

Study Guide for the ABWE Doctrinal Interview

Congratulations! Your application to serve as a career missionary with ABWE is being processed, and you are invited to take the next step of the doctrinal interview. The following study questions will help you prepare for your ABWE doctrinal interview. Be ready to answer these questions and articulate your answer with Scriptural support. The interview will be open-Bible, but we strongly recommend study.

1. The Scriptures

- How does God reveal himself? What is general revelation and special revelation? Where would you find them in Scripture?
- What is the Bible? What is verbal plenary inspiration, and why does it matter?
- What is meant by the idea of inerrancy? Why is it important?
- Define these elements related to the doctrine of Scripture: necessity, sufficiency, clarity, and authority.
- Should we translate the Bible into other languages? What makes for a good Bible translation?
- What is the Canon? Why do we have certain books in the Bible but not others? How do we know the right books have been identified to be in the Bible? Should we expect God to add new books of the Bible?

2. God

- Who is God? What is he like? What does it mean that God is a spirit?
- What is God's relationship to creation?
- Define the doctrine of the Trinity. What are some Scriptures that teach that God is triune?
- What does it mean that God is sovereign?
- What is the relationship between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility?
- What is the difference between God's incommunicable attributes and his communicable attributes? Why does it matter?
- Does God change? Does he change his mind?
- How is God viewed in the culture in which you are interested? What is that culture's worldview and how does it differ from biblical Christianity?

3. Christ

- What does the Bible mean when it teaches that Jesus is the Son of God?
- How does the Bible show us that Jesus is truly God?
- Is the Father equal to the Son or is he subordinate in his person and work?
- What does the Bible teach about the virgin birth? Why is it important?

- What is the incarnation? What does it mean? What is the relationship between Jesus' deity and his humanity?
- What does it mean that Jesus is truly God and truly man?
- Evaluate this statement: when Jesus became a man, he set aside his divine nature and divine attributes.
- What is the difference between Christ's humiliation and his exaltation?
- What is meant by the statement "Jesus rose again from the dead"? What is the nature of the resurrection? Why is the resurrection of Jesus important to the Christian faith?
- Where is Jesus now, and what is he doing?

4. The Holy Spirit

- Who is the Holy Spirit? How do we know he is a person?
- How is the Holy Spirit God? What is his relationship to the Father and the Son?
- What is the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration? In new birth? In sanctification?
- Can someone confess Jesus is Lord apart from the work of the Holy Spirit in them?
- What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit and when does it happen?
- What is the difference between the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Holy Spirit?
- What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the New Covenant?

5. Humanity

- How did human beings come into existence?
- What does it mean that human beings are made in the image of God? Define the image of God. Are women made in the image of God?
- What is the original state in which humans were created?
- What is meant by the Fall?
- What are the effects of Adam and Eve's first sin?
- How did Adam represent all humanity in the garden?

6. Sin

- Is God the author of sin? How do we relate the presence of sin in creation to God's sovereignty?
- Define sin. What are some Biblical passages that show us what sin is and how to define it?
- What is meant by the phrase "total depravity"? Is it a Biblical doctrine? How do you know?

7. Salvation

- What must a person do to be saved?
- What is the relationship between faith and repentance? Is a person saved if they have never repented of their sin?
- What did Jesus' death on the cross accomplish? What does penal substitutionary atonement mean, and why is it important? Where do we find that concept in the Bible?
- What do we mean by the phrase, "salvation is by grace alone"?
- Define "justification by faith alone." What do we mean when we say "Christ's righteousness is imputed to us"?
- Define: propitiation, redemption, regeneration, justification, imputation, sanctification, and glorification.
- Can a person lose their salvation? What about someone who professes to have faith for a time but later completely rejects Christ?

8. Church

- What is the definition of a local church? What is the "universal church"?
- What is the difference between the visible church and the invisible church?
- Who should be baptized, and how should they be baptized?
- Is baptism necessary for salvation?
- What does Scripture teach about the importance of preaching in the life of the church?
- Who is called to fulfill the Great Commission?
- What is a disciple? What is the Bible's portrait of a disciple? How do we make disciples?

9. Angels and Demons

- What are angels?
- What are demons? Who is Satan?
- Can a believer be possessed by a demon?
- Is God sovereign over the spirit world? Why does it matter?
- What is the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and the spirit world?

10. Eschatology

- What happens to a believer in Christ when they die?
- Why is it important that Jesus return bodily to earth?
- How does the return of Jesus Christ manifest his kingdom? What are the events surrounding the return of Jesus? What order do you put them in?
- What is the future hope of the believer regarding the resurrection?
- What is hell? Who goes there? How long is the punishment in hell?
- What is the New Heavens and the New Earth?