

# TRUTH & RIGHT

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 **WELLSBURG**  
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## AMEN

Amen is a word we hear at the close of prayer. Often, when one of the brethren ends his prayer with “Amen,” we can hear others echo, “Amen.” We rarely use the word today except at those times or when we agree with something someone has said during a sermon. Would it surprise you to learn that the word “Amen” is found no less than 78 times in the Bible? When we add the words “verily” or “truly” to this list, since it is the same word in the original, we then find the word used hundreds of times in Scripture! I have asked people what they thought “Amen” means and have been told by some that they thought it meant “the end.” As in, someone is ending his prayer, and he says, “In Jesus’ name, the end.” This is not the meaning, though. The most recent example of people misunderstanding what “Amen”

means was seen on Sunday (1/3/21), when the U.S. Representative from MO, Emmanuel Cleaver, offered a prayer over the 117th Congress. As he closed his prayer, he said, “Amen and awoman.” Can you imagine anything so ridiculous? In the last couple of days, he has responded to say the way he ended his prayer was a “joke.” (<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jan/05/a-woman-prayer-emanuel-cleaver-amen-critics>) Regardless of the intentions, the Representative’s statement hit the social media circus, and I imagine “awoman” has become one of the most popular words in this last week on the internet. At the same time, I find it interesting that I cannot write “awoman” without my computer telling me I have misspelled a word! Whether or not we include Cleaver in the

following, it is still true that there are people so sensitive to gender issues that they think the word “amen” is gender-specific since the letters “m,” “e,” and “n” are present! If that is the case, then when I go to a restaurant and am handed a “menu,” does that mean my wife must now receive a “womenu”? I want to ask when the madness will end, but I know it will not end so long as the majority of people, especially the majority of those who are elected officials, choose to ignore the Bible!

Hosea 4:6 is seen in full force these days! What does “amen” mean? First, please understand it has nothing to do with gender! Furthermore, it doesn’t mean “the end.” The word “amen” means “let it be so.”

The *Lexham Bible*

*Dictionary* tells us that “amen” is a Hebrew word that carries with it the idea of something being reliable, trustworthy, or firm. To say “amen” meant you are pledging a faithfulness or a trustworthiness in something. The Hebrew word “amen” is also translated as “verily” in the New Testament. Therefore, when offering a prayer, when we say, “amen,” we are saying that we so firmly believe in what has said that we trust in God to make it happen, and so we request, “in Jesus’ name, amen.” This means, “let it be

so” in the name of (by the authority of) Jesus. It is interesting to me to note that there are times when God says, “amen” in Scripture. When God says, “amen,” it means “it is so”! Think of all the times Jesus said “verily” while teaching, and we understand Him saying His teachings are true, are firm, and can be trusted! Now, perhaps we can appreciate II Corinthians even more. “*For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*” In other words, all promises from God are promises we can trust!

Isaiah 65:16 emphasizes this, as well. In most texts, we read, “*the God of truth.*” In the original, it reads, “the God of Amen”! It should be no surprise then that in Revelation 3:14, Jesus calls Himself “amen”!

Yes, God is to be trusted! He is faithful; His word is firm! Amen is a special word and ought to be held in awe among the people. This is not a “throw-away” word or a by-word. It is packed with meaning! Even if we believe that it was a “joke” from the Representative from Missouri, the word “Amen” is no joke! It is not gender-specific, but it is a powerful word with a powerful meaning, even if it was. Oh, that all of man’s words might be “Yes and Amen”! – Jarrod Jacobs Last week was unlike any week of

recent memory, I know. Due to the events surrounding the rally on January 6th and the folks who broke into the capitol building, some things got overshadowed. One of these had to do with the prayer offered over the 117th Congress. by the U.S. Representative from Missouri, Emmanuel Cleaver. Most of what survived from his prayer was the infamous ending, "amen and awoman." However, I would also like to examine another part of Rep. Cleaver's prayer. To me, this part has not gotten the attention it deserves because people got distracted. Before offering that infamous ending, Rep. Cleaver offered his prayer to "the monotheistic god, Brahma, and god known by many names by many different faiths." Friend, let that sink in for a moment. Rep. Cleaver not only tried to lump God (Jehovah) in with the gods of men, but he also got it wrong about Brahma and these others. Honestly, I had never thought of Brahma being anything but a bovine breed until this man used it in prayer. I wondered why he was praying to a cow, and then I looked it up. Brahma is the Hindu creator-god. At the same time, he is not their only god, but is actually considered mortal. In addition to this, there is a god above him called Kabir Sahib! There are no less than 33 gods in the Hindu religion, and

some suggest there are more than this. Offering a prayer to Brahma then is not offering it to a "monotheistic" anything! When we boil this down to its basics, this is a man who, in offering a prayer, was either told or thought on his own that he needed to offer a prayer to please everyone. In our multi-cultural society that tells us that everyone's beliefs are equal, he no doubt felt he had to acknowledge and "validate" as many beliefs as he could. The problem with this is that it is not right! From Deuteronomy to Joel, the statement, "*I am God, there is none else,*" is found no less than thirteen times! From Isaiah 43 through Zephaniah 2, we learn on ten occasions that there is no God beside Jehovah! Ephesians 4:6 proclaims, "*There is one God and Father of all who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*" This is said in I Corinthians 8:6 as well. Similar praise is offered in Romans 11:33-36 and other places. We have no right to place Jehovah on the same level as Brahma, Allah, Vishnu, Zeus, Ra, or the pantheon of other false gods that have passed through man's history. Jehovah has proved Himself to be the One true God again and again, and we need to respect Him (Ecc. 12:13)! – Jarrod Jacobs

# People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



## *DNA From Philistine*

AN THE FIRST-EVER STUDY of DNA recovered from an ancient Philistine site is providing a unique genetic insight into the origins of some of the most notorious troublemakers of the Old Testament.

The authors of the Hebrew Bible made it clear that the Philistines were not like them: This "uncircumcised" group is described in several passages as coming from the "Land of Caphtor" (modern-day Crete) before taking control of the coastal region of what is now southern Israel and the Gaza Strip. They warred with their Israelite neighbors, even seizing the Ark of the Covenant for a time. Their representatives in the Bible include the giant Goliath, who was felled by the future king David, and Delilah, who robbed the Israelite Samson of his strength by cutting his hair.

Modern archaeologists agree that the Philistines were different from their neighbors: Their arrival on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean in the early 12th century B.C

Is marked by pottery with close parallels to

The ancient Greek world, the use of an

Aegean. —instead of a Semitic—script, and the consumption of pork.

Many researchers also tie the presence of the Philistines to the exploits of the Sea Peoples.

