

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

Week 15: You Want What? - Answer Guide

Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.

1. The Septuagint is a Greek interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures around 250 B.C. and it combined Samuel and Kings as 1, 2, 3, 4 Book of Kingdoms. This confirms the relationship and the continuous chronological nature of both books. Jerome, when he compiled the Latin Vulgate, treated the two books in a similar fashion by naming them 1, 2, 3, 4 Book of Kings. Within 1, 2 Kings outside sources are mentioned as used by the author. They are the book of the annals of Solomon (11:41), of the kings of Israel (14:19) and of the Kings of Judah (14:29).

2. Joshua is addressing the nations of Israel whereas David is addressing his predecessor, Solomon. They both warn of impending doom as a consequence of falling away from God's commandments. Joshua warns against syncretism or blending into the surrounding cultures and diluting their faith in Yahweh. David had virtually wiped out most idols and customs contrary to God's law and warned Solomon to remain faithful to Yahweh. Joshua's reason is almost personable whereas David's purpose is so God will maintain His promise of providing a future leader from his lineage (2 Samuel 7:25, Psalm 132:12).

In both speeches we see the emphasis of obeying the laws or commandments of God's Word. As you will discover as you read the Bible, an underlying theme throughout Scripture is obedience to God's Word. For it is His Word that has the power to change lives, to honor God in our lives and to glorify Him through worship. His Word, and obedience to it, warrants the blessings of God.

3. Solomon in Hebrew means "peace" (1 Chronicles 22:9). David may have had in mind that Solomon's rule would be more peaceful than his own which was marked by many wars and conquests. Jedidiah means "beloved of God." David in Hebrew means "beloved." It is clear that God wanted people to know that despite Solomon's tumultuous future, God still loved him. If anything, Solomon's life is a testament to God's patience, mercy and forgiving nature. Nathan made sure that Solomon was rightfully crowned King at David's passing.

4. Adonijah had demonstrated that he was a threat to Solomon's kingship. Joab's allegiance was not aligned with Solomon but with Adonijah and was a threat to his kingship. Shimei was given parameters to live by staying in Jerusalem. His death was brought upon his own self by breaking his curfew. Abiathar was a priest for David and carried the Holy Ark. Solomon respected him and allowed him to live fulfilling prophecy found in 1 Samuel 2:30.

5. There was no way the King could discern who rightly owned the living child by simply having the facts presented to him for he could not read the women's minds. He thought beyond the obvious by appealing to the emotions of the rightful owner. It was a genius move by Solomon but the idea must have been given to him by God. Solomon's extravagant wisdom began to be recognized by people outside his kingdom (1 Kings 4:29-34). For us, it is good practice to step back and try to perceive God's point of view in circumstances we are faced with. The what-would-Jesus-do phrase comes to mind in seeking to do the will of God.

6. The Temple Solomon built mirrored the layout of the Tabernacle God gave Moses instructions to build in the Sinai. It is a picture of sinful man approaching the Holiness of God. First, there is only one gate of entrance to the Temple outer court (Jesus is the only way!). Once inside the outer court you approach the brazen altar of sacrifice where you hand off your sacrificial animal for the priest to offer to God. This event pictures Jesus being sacrificed on the cross and His atoning blood covering our sin. Next, is the wash basin which is a symbol of baptism for the believer. Then you enter the holy place where the shewbread symbolizes the provision of God, the menorah

symbolizes the light of God and the altar of incense symbolizes the prayers of the saints. Finally, there is the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant sits with the mercy seat of God atop it. Only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies and that was once a year after he was purified.

7. Besides different building materials and slightly different dimensions, the Temple's layout is an exact replica of the Tabernacle. Instead of a surrounding fence, the Temple had 3-story walls. The Temple amplified the Holy Place and Holy of Holies in grandiose size only. The Temple even faced the East like the Tabernacle did when erected. Both structures outline the path for sinful man to approach the Holy God Almighty. The Temple was a comforting sight to behold to all Jews for it was there that God, Yahweh, resided among His people.

8. Solomon's prayer, dedication and benediction of the Temple are simply beautiful words expressed to a holy God. You will benefit greatly if you take some time and research topics in it like "humility in approaching God," "the depravity of man," "continuous praise and worship," and more. Look at Solomon's high view of God in his prayer and his posture while praying. This prayer is a beautiful model to apply to our own daily prayers.

9. In 10:23-25 Solomon captivated the world by his wealth and wisdom. His pride began to run amuck with all the attention. In 11:1-3 Solomon is tempted by a vast number of women and begins to build altars to their various gods. The entire book of Ecclesiastes details the feelings and emotions Solomon experienced during his reign. These same temptations are used by the Devil and his ruthless minions to trip up faithful believers in their walk.

Additional Questions:

1. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

2. Moses told the Israelites to teach the law, ordinances, statues, etc. to their children (Deuteronomy 11:19). Children should be constantly reminded of the power of God in their parent's lives. This is important today because we can become lax and allow the world to influence our children if we're not diligent to teach them God's ways. If we don't teach our children the ways of God the world will certainly teach them the ways of the world.

As devout Christians we must constantly be in His Word on a daily basis. We must practice prayer on a daily basis. In addition, practice fellowshiping with like-minded believers, perform service and ministry within the confines of the church and worship God throughout the week. Our faith is fueled by all of these things.

3. Answers will vary depending on personal experience. Reference answer guide for question 6 above.

