

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

Week 31: Turn From Your Sin - 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 that day" occurs 89 times in Scripture, 40 times in the book of Isaiah. It generally refers to the coming day when the nation of Israel (all 12 tribes) will repent and be restored in a right relationship with the LORD. Some believe it refers to the return of the exiles to Jerusalem. Most biblical scholars believe it refers to the coming Messiah who will rescue the remnant of believers willing to give their all to servanthood to the LORD (occurs 14 times in Isaiah). The remnant refers to those few Jews who survived the destruction of Israel and Judah. Some were exiled to Assyria and Babylon, some remained in Samaria and Jerusalem. Remnant is also used apocalyptically referring to believers in the New Testament who are called by God, survive the Tribulation and are raptured up by Jesus in His return to earth.

2. It appears Isaiah experienced God's presence in the Temple (either earthly or heavenly?). This is the only place in the Bible where "seraphim" is used to describe heavenly angels. The word means "fiery ones." Isaiah shows great humility in his calling like most other holy prophets (Moses, Gideon, etc.). The glowing coals could represent Jesus since they were the object of fiery judgment and atoning sin. Isaiah 6:9-10 are strikingly similar to Jesus' explanation of His use of parables in Matthew 13:10-17. Isaiah's willingness to abide in God's calling is a testament to his faith and calling.

3. There are a wide range of various interpretations of this pericope and a good biblical scholar should be aware of all of them to properly understand its reference. However, in light of how Matthew interpreted it (Matthew 1:23), it seems to be a prophetic vision of the birth of Jesus Christ, the future Messiah. Space does not allow how this conclusion is drawn, but good biblical research should lead to this interpretation. A good interpretation can be found at <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/isaiah-7-14.html>

4. The two names in 8:1,3 mean "swift is the booty, speedy is the prey" and describe how quick and ruthless the Assyrians will destroy Judah. Playing on another name, Immanuel, introduced in chapter 7, Isaiah wishes for the Judeans to turn from their idolatry and turn to YHWH. The Word of God (8:16, 20) plays a vital role in trusting in the LORD to defeat the Assyrians. Isaiah's hope for Israel is faith in YHWH that will save the Israelites. Likewise, all our battles we face today can be won when we place our trust in God's Word and faith that He is with us.

5. Isaiah paints a vivid and comforting picture of the future Israel where a ruling child, born from the lineage of David, will establish His kingdom and lead His people to peace. He will be Mighty God, meaning God incarnate, pointing to the son of God, Jesus. Chapter 11 adds to this promise.

6. The shining star is a reference to Satan who was cast out of heaven for wanting to be like the Most High. His final demise is the deep pit of Sheol which is verified by John in Revelation 20:10. Matthew Henry has a good commentary on this subject:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/isaiah/14.html>

7. "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!" is the mantra of Epicureanism which was founded by the philosopher Epicurus who lived some 300 years later than Isaiah. It points to the greatest desire of the narcissist who live for themselves without regard for others. This points to the natural, evil hearts of men born into sin.

8. It is abundantly clear that God desires worship from the heart, meaning true devotion, awe and wonder from His creation. Lip service with diluted hearts is an abomination. In regards to Paul's quote, true faith is born from the heart, not the mind (wisdom). God's ways aren't man's ways. A true, repentant and empty heart that requires a crucified Christ is what leads one to faith in God, not lofty words.

9. This Scripture was used to create our three branches of government (Legislative, Judicial and Executive) because, in context, man is too evil to allow one branch all the power to govern. YHWH is Judge (Judicial), Lawgiver (Legislative) and King (Executive).

10. Hezekiah, King of Judah, was surrounded by 180,000 Assyrians ready to destroy Jerusalem. He places the letter from the Assyrians on the alter in the Temple before God asking for an answer. Like David with Goliath, Hezekiah says his enemies are mocking God. Isaiah prophecies the King of Assyria's death. One of the greatest miracles in the Bible is the death of 180,000 Assyrians by the hand of God to relieve Hezekiah's dilemma. As quoted in Isaiah 31:3, "Egyptians are men, not God; their horses are flesh, not spirit." The battle is and always has been spiritual.

Additional Questions:

1. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

2. John definitely was versed in the scroll of Isaiah. This link has a good breakdown of the Isaiah quotes found in Revelation: <http://www.johnsnotes.com/documents/OldTestamentReferencesintheBookofRevelation.pdf>

3. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

