

Amen

Introduction: We have come to the last word in the Lord's prayer. That word is Amen.

1. What does Amen mean?

Amen means *verily, truly, that is the way it is*. Amen was taken from the Hebrew language into the Greek language, then transferred into Latin, and from the Latin it found its way into English and German, as well as into many other languages.

In the Greek Dictionary of the New Testament, the word is defined as: *amen, truly, or indeed*.

In Jeremiah 11:5 the word occurs in Hebrew and is translated as: *So be it.* Literally אֲמֵן יְיָ הוֹדָה : | אָמַרְתִּי וְאָמַרְתָּ is rendered as **And I answered and said, "So be it, LORD."** in the King James Version.

In Jeremiah 28:6 *Amen* is translated as *Amen*. וַיֹּאמֶר יִרְמְיָהּ הַנָּבִיא אָמֵן כֵּן יַעֲשֶׂה | is translated as **the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! The LORD do so"**

Perhaps that is the way the word is meant when it is used at the end of a prayer. "Amen, the Lord do so", or "So be it Lord."

2. Amen is one of the Names of God.

Amen is one of the names of God. God is faithful. God is true. Therefore he is called Amen. Amen is also one of the names given to Jesus. In the Book of Revelation we read:

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 ... 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.' He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (Revelation 3:14, 20-22)

Jesus is called Amen. This name shows one of his attributes. The Lord is faithful, and true. In 2 Corinthians 1:20 we read

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

What does this verse mean? In Christ all the Old Testament prophecies given in the Torah, Psalms and the Prophets have been fulfilled. Jesus said:

For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled (Matthew 5:18).

Again, the word translated as *assuredly* here is *Amen* in the Greek. Jesus came to fulfill the law. In everything He did, Jesus was clear in his motive to bring to completion all God ordained. Even when in the darkest hours of his life, He said: “Thy will be done.” No one was *Amen*, *true*, *faithful*, and without sin except Jesus. Now we are to follow in his footsteps and be faithful and true in all that we do.

3. Abraham believed God.

Amen and the verb aman both have the same Hebrew root. The verb aman can mean *support* or *nourish*. In the passive tense it can mean *made firm, sure, lasting*. In Hebrew there is a causative tense called the Hiphil. In the Hiphil *Aman* can mean *stand firm*, but also *trust* and *believe*. So if you use *Aman* in the Hiphil you believe or trust or make God or a person’s promise to be so in your mind or your heart. Literally, you cause it to be sure.

In Genesis 15:6 we read that Abraham “**believed the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness**” (Genesis 15:6). This word “believed” is the causative of aman or amen. So we can say that Abraham caused what God said to be amen for himself. It was certain, he took it as fact. He believed! How about us? Do we read God’s word and say Amen? Do you live out the word of God and make it Amen in your life?

4. How else is the word Amen used?

In the New King James Bible the word Amen does not occur in Mark, Luke, or John, except once at the very end, as the last word in each of these gospels. In the Greek New Testament the word occurs much more often. For example in the gospel of John, Amen occurs 51 times in Greek, but only once in English. It is noteworthy that except for the Lord’s prayer in Matthew, the prayers of Jesus do not end with Amen. So prayers do not need to end with the word Amen, although that is our custom. Nonetheless, it is a good custom. The letters of Paul, Peter, and Jude end with Amen. However the letters of James and the third letter of John do not.

Many preachers end their sermons with Amen. Some children then automatically reach for the hymnals. Once when Brother Sonnenberg said Amen, using it during his sermon, one of the little fellows thought now the sermon is finished. He was surprised when Brother Sonnenberg kept on preaching. It is a good habit to affirm the sermon by saying Amen to the preachers Amen. Also, when someone prays, we have the privilege of following that prayer, and when Amen is said we can add our affirmation to the prayer by then saying a loud Amen as well. Of course, for the person praying it is necessary to speak loudly and clearly so that the prayer can be understood and the congregation can say Amen. In another context Paul says:

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? (1 Corinthians 14:16)

In Deuteronomy 28 blessings are promised for obeying the voice of the Lord. But in Deuteronomy 27 we find the curses which are in store for specific sins and transgressions, to

which the people are to say Amen, after each one is proclaimed. It is noteworthy that the people are not instructed that they must say Amen after each blessing. Perhaps, God wanted them to realize the consequences of transgressing, and that if they transgressed and came under judgment, it was something they brought on themselves. They were aware ahead of time, what the punishment for transgression was.

5. The example of Jesus.

In the New Testament, Jesus used the word Amen quite a bit when he preached. It is translated as *truly*, *verily* or *assuredly*. I will list some of these scriptures, leaving the word Amen in the verse as it is in the original Greek.

Matthew 10:42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, Amen, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

Matthew 18:3 and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 21:21 ¶ So Jesus answered and said to them, "Amen,, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.

Mark 12:43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Amen,, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury;

Mark 14:9 Amen,, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.

Luke 23:43 ¶ And Jesus said to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Twenty-five times, John uses a double Amen in his version of the gospel. It is translated as *verily*, *verily* or *most assuredly*. Here are some of these scriptures:

John 3:3 ¶ Jesus answered and said to him, "Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:5 ¶ Jesus answered, "Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:11 Amen, Amen, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.

John 5:24 ¶ “Amen, Amen, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

John 5:25 Amen, Amen,, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

John 10:7 ¶ Then Jesus said to them again, “Amen, Amen, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

John 13:20 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”

John 16:23 ¶ “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Amen, Amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

Summary

The word Amen is the last word in the Lord’s prayer. It means *so be it*, or *assuredly*. It is good when we pray out loud that we pray in such a manner that others can understand what we are saying, so that they too can say Amen at the end of our prayer, confirming the prayer and sending their petition up to God along with the person who has prayed. In the Book of Revelation, *Amen* is one of the names attributed to Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is the faithful witness. All the prophecies given by Moses, the Psalms, and the prophets are fulfilled in him. Many of the New Testament letters as well as the gospels end with the word Amen. Many of the sayings of Jesus are strengthened with the expression Amen, or in the gospel of John with Amen, Amen. Included in this is the saying

Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Also Amen, Amen, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

May God grant to each and every one of us that we are born again. Since we have eternal life through faith in Christ, let us live in such a way that we bring glory to the name of the Lord. God bless you all, Amen.

Questions

1. What does the word *Amen* mean?
2. From which language did *Amen* originate?
3. Name 4 languages into which the word *Amen* has been imported.
4. In Jeremiah 11:15, how is the word *Amen* translated into English?
5. Whose Name is *Amen*?
6. How often does *Amen* occur in English in Mark, Luke, and John?
7. How often does *Amen* occur in the original Greek in the gospel of John?
8. Must one say *Amen* at the end of a prayer? Explain.

9. When public prayer, state two functions for the word *Amen*
10. Why do you think that John uses the double *Amen*?