

Know the God of Scripture

Volume 1

(revised 10/04/2024)

Week 38: Yahweh is His Name - 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 Deuteronomy 28 Moses warns the Israelites that disobedience to God's Law would bring:

- Horrible destruction
- Disease
- Drought
- Defeat in battle
- Oppression and captivity/exile to a foreign nation
- Crop failure and economic ruin

All of these disasters came true in Israel's captivity to the Assyrians and Babylonians and they are all mentioned in Joel.

2. In Joel 2:12-13 the prophet calls the nation to fast, weep, repent and mourn from the heart (i.e., true repentance). In the same manner, John the Baptist emphasized to the people by the Jordan to repent and do works worthy of their repentance (Matthew 3:2-8). This same message of true heart repentance is preached by Jesus (Luke 13:3-5) and Peter at Pentecost (Acts 2:38).

3. The use of the personal pronoun (I and Me) along with the proper covenant name of God, Elohim, is unusual Hebrew phraseology. It seems to be that Adonai (Jesus) is speaking about his Father Elohim. Reference Genesis 19 and 2 Kings 13:1-9 for other situations where this phraseology is used.

4. In Amos 5:1-17 the chiasm pairing is as follows:

1-2 paired with 16-17

3-4 paired with 14-15

5-6 paired with 12-13

7 paired with 10-11

8-9 main point which is the omnipotence and sovereignty of God and the mention of His name, YAHWEH

This theme is emphasized throughout the book of Amos.

5. Although the Northern Kingdom experienced great prosperity, they had forgotten their roots in God. Amos, a simple shepherd herder, was prompted by God to be a divine trumpet to warn Israel of their pride and contempt. Return to YHWH, the omnipotent and omniscient God of the Hebrews.

6. Both Hosea (Hosea 11:5) and Amos (Amos 5:27) had prophesied that a nation from the north and east would overtake Israel and send them into exile. These warnings were probably in the back of Jonah's mind when God called him to Nineveh. Jonah may have also believed he would be helping the enemy overtake his own countrymen.

7. The underlying message in Jonah is NOT Jonah! God is the main character for He had the first word (1:1-2) and the last (4:11). He commanded the prophet twice (1:2; 3:2), sent a violent storm (1:4), provided a great fish to rescue Jonah (1:17), commanded it to vomit him up (2:10), threatened Nineveh with judgment (3:10), provided a vine to shade Jonah (4:6), commissioned the worm (4:7) and sent scorching wind (4:8).

The book of Jonah emphasizes:

- God's concern for Gentiles
- The sovereignty of God
- General concern for Israel's future
- Jonah was a striking symbol of Israel's reluctance to obey

8. Because its wickedness had come up before Him (Jonah 1:2). God was about to use Assyria as His instrument of judgment upon the Israelites and therefore desired to soften their hearts toward Israel.

9. He feared he'd die in Nineveh since that was the capital of hedonism known throughout the land as a city of torture, ruthlessness, murders and thievery.

10. The Scribes and Pharisees demanded a sign that Jesus was the Messiah and he used the example of Jonah (Matthew 12:39-41, 16:4; Luke 11:29-32). Like Jonah in the belly of the fish for three days, Jesus would be in the belly of the earth for three days. Both rose out and preached repentance to a dying nation. Nineveh didn't need a sign; they repented and will judge the Scribes and Pharisees whose faith was lacking (Luke 11:32).

11. Jonah's confession of his faith in Yahweh amongst strangers is the underlying theme as he ran from God.

The chiasm in Jonah 1:4-16 can be found in <https://www.chiasmusxchange.com/2015/10/29/jonah-14-15/>

Additional Questions:

1. Answers will vary depending on personal experience.

2. Jesus recalls Jonah (Matthew 12:39-41; 16:4; Luke 11:29-32) as if he was a real prophet and the incident with the whale was a real event. That being said, if Jesus believed in Jonah what is stopping us from believing in him and the story?

