

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

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Week 35: A New Heart - 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. He was a priest who had received several dreams and visions and became the mouthpiece of YHWH during the Israelite captivity in Babylon. Ezekiel means “God strengthens” and we know “the hand of the Lord was upon him” (1:3; 3:14, 22; 8:1; 33:22; 37:1; 40:1). He was taken into exile with King Jehoiachin. He was married but his wife died during his ministry. He served during the prophecying of Daniel and Jeremiah.

2. Ezekiel 1:28 says, “this was the appearance of the form of YHWH’s glory,” an insight to the throne of God which appeared in human form bathed in brilliance and light. It is an awe-inspiring description of the glory of the Lord that should humble the most hardened heart to repentance and subjection to worship the Almighty. This seems like the same theophany the apostle John described in Revelation 4. The Lord’s glory is mentioned 16 times in Ezekiel.

3. Nowhere else in the Old Testament is this name mentioned except in Daniel 7:13 referring to Jesus’s return (confirmed by Jesus Himself - Matthew 24:30; 26:64; Mark 13:26; 14:62; Luke 21:27; Revelation 1:7, 13; 14:14) and Daniel 8:17 as God addresses Daniel. This title seems to be an allusion to Ezekiel being God’s special representative or mouthpiece to all of mankind. Jesus was called this in Luke 19:10 to emphasize His humanity.

4. Rarely were scrolls written on front and back (only in Ezekiel 2:10 and Revelation 5:1). An interpretation could be that God wanted Ezekiel to speak a lot to the nation of Israel. Though this message was one of judgement, it was still God’s word. The sweetness came from the source (God) of the words rather than the content of the words (judgement). This same thought was expressed by David (Psalm 19:10), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 15:16) and John (Revelation 10:9-11). God’s word, as harsh as it is to accept sometimes, is pure and holy, sweet to the soul and if devoured will transform us into a clearer and more effective image of the living God. This verse speaks of the importance of reading God’s Word daily as food for the soul.

5. Watchmen were stationed atop the highest watchtower to heed warning of impending danger to the people in the walled city. Likewise, we are to warn people of their wicked ways, to announce that repentance and subjection to God’s Word is salvation to the soul. We are God’s sounding board to those in need of Him. God will hold each of us accountable for our actions as watchman for Him.

6. Ezekiel, under direction of the Holy Spirit, is doing his best to describe a theophany he had which is very similar to the one described in chapter 1. It could be said this is Jesus, but more than likely the brilliance was overwhelming to Ezekiel trying to express his vision of the throne of God. Ezekiel is taken on a virtual trip to witness the abominations occurring in Jerusalem and specifically the temple, all leading up to its destruction.

7. After the destruction of Jerusalem, a remnant will return to a desolated Judah and will remove all vile idols and purge the land and themselves of all evil. Israel’s external difficulties resulted from her corrupted internal heart condition. God vows to correct that by changing them from the inside out. This is identical to Isaiah and Jeremiah’s remnant prophecy. God will spare the faithful to preserve the lineage of David and to fulfill the covenant He made with Abraham.

8. The people were repeating this proverb that basically denounced Ezekiel's prophecy of doom and destruction implementing him as a false prophet. God vows to stop this nonsense and prove to the people Ezekiel's integrity as His true mouthpiece.

9. God saved Israel like saving an unwanted child. He then married Israel and adorned her in beauty. She later broke her vows and adulterated herself by worshiping other gods and idols and seeking salvation from Egypt and other surrounding nations. She was acting like a prostitute.

10. Each individual is responsible for their own actions and will be held accountable by God. Collaboratively, a rebellious people will constitute a rebellious nation. Repentance begins with the individual and will spread to the nation. Like D. L. Moody's famous saying, "The world has yet to see what God can do with one man whose heart is completely His." Many times God is impacting the world by the obedience of just one man.

Additional Questions:

1. Like watchmen on a wall, we have a responsibility to share the gospel with as many people as possible in our lifetime. Jesus commanded us to in the Great Commission recorded in Matthew 28. Our motivation comes from within, from our passion to be obedient and subservient to the Lord.

2. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

3. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

