

What Does the Bible Teach About Amen?



Deuteronomy 27:11-16

2Corinthians 1:18-20

Deut. 27:11-16

- “And Moses commanded the people on the same day, saying, 12 ‘These shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have crossed over the Jordan: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin; 13 and these shall stand on Mount Ebal to curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. 14 And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel: 15 “Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.” And all the people shall answer and say, Amen!”

2Cor. 1:18-20

- “But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us-- by me, Silvanus, and Timothy--was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. 20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”

“Let All of the People Say, ‘Amen’”

- Where did “Amen” come from?
- It may be one of the most ancient words in our language to remain in nearly unchanged form from its earliest origins
- It is one of the most well-known words across nearly all languages.
- The English word “amen” is a transliteration from the original Hebrew word “AMHN”
- It has the same pronunciation, but with an English spelling; it has retained the original meaning.

“Let All of the People Say, ‘Amen’”

- Amen derives from a Hebrew root word “amhn” that means “to build up or support; to be firm, steady, trustworthy, faithful”; morally, it means “to be true or certain.” (Strongs H0549)
- “Let it be granted, let it be done and unalterably confirmed” (Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies)
- The Talmud teaches homiletically that the word Amen is an acronym for ‘El melekh ne’eman, “God, our trustworthy King”
- Amen is one of the few words of scripture which is written in its original Hebrew form.

“Let All of the People Say, ‘Amen’”

- The curses and blessings of the Law in Deut. 27-28
- A double amen ("amen and amen") occurs in Psalms (41:13, 72:19, 89:52), to confirm the words and invoke the fulfillment of them
- Closing prayers with amen originates in the Lord's instructive prayer in Matthew 6:13
- Amen occurs in several doctrinal statements of Paul in Romans (1:25, 9:5, 11:36, 15:33, ch. 16)
- It concludes many of Paul's general epistles.
- In Revelation 3:14, Jesus is referred to as, "the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation."
- Amen concludes the New Testament in Rev. 22:21

“Amen” Is God’s Word Of Affirmation

- God is the God of “truth” (amen)
 - Isa. 65:15-16 - “You shall leave your name as a curse to My chosen; For the Lord GOD will slay you, And call His servants by another name; 16 So that he who blesses himself in the earth Shall bless himself in the God of truth; And he who swears in the earth Shall swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My eyes.”
- Deut. 7:9 - “Faithful God” is literally “God the Amen”

“Amen” Is God’s Word Of Affirmation

- Christ is the “Amen,” the faithful and true witness
 - Rev. 3:14 - “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God’”
- Yes and Amen go together
 - 2Cor. 1:20 - “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”

“Amen” Is God’s Word Of Affirmation

- Given as an anchor of hope
 - Heb. 6:13-19
- When we say Amen, we are saying "yes"
- When we say Amen, we are declaring our faith and trust

Bible Examples

- 1Kings 1:34-36 - Shows agreement at the anointing of Solomon as king
- 1Chron. 16:35-36; Neh. 5:13 - “Amen” supports “Praise the Lord”
- Neh. 8:3-6 - Agreement to the reading of the law and the praise of God
- 1Cor. 16:24; Gal. 6:18 - Paul often concluded his letters with “Amen”

Bible Examples

- An implied command that “Amen” is said at the end of prayers
 - 1Cor. 14:15-16
- Amen can be said twice for the same matter for emphasis
 - Psalm 41:11-13, 72:17-20; Rom. 1:25, 9:5, 11:36

Our Commitment To “Amen”

- Binding agreement is called an “Amen”
 - Neh. 9:38 - “And because of all this, We make a sure covenant, and write it; our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it.” (“seal” is Amen)
 - Our Amen is a confirmation of an oath
 - Our Amen is a statement of commitment

Our Commitment To “Amen”

- Amen is the Biblical heart of faith and works
 - Faith is not faith without works or actions
 - Abraham "believed" (In Hebrew it is Amen)
 - Gen. 15:1-6
 - The righteous shall live by faith (In Hebrew it would be Amen)
 - Rom. 1:17 - “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

Our Commitment To “Amen”

- Amen is a commitment of trust in God
 - Making His priorities our priorities
 - It is saying yes to doing it God's way

Amen Is Powerful

- “Amen” means so much more than the prayer is finished. It means:
- We apprehend (understand)
 - 1Cor. 14:15-16, 20 - “What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. 16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say ‘Amen’ at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? ... 20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.”

Amen Is Powerful

- We affirm
 - 1Tim. 1:6-7 - “From which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.”
 - Psalm 106:48 - “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, Amen! Praise the LORD!”

Amen Is Powerful

- We agree - When we say “Amen,” we agree to take action based on what we have affirmed
 - Ecc. 5:5 - “Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.”
 - James 5:12 - “But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes,” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment”

Amen Is Powerful

- “Amen” is not just a word we say, but a decision we make. When we say it, we show our approval, our endorsement, our commitment to what was stated.
- It is not a healthy indicator that we do not hear more Amens in our worship

Amen Is Powerful

- Why are you not saying Amen?
 - Too sophisticated? Is saying Amen beneath you?
 - Too afraid or embarrassed?
 - Too much trouble or too lazy or too bored?
 - Think it is unnecessary, or too old fashioned?
 - You say it silently to yourself?
- You know what I find sad about most congregations of the Lord's people? There are more women asking if it is scriptural for them to say Amen than there are men with the courage to say it out loud.

“Can Women Say Amen In Worship?”

- 1Cor. 14:34-35 says that women must be silent when the church is assembled.
- But that which proves too much proves nothing. It does not forbid all speaking and teaching by women in the assembly.
- There are exceptions to this qualified by commands and Divinely approved examples

“Can Women Say Amen In Worship?”

- If a woman is literally forbidden to speak at all, how can she sing, teaching and admonishing one another in song? - Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
- How could she confess Christ before the assembly prior to baptism? - Rom. 10:9-10
- How could a woman confess her public sins? - James 5:16; 1John 1:9
- How could a woman instruct her children to behave and be quiet during worship services?

“Can Women Say Amen In Worship?”

- The question becomes -- are there commands or Divinely approved examples of women saying Amen in the assembly?
 - There are multiple commands and examples of women saying Amen in worship assemblies in the Old Testament
 - History records that women said Amen in Jewish synagogue worship in early New Testament times

“Can Women Say Amen In Worship?”

- However, to date, I have found no command, Divinely approved example, or Divine implication that women said Amen in assemblies of the Lord's church. Until it can be seen clearly in scripture, the answer remains No
- All the more reason for you men to grow some spiritual courage, open your mouths, and support the Gospel and prayers by saying Amen

When You Say Amen, You Are...

- Affirming from the heart that you believe that what God said is perfect, absolutely true, and faithful
- Making an affirmation in agreement to what is being read or preached as the gospel truth
- Affirming the certainty that your prayers and petitions, when asked in accordance to God's will being done, are pleasing to God, and will be heard by Him.
- Affirming a solemn oath of agreement and loyalty before God, which should never be uttered lightly