

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

Week 18: True Cost of Worship - 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. Ezra records the genealogies of the Israelites to maintain Israel's racial and religious purity. It distinguishes true Jews from the Samaritans who remained in Judah during the exile. He wanted to record the proper priesthood lineage by showing the priests were true Jews that served in the rebuilding of the Temple. His genealogies focused mainly on Judah and Benjamin and the lineage of King David.

2. It is highly probable that Ezra used the Kings to write Chronicles (2 Chronicles 16:11; 27:7; etc.).

Ezra omits:

- David's initial lack of success in Judah's civil war
- David's sins
- Solomon's failures
- The entire history of apostate Kings of Northern Israel

In line with his purpose, Ezra doesn't focus on past failures but future hopes. He needed to encourage the remnant to worship God and trust Him. Angels are emphasized more; the transcendent majesty of God is emphasized; he warns unfaithful kings that their sin will lead to defeat. Ezra emphasized that faith in God leads to victory.

3. 1 Chronicles 16 is written as a Hebrew chiasm which illustrates the importance of true worship. Ezra includes this pericope to remind the returning Israelites of what pure and holy worship looks like. Remember, the Jews were returning to Jerusalem and would eventually rebuild the Temple and institute the priestly duties.

SONG OF PRAISE Chiasm (1 Chronicles 16:2–43)

A David blesses and feeds the people (16:2)

B David appoints Levites to service of the ark (16:3–6)

C Role of Asaph and his sons is highlighted (16:7)

D "Praise the Lord . . ." (16:8)

E "Sing to the Lord . . ." (16:9–22)

E' "Sing to the Lord . . ." (16:23–33)

D' "Praise the Lord . . ." (16:34–36)

C' Role of Asaph and his sons is highlighted (16:37)

B' David appoints Levites to service of the ark, and of the cultic center in Gibeon (16:38–42)

A' People disperse; David turns to bless his house (16:43)

Evidence of Pure Worship:

- Verse 8 – Give Thanks
- Verse 9 – Sing to Him
- Verse 11 – Search for Him
- Verse 25 – Declare His Glory, Acclaim His Majesty
- Verse 29 – Bring an Offering

4. The two verses in question are:

“Now again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and it incited David against them to say, “Go, number Israel and Judah.” – 2 Samuel 24:1 (Written by Samuel)

“Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel.” – 1 Chronicles 21:1 (Written by Ezra)

A good explanation of the seeming contradiction between these two verses can be found at

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/davids-census>

A lesson to be learned here is that sin is birthed from our wicked hearts. It can also be incited by outside temptations that God’s adversary, Satan, puts before us. In either case, God is not taken by surprise for He knows the heart of man and He knows Satan’s strategies of temptation. Nothing happens on earth to man that hasn’t been filtered through the hands of God (Romans 8:28).

5. Mt. Moriah was where Abraham ascended to offer Isaac as a sacrifice (Genesis 22:2) and where the future Temple was to be built (2 Chronicles 3:1). Araunah in Hebrew means “I shall shout for joy,” where as Ornan means “light has perpetuated (keep going)” in Hebrew. A threshing floor was usually at the highest elevation where the strongest winds would separate the chaff from the wheat.

6. After purchasing Mt. Moriah, David offered a burnt (or propitiary) offering to make atonement (Leviticus 1:4-5). The general purpose of the burnt offering was to make atonement for sin and express one’s devotion to God. Afterwards, David offered a fellowship (or peace, “shelem”) offering (Leviticus 3). This was an offering of thanksgiving. The purpose of the peace offering was to consecrate a meal between the two parties, in this case between David and God (portions unsuitable for eating were given to God, Leviticus 7:19-27).

7. Jesus distinguishes the difference between lip service and heart worship by quoting the prophet Isaiah (29:13) in Matthew 15:8-9. He continues with the true cost of worship (giving your all and dispossessing everything as a living sacrifice, Romans 12:1) in Luke 14:25-35. Finally, Jesus says true worship is in the spirit because God is Spirit (John 4:23-24). The writer of Hebrews comments that worship should be a continual sacrifice of praise and service (Hebrews 13:15-16). In addition, singing, praying, repenting, confessing, and service are acts of true worship. When we explore the life of David more fully in the Psalms, you will recognize that David practiced all these ways of worship in his life. King David knew that he could not worship God if given the property so he offered to buy it for its true value.

8. David confessed to God his sin and repented (he turned 180 degrees), offered proper sacrifices, sang and praised God (Psalm 51). Answers may vary regarding personal experiences in this matter.

Additional Questions:

1. Written by different authors during different times to different audiences is what distinguishes the two books of Kings and Chronicles. Although the subject matter is similar, it is these differences that contributed to the two books being canonized into Scripture by the Jewish sages.

2. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

3. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

