

“Let All of the People Say, ‘Amen’”

Deut. 27:11-16



## 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!' 16 'Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!’”

# “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 “aman” that means “to build up or support; to be firm, steady, trustworthy, faithful”; morally, it means “to be true or certain.”
- Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies - “Let it be granted, let it be done and unalterably confirmed.”
  - Num. 5:22 - Women are to say “Amen, Amen” agreeing with God’s law on adultery and the punishment thereof
  - Deut. 27 - Israel said “Amen” to declare their acceptance of the blessings and curses of the Law

# “Let All of the People Say, ‘Amen’”

- Thayer’s - “It came to be used as an adverb by which something is asserted or confirmed:
- “At the beginning of a discourse; ‘surely, of a truth, truly, truly; I solemnly declare unto you; assuredly’ - Matt. 5:18; Mark 3:28; John 3:3
- “At the close of a declaration; ‘so it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled’
- “It was a custom, which passed over from the synagogues into the Christian assemblies, that when he who had read or discoursed had offered up a solemn prayer to God, the others in attendance responded ‘Amen,’ and thus made the substance of what was uttered their own.”

# “Let All of the People Say, ‘Amen’”

- When used as an adjective, it means “firm or true”
  - Deut. 7:9 - “Faithful God” is literally “God the Amen”
  - Isa. 49:7 - “The Lord who is faithful” is literally “Jehovah the Amen”
- American Heritage Dictionary - “Used at the end of a prayer or statement to express assent or approval”

# “Let All of the People Say, ‘Amen’”

- When used after another’s statement or prayer we are saying, “This is true, or may it come to pass, or may it be fulfilled.”
- “Amen” may be appropriately spoken during a sermon, a Bible study, during a prayer, or at any time when you strongly agree with what is being said.

# 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 occasionally 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

# 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!”
  - Rev. 22:21 - “Amen” is the last word in the Bible.

# 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?
  - Don't think it is important?
  - You say it quietly to yourself?
- You know what I find sad about Tomlinson Run? There are more women here asking me if it is scriptural for them to say Amen than there are men here 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 synagogue worship in 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