

# *Know the God of Scripture*

Volume 1

## **Week 34: Great is Your Faithfulness - 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 Branch of Righteousness, the righteous Judge, is Jesus. From Him God promises:

- The nation would be restored from captivity (30:3)
- The branch of Righteousness will rule over a united monarchy (33:14-15)
- The nation will have peace and prosperity in the land (31:27-28)
- A new covenant of forgiveness and restoration (31:31-34)
- Jerusalem will be rebuilt as a holy city never destroyed (31:38-40)

2. In Jeremiah 36:9 a national fast was called because King Neb had destroyed the surrounding cities and was honing in on Jerusalem. King Jehoiakim had previously slaughtered Uriah, another prophet (26:20-23). At this time Jeremiah was in hiding. Baruch, his scribe, was instructed to read the words of the scroll to the king. Upon hearing that the king burned the scroll, Jeremiah cursed him, forecasted his death and began to rewrite the scroll with Baruch's help. In essence Jeremiah was saying, "you may be able to burn the scroll, but you will never destroy the Word of God."

3. After years of interaction with God, Jeremiah was convinced he was God's mouthpiece and he had developed a burning passion, an unquenchable desire, to proclaim the truth to his people regardless of the harmful consequences that awaited him. Now, the question is, do you/we have the same passion to spread the truth?

4. Jeremiah 37:20 reveals Jeremiah did ask Zedekiah not to send him to the dungeon on his first meeting, so maybe a half-lie? This passage reveals the human frailties of a great prophet put in a situation where he had to decide to follow God or man.

5. The Word of God is true and comforting. Whether perceived as good or bad by us, we should always obey God's calling. The people did not listen to Jeremiah because they did not like the message he delivered to them. Often God calls us to give everything up for His purpose and we balk. Obeying God requires complete sacrifice of our possessions, desires and will. Things like confessing sin, seeking forgiveness or church discipline are not easy to do, but in the long run they are required by God. Are you able to quote this truth?

6. Judah succumbed to worshipping foreign gods (Magog, Baal, Chemosh, Bel, Marduk), they trusted only in their own efforts/power and Egypt's protection. They did two things; 1) they turned from God and 2) they turned to worship other gods (even themselves!). In our day and age, it is just as easy to succumb to the same temptations. Every day we battle fleshly desires that tend to draw us away from God.

7. God is omnipotent and has the power to move men to assure His will is carried out. God often interacts in history to assure His will is done. We must recognize this ability of God to create circumstances we experience that may not be what we desired and see them for what they are, the hand of God directing men/women and to prompt us to follow Him always. Nothing occurs that has not been filtered through the hand of God. Knowing God interacts in history is a testament to knowing your God is a BIG God.

8. King Neb laid a 2-year siege on Jerusalem. During the siege people were starving so much so they began to eat their young. During the destruction soldiers carried off the valuable utensils and everything in the treasury. They destroyed the two bronze pillars, the wash basin and walls of the Temple. Witnessing this great event assuredly brought tears to Jeremiah's eyes.

9. Lamentations is mentioned in 2 Chronicles 35:25 and claims to have been written at the death of King Josiah. Lamentations is an elegy filled with tears and suffering.

Israel (at one time) and Job were both considered to be righteous. Like Job, everything was taken away from the Israelites. Like Job, Israel questioned the wrath of God as a consequence of their sin. Like Job, Israel had peace and prosperity restored upon the return of the remnant back to the promised land. Like Job, the point of God's discipline was to edify His name to surrounding nations.

### **Additional Questions:**

1. The verse alluded to in the question is actually found in 2 Chronicles 36:12, not 35:12. In short, King Zedekiah was to pay homage and taxes to King Nebuchadnezzar since he conquered Judah. However, the King of Egypt had promised to help fight against King Nebuchadnezzar with Judah. King Zedekiah put his faith in the protective help of Egypt and his own army instead of trusting in the Lord. Trusting in self is a sure-fire way to not live in accordance to God's will.

2. Answers will vary depending on personal experience. The closer you are to God the bigger He seems. When we're close to God, we see Him as omnipotent and omniscient in every way. When the world seems to be spiraling downward toward sin and debauchery, we understand that God could be causing that to get us to turn from our personal sin and towards Him. Likewise, when we witness an atheist or agnostic in their selfish sin, we understand that God knows their hardened heart and it may be a call for us to share the gospel with them.

The underlying message here is that God is in control of everything. There is no event that has happened that hasn't been filtered through His hands. Reference Romans 8:28.

