

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

(revised 10/04/2024)

Week 36: My Servant David - 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 ruler/prince (Hebrew: *nagid* means the man at the top) was Ethbaal III whose underlying sin was pride which prompted him to view himself as a god. The king (Hebrew: *melek* used only once in Ezekiel) behind the ruler's actions was Satan himself, who desired to be God and is accused of pride and lying. He was a beautiful and wise angel before the fall. Both will meet the same ending. Paul references Satan's demise in qualifying elders (1 Timothy 3:6-7).
- 2.** Height is equated to the pride of her greatness; birds and beasts nestling in her are nations under her domain, Great cedar (tallest tree in the region) represented Assyria in her prime. She was eventually cut down by the ruthless Babylonians. God restrained her water source (God's hand) causing her to be destined to rot in Sheol without a proper burial, something repulsive to Egyptians who believed in proper burial for the underworld.
- 3.** A watchman was to warn the people in the city of impending danger as we should do also. Jerusalem had fallen and Ezekiel was to warn both those who stayed behind and the new captives. Those who stayed were claiming the land based on mere numbers, yet still committing sins that were judged by God. In contrast, those who heard the prophecy of Ezekiel were attentive, but still rebellious. This is a Pastor's nightmare!
- 4.** Ezekiel now addresses Israel's shepherds, a common metaphor for leaders, both kings and priests. They were guilty of neglecting the poor, hungry, sick, and lost sheep of Israel. They thought only of themselves and how they could prosper on the backs of their people. It did not go unnoticed by God. God clearly wanted them to care for those they led and to be sacrificial in their ruling.
- 5.** Because his appointed shepherds of His flock failed in their duties, God Himself, would come down and lead them. God's Son, Jesus Christ, descendant of David (Ezekiel 37:24) would come to this earth with the mission of calling His flock, tending to them (healing them), and strengthening the weak (Ezekiel 34:16). He will separate the rams and the goats. God's servant David will take initiative to seek the lost sheep of Israel (Ezekiel 34:12), shepherd them, lead them to good pastures and take care of them. Compare Ezekiel 34:16 with Luke 19:10.
- 6.** God takes the sinner, cleans him up, bathes him in pure water, restores him by placing a new heart in him and calls him His own. Paul describes this awesome event in claiming a believer is a new creation in Christ Jesus. God does this cleansing for the sake of His NAME, held in honor and reverence.
- 7.** The dry bones represented the spiritual state of captive Israel. The bones were dry, a condition brought about from their separation from God for so long. The bones declared their hope had perished since they were no longer a nation. The bones were separated from one another. God plans to revive them physically (bones to tendons to flesh and skin) first, then spiritually second. This is also a vivid picture of all who are separate from God for when one comes to God they are renewed to life in Christ.

8. Ezekiel sees:

- He is prophesying a rebuilding of Solomon's temple
- Prophesying about the church in a figurative sense, no literal temple
- A future millennial temple/kingdom to be built. The sanctuary was a visible symbol of God's presence among His people. His glory, once departed from the Temple, is now to be restored in a new temple in Jerusalem.

9. There are two conditions of people. Either they are called by God and are holy or they are separated from God and rebel against Him (profane/common). There is no lukewarmness in following God, no in-between for it is all-or-nothing. In the presence of God, we are holy, outside His presence we are like menstrual rags, unrighteous and profane. This was applicable then and is still applicable today.

Additional Questions:

1. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.
2. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.
3. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

Great resource on Ezekiel: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/ezekiel-34-48/>

