes this sentiment? In whom do we see this "negative" sentiment at the beginning of Chapter 5 of the Book of Revelation?

Ans…Whenever the secrets **remain veiled** to us, **reverse** of excitement is disappointment. This is the opposite sentiment of excitement. We see this negative sentiment in John because he sees in the right hand of Father God a scroll written inside and on the back. But this scroll is sealed with seven seals and no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even look at it. (Rev 5: 3) This scroll contains all the secrets of the future of all the living beings of planet earth. John is eager to know what is going to happen in future but unless the seals are removed, what is inside the scroll will not be revealed. So where the secrets are revealed is great excitement, but if the secret is not revealed, there is great disappointment. John is greatly disappointed “So I wept much because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.” Rev 5:4

4. Who in the entire creation is found worthy of opening the Scroll having 7 seals? What made Him worthy for this great exercise?

Ans…. Apostle John was waiting for the scroll with seven seals are opened because the secrets of the future of earth will not be revealed. The Lion of tribe of Judah Lord Jesus is found worthy of opening the scroll having seven seals which contains all the secrets of future of planet earth and all the living things. He is a Lion to protect us from roaring lion (Satan) - Revelation 5:5, “**Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”** Jesus Christ **(the Son of God and final Adam-Luke 1:34-35/ Cor 15:45),** the Lion of the tribe of Judah was the only one in the entire creation, who is found worthy to open the Scroll having the 7 Seals. It was because of His obedience to the Father **in the most unfavourable of circumstances when compared to the First Adam who was also Son of God (Luke 3:28).** His kind of obedience on the cross, by going through the excruciating suffering and also retaining the scars of His suffering on His body. Rev. 5:6 made Him the Saviour of the world (Heb 5:8-10) besides giving him other indescribable privileges of the heaven like opening the scroll with seven seals and showing to the World it’s future!!!

5. The living beings in what all realms of Creation are found in Chapter 5 of the Book of Revelation to be worshipping God and the Lamb? And why are they doing so?

Ans…When Jesus took the scroll from Almighty God, in the heavenly realm, there are praises; the twenty four elders fell down before the Lamb, human beings are excited and start worshipping God, animal kingdom is excited, the fish are excited. Out of excitement is coming genuine adoration and worship for the Lamb and for the Father because they are going to know what is hidden and what is in store for them. “And every creature which is IN Heaven and ON the earth and such as are in the sea and all that are in them” Rev 5:13. So every creature which is in Heaven, on the earth - human beings, animals, fish, the birds, the grass are praising God. All creatures as mentioned in Psalm 150:6 “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord” including unicellular beings, amoeba, euglena, paramecium, all of them are praising God because the future is going to be revealed.

6. How can we describe the functions of Christ using alphabet \*R\* in Chapters 6 to 19 of the Book of Revelation?

Ans…The functions of Christ in Chapters 6 to 19 in the book of Revelation using alphabet R are the Retributive Christ and the Redeeming Christ. These chapters speak of the judgment that is going to come upon the world for rejecting Christ and so we have the Retributive Christ or the Judging Christ. However, God will still be merciful and save those who turn to Christ during the time of tribulation and so we see the Redeeming Christ.

7. Which Scripture portions attest the truth that God does not change?

Ans…One eternal truth is that our God is unchanging and He does not change. This is attested in

the following scripture references –

 Psalm 102:27”But You are the same, and Your years will have no end”.

Mal 3:6 “For I am the Lord, I do not change;”

Heb 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever”

God’s methodology of punishing and judging people also does not change. God will bring judgement on the world in the future in the same way that He brought the woes on the Egyptians. The pattern of the judgements that are written in the Book of Revelation is similar to the pattern by which God destroyed the gods of Egypt.

8. How many Judgments are seen in Chapters 6 to 16 of the Book of Revelation and what are they?

Ans…There are **21 that are seen in Chapters 6 to 16** in the Book of Revelation, and they are (i) **7 Seal** Judgments (Chapters 6 – 8), (ii) **7 Trumpet** Judgments (Chapters 8 – 10) (iii) **7 Bowl** Judgments (Chapter 16).

The pattern of these judgments is that their severity keeps on increasing progressively.

9. In what way are the Tribulation Judgments similar to the Egyptian woes?

Ans…Tribulation Judgments are similar to the Egyptian woes as these judgements also increase progressively in severity because our God does not change. The Egyptian woes were in the following order

1. Turning of water into blood (Exo 7: 14-25)
2. Invasion of Frogs (Exo 8: 1 - 15)
3. Invasion of lice or gnats (Exo 8: 16-19)
4. Invasion of flies (Exo 8: 20-30)
5. Disease on livestock (Exo 9: 1-7)
6. Incurable boils (Exo 9: 8 - 12)
7. Hail mixed with fire (Exo 9: 13-35)
8. Invasion of locusts (Exo 10: 12-15)
9. Darkness over Egypt (Exo 10: 21-29)
10. Killing of the first born (Exo 11, 12 : 1 - 36)

Thus in the above list of punishments, the severity of the judgments increased progressively. God destroyed all the Egyptian gods with each of the plagues that came down on them. God destroyed all the gods of the Egyptians and showed Himself to be the Almighty God and that they should not worship the creation. The same pattern is seen in the three judgements of the tribulation.

10. If the Israelites reached Mount Sinai on the first day of the 3rd month after leaving Egypt (that makes 60 or 61 days), how can we say Law was given to them 50 days after they left Egypt at Mount Sinai?

The Jewish calendar which is a lunar calendar, starts with April as the first month and has 30 days in every month. Israelites left Egypt on what is the 15 of April in the Jewish Calendar, in the whole of May which has 30 days, they were on their way. On the 46th day, that is, 1st day of the third month, that is 1 June, they reach the foot of Mount Sinai after which there is four days of preparation in the matters of holiness and purity **as per the instructions passed through Moses.** On the 50th day, the fiery presence of the Lord descended in a cloud and the Law is given **to the Nation of Israel on** the 50 day after they left Egypt.

11. Why were the Jews exiled from the Promised Land at one time in the Biblical history? Did the exile take place at one shot? If not why?

**Ans**: Yes, the Jews were exiled from the Promised Land temporarily for 70 years. When God gave them the Land flowing with milk and honey, He instructed them to follow His Law. Then they shall live permanently in the Land He had given them (virtually a Paradise on earth). They have very fertile land following with milk and honey. They were to obey the Laws of the Lord and not indulge in idol worship (Deuteronomy 4-27), but they disobeyed the Laws of God and lost their land temporarily for 70 years. The Babylon King took them captive to Babylon.

However, the exile did not take place all at one shot. Exile of Israel (10 Tribes) in 722 BC, II Kings 17/ later exile of Judah (2 Tribes), After King Josiah - II Kings 23:30-36/24-25/ II Chro. 36.

As regards the Judean Exile…

The first exile took place in year 606. BC, where King Jehoiakim one of the sons of King Josiah was the King at the time. II King 23:34. Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian King at that time, came and took away all the royals (Daniel, Sharach, Meshach and Abed-Nego) with him, so, it was a Political Exile. Daniel 1.1-4.

This was an opportunity for the Israelites to have repented and to seek God’s face, but they did not repent but continued in sin and idol worship. Jeremiah 7.

The Second Exile took place in the year 597 BC. where King Jehoiachin, grandson of King Josiah was the King at the time. II King 24:6. During that time, King Nebuchadnezzar, came and took away all the Craftsmen/Smiths, the very people who were running the economy of Israel, so, it was an Economical Exile. II Kings 24:16. All these while the Temple and the Wall are intact and there was the opportunity for them to turn away from their sin and seek the face of God for forgiveness and they did not repent, and they ignored the warnings of Prophet Jeremiah and continued in their idol worship. Jeremiah 4.

The 3rd Exile took place in the year 586 BC, where King Zedekiah also one of the sons of King Josiah was the King at the time. II King 23:30 -31/24:17-18. That time Nebuchadnezzar came and took away all the people except the poor of the poor. And that was a Universal Exile. Then what they were so proud of, their Temple (Solomon’s Temple) was burned down, and the walls of Jerusalem were destroyed. II Kings 25:9-10 / II Chro. 36:18-19.

12. Is there a similarity in the way the Lord chastised the Jews and the way He chastises us Christians? What is the \*most severe chastisement\*? Substantiate your answer with Scriptural examples and references. What would be the positive result of the most severe chastisement?

**Ans**: Yes, there is always a similarity in the way the Lord chastised the Jews and the way the He chastises Christians. This the virtue of God’s unchanging nature. Malachi 3:6, Psalm 102:27 and Heb. 13:8. If God does not change, so, His methodology of judging, punishing and chastising people does not also change.

What is the most severe chastisement?

**Ans**: In the Book of Revelation, in the 13 chapter, there is a red dragon with seven heads. These seven heads are symbolic of world powers which have ruled the world and which have persecuted God’s people, the Jews. They are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo Persia, Greeks, Romans and Antichrist. God delivered the Jews from Egyptian slavery (Satan) when they sought Him, but when they disobeyed Him, He gave them back into the Babylonian’s hands (Satan). The profound truth is that God has delivered Christians also from the hands of Satan, but if we disobey Him, He will give us minor knuckles on the hands, but if we continuously disobey Him, He can give us back into the hands of Satan and Satan will expose them to mini- hell fire once again, then afterwards, the Christian will not have the courage to disobey God. I Timothy 1:18-20. He delivered the Jews from Satan’s hand and when they disobeyed, He gave them back into his hands. Similarly, we when a Christian accepts Jesus and goes back, into sin, he/she loses the Joy of the Holy Spirit and will experience hell on earth. 1 Cor. 5:5

What would be the positive result of the most severe chastisement?

Ans: So the positive result of the most severe chastisement is that, after the Jews returned from the Babylonian Exile, they never went back into idol worship. Similarly, if the Christians are given into the hands of the devil and he exposes them to hell temporarily they will not have the courage to return to their sin. God gives us into the hands of Satan temporarily in order that we do not land up there permanently.