

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

Week 25: Life Changing Psalms - 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. There is simply nothing of value in this world that comes close to redeeming a soul from hell. Only the blood of Jesus can satisfy the wrath and ransom God demands to reconcile His people back to Him. Anything besides the blood of Jesus is a futile attempt (works) at redeeming one's soul.

2. Asaph was David's faithful choir leader from his youth (1 Chronicles 1; 6:39; 20:14; 2 Chronicles 29:30; Ezra 2:41). His brother was Zechariah who was murdered by Solomon's guards in the Temple (2 Chronicles 24:20-22). Asaph served as the leader of music under David most of his life. Later he served in the same capacity under Solomon at the dedication of the Temple. He lived long enough to witness the breaking apart of David's kingdom when Solomon died. Psalms attributed to Asaph are 50; 73-83.

The sons of Korah (reference 2 Chronicles 20:19) were singers for Tabernacle and Temple worship. Korah was Moses and Aaron's cousin who later led a rebellion against them. An in-depth description of Korah and his sons can be found at <https://www.gotquestions.org/sons-of-Korah.html>

Both Asaph and the sons of Korah were blessed with musical skills and voices to sing.

3. David exhibits humility in his outward confession of sin before God. He acknowledges original sin, the fact that he was sinful from conception. After repentance David desires God to create in him a new heart, a rebirth of sorts, along with a continuous spirit that seeks to please the heart of God (2 Corinthians 5:9). David exhibited a broken heart when his sin was exposed. The one thing that satisfies God is a broken and contrite spirit, one who acknowledges his depravity and complete need of a Savior. David was such a man and we can learn to exhibit this same repentive attitude in our walk with Christ. Although our sins are forgiven, we must still approach the throne of God with a repentive heart.

4. Ahithophel was Bathsheba's grandfather (2 Samuel 11:3; 23:34) and David's most trusted and esteemed advisor (2 Samuel 16:23). It is most disheartening when a trusted friend, like Ahithophel, betrays you, much like when Judas betrayed Jesus. It is likely that Ahithophel harbored resentment in his heart after David committed adultery with his granddaughter. Ahithophel's name, in Hebrew means "brother of foolishness." 2 Samuel 15:31 is a play on words! It's interesting to ponder what David saw in Ahithophel that made him want to make him a close advisor? Psalm 55:13 reveals the closeness the two shared.

5. Psalm 56 is describing David's feelings as he was taken in by the Philistines as he fled Saul. This is the only recorded time where David expressed fear of man (reference 2 Samuel 21:12). This psalm counteracts that fear and helped David cope with a dire situation. Verses 3-4 and 10-11 are powerfully encouraging verses and should be part of every Christians mantra. What can mere man do to us when we place our trust in God?

6. David is humble before God, praising Him in song in the midst of darkness (literally). He is confident in the work of God much like Peter/John (Acts 4) and Paul/Silas (Acts 16:25) in the same type of "cave" of imprisonment. This psalm has profound teaching to us today when we face turmoil & darkness.

7. Psalm 59:6-15 is a chiasm as shown below. The main thought is revealed in vs 10. Again, David expresses joy and gladness of heart in trusting God to save him.

A – Treacherous return howling at evening (59:6)

B – They belch forth pride (59:7)

C – God scoffs at the nations (59:8)

D – God is with me (always) (59:9-10a)

C' – God scatters the nations (59:10b-11)

B' – They are defeated because of their words (pride) (59:12-13)

A' – Treacherous return howling at evening (59:14-15)

8. Psalm 62 was written, more than likely, during Absalom's rebellion and while David and his army were hiding. God is David's "rock," his "salvation" and a "high tower," all metaphors of the immovable faithfulness of God.

The author of James 4:14 may have been focused on Psalm 62:9 as he related that man is only a vapor.

9. David was most familiar with the cherubim that protected the Ark of God in the Tabernacle of old. Their wings covered the Ark and in their "shadow" rested the Ark. David cherished the Ark and made it his lifelong dream to prepare the Temple to house the Ark of God. He may have been thinking about the "safety" found in the shadow of God's wings. Jesus used the same metaphor in Luke 13:34, again, regarding the safety under the wings.

10. Abraham complained to God about Sarah's bareness (Genesis 15). Moses complained to God about the stubbornness of the people he was tasked to lead (Exodus 5:22-23). The prophet Elijah complained to God when he ran from Jezebel (1 Kings 19). There are many instances in the Scriptures where godly priests, prophets, kings and ordinary people complain to God. In every instance God is not surprised! He listens and it seems that complaining eventually strengthens the relationship with God in every case.

Most of David's complaints are in his psalms. Venting oftentimes releases pent up anger and we usually feel better after spilling our frustrations. The key is to remember that God is omnipotent and omniscient. He hears His people.

11. A couple of key points in these psalms are Psalm 65:3 exclaiming that only God can atone, or forgive, our sins. Psalm 65:4 points to the fact that God chooses us. Psalm 66:4 is Messianic in that it proclaims that all the earth will sing praises to You, a feat that will only occur in the eternal kingdom.

12. David saw God on His throne and His people praising Him continuously. He saw Him as the bearer of our iniquities/burdens. He expressed God's love for His people. Psalm 68:18 is quoted by Paul in Ephesians 4:8 who saw a prediction of the ascension of Christ.

There are 5 divisions suggested for Psalm 68:

1. The advent (1-6)
2. The accomplishments (7-17)
3. The ascension (18-21)
4. The announcement (22-31)
5. The appeal (32-35))

Messianic verses appear in 69:19-21. Psalm 69 is quoted seven times in the New Testament, all pointing to its Messianic nature.

Additional Questions:

- 1.** We should abhor sin for it is direct rebellion to God's will. To approach a holy, righteous and just God we must be sinless. As Christians we know our sins are forgiven, but living in this body we will continue to sin. Therefore, we must repent, knowing the blood of Jesus covers us, before we approach God in prayer.
- 2.** Answers will vary depending on personal experience.
- 3.** Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

