

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

Week 27: Praise the Eternal King - 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. In Psalm 93 the LORD is depicted as wearing majestic garb, a symbol of His position and authority. He is perched upon His throne and lifted above all else. Being raised above their subjects, kings of old projected their authority and kingly status to their subjects. Seeing that God created all the kings, He certainly rules over them and can remove them at anytime.

Side Notes:

- In Old Testament symbolism raging waters represented rebellion, chaos and hostility, often directed towards God (Isaiah 17:12-13). In the New Testament, Jesus both calmed the storm and walked on water showing His authority over chaos.
- Psalm 93:1 conveys a geocentric solar system and was used to convict Galileo of his proposed, and blasphemous, heliocentric proposal of the universe.

2. In Genesis 18:23-33 Abraham seems to negotiate with God about destroying the wicked in Sodom. God exercises extreme patience in bringing forth His wrath in judgement here. But be sure, that all people, good and evil, will face judgement of God. Psalm 94, like Genesis 18:23-33, heeds a warning of coming judgement upon an evil people who seem to ignore it.

Make no mistake, God's judgement is evident and sure for He will judge all people according to His perfect law. Man's thoughts are mere breath in the wind, here today and gone tomorrow. As 1 Corinthians 3:20 states, God knows the futile thoughts of man. The wicked are unaware of the swift justice which God will administer in His timing. Though God's judgement is a sure thing to come, He exercises great patience in wanting His creation to return to him in humility and repentance.

3. The author of Hebrews states explicitly that the writer of Psalm 95 was King David. The urgent message is that TODAY is the day, don't wait to acknowledge God, give Him praise today! We are to bow and kneel to Him as our Great Shepherd who provides, protects and sustains us in our daily lives as we seek to worship Him. Do not imitate the Israelites of the past who had hardened hearts.

4. The entire earth and all the nations are important to Yahweh and He deliberately and purposefully chose Israel as His instrument to convey His glory (i.e. His reputation) and to draw other nations to Him. His workmanship (the earth) is evident to all to see and ponder His majesty. No one is without excuse (Romans 1) and everyone should take time to ponder their existence and purpose in life in light of His glory.

5. The author employs Hebrew prosopopoeia, the giving of life to an inadequate object, thus emphasizing the characteristics of God. Psalm 98:9 says He's coming to earth to judge the world according to His righteousness and those clothed in righteousness (believers) will pass His judgment. His throne is in Jerusalem on Mt. Zion above the cherubim. His footstool is the earth below. Moses, Aaron and Samuel are specifically called out as priests who called on God's Name, followed His statutes and commands and God answered them, forgave them and punished them for their misdeeds. These psalms portray the complete spectrum of God, from the great and wrathful Judge to the compassionate and graceful Savior of mankind.

6. We serve a Mighty God who is our Creator, Sustainer, Provider and Protector, and worthy of our utmost praise. We have everything to be thankful for; a God who loves us and is patient with our weaknesses; our very existence; our sins being forgiven by an offering of grace and much more. Like the psalmist says, we should enter our worship experience with thanksgiving, praise and acknowledging God for who He is and what's He's done. Praising the Lord with this attitude humbles us and assists in our service to Him.

7. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua had just conquered most of Canaan and extinguished many false gods (cleaned house so to speak). However, some wickedness still existed that the Israelites lived among and tolerated. So Joshua makes the same offer that David does here in Psalm 101:2. Everyone has free will and has a choice to follow God or rebel against His Word and will. Joshua and David both chose to lead their households in the way of integrity. They both lead their families in the ways of the Lord found in Scripture. We would do well to make the same decision.

8. Affliction is real and severe, but the love of the Lord has never ceased to flow from the lips of the author. The psalm outlines our purpose in verse 21, to declare the glory of God to the world through our living. We should never forget to praise the Lord in all circumstances, good and bad. He acknowledges (Psalm 102:9-11) his dire condition is a result of God's wrath, i.e., God is in control. Verse 18 is forward looking to a new generation to never forget to praise the Lord in all circumstances.

9. Psalm 104:3 mentions God makes the clouds His chariot, a vision of Jesus' second coming (Luke 21:27). Psalm 104:24 states that God employed wisdom in making the earth. Christ is the epitome of wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16). According to Colossians 1:15-20, Jesus was present when God the Father created all things and they were made by Him, through Him, and for Him.

Side note: Psalm 104:19 alludes to the lunar calendar used by the Jews.

10. New Testament writers quote verse 1 four times (Matthew 22:44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42; Acts 2:34; parts in 1 Corinthians 15:25; Hebrews 1:13). Notice in verse 1 the terms used for Lord: The LORD (Yahweh) said to my Lord (Adonai). This verse is important in that David is saying God the Father speaks to God the Son. The prophetic utterances are listed in verses 1-3. They proclaim a Davidic figure, acting as Yahweh's military representative (King) on earth, and that He will expand God's influence to the surrounding nations. The "You" in verse 4 is Jesus since He is described as the priest like Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 4:14-5:10, 6:13-81). He will judge the nations as stated in verse 6. A head lifted up symbolizes a victorious ruler.

Additional Questions:

1. David knew that God was patient, merciful and full of grace for He exercised all these qualities in David's life. He knew that God would one day restore Israel to glory. According to Psalm 110, David knew God's judgement had to be exercised and through it a remnant would emerge glorious and victorious. He knew the "who," but he simply did not know the details of how and when.

2. Answers will vary depending on personal experience. The Psalms give us comfort in knowing God's love is eternal towards us. This love of God motivates us to share with others that the same love is offered to them if only they would surrender to Him. In addition, the Psalms encourages us when we hit a dip in the road of life and comforts us when we are down. Great solace can be found in the Psalms.

3. Walking in the way of integrity is equated to walking in righteousness (Psalm 7:8; 15:2; 25:21; 26:1, 11). This cannot be done in our own efforts, but only when the Holy Spirit lives within us (as it did in David, Psalm 51:11).

4. Refer to this link for information: <https://bibleproject.com/articles/abraham-melchizedek-jesus/>

