

Key to Unit 6 THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Thank you again for continuing with the course
Here are our suggested answers for Unit 6.

Question 1. Does God need a temple to live in ?
The eternal God who created and made everything does not need a building to live in. (2.Chron.6:18. Isaiah 66:1-2. Acts.7:46-50, 17:23-25)

Question 2. Why did they have to follow the details for building the temple and its artefacts, precisely?

They portrayed how God would provide a way for all mankind to be forgiven and have fellowship with Him. (Hebrews 8:5, 9:1-12,23-28. 10:1-23)

RECAPPING

1. Satan slandered God, causing man to sin.
2. The woman's seed promised.
3. Abraham offered up Isaac.
4. Joseph saved Jacob's family from famine.
5. "Shiloh" to come from Judah's tribe.
6. Job expected to meet God on the earth.
7. Israel's exodus out of Egypt under Moses
8. Passover and day of atonement instituted.
9. A prophet like Moses promised.
10. Israel occupies Canaan under Joshua.
11. Judges rule Israel. Samuel is the last judge.
12. They demand a King. Saul is anointed king.
13. David of **Judah's tribe** succeeds Saul.
14. David makes Jerusalem his capital city.
15. David buys Araunah's threshing floor.
16. Solomon builds the temple on Moriah.
17. The nation splits into two and degenerates.
18. Israel and Judah taken captive into Babylon.
19. The temple and Jerusalem destroyed.

Understanding the Bible

Unit 7 GOD CLEANSSES THE NATION

Pre-Captivity Warnings Ignored

Joel warned Judah of invasions from the north. Hosea warned Israel, Amos and Micah warned both kingdoms, that they would be taken into captivity. Israel's captivity had little effect on Judah's conscience. Rather than heed the warnings, they persecuted the preachers.

Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel warned Judah that it also would be taken captive and that Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed.

Restoration Promised

The same prophets, and Daniel, promised that God would restore the temple, Jerusalem, and the nation, despite the depths to which they had sunk. Habakkuk questioned why God used the wicked to punish His people. God promised that their enemies would be punished for their excessive wickedness. The political world as they knew it, would disappear.^A Empires and nations would vanish but God's people would survive and be repatriated as one nation again, under YHWH. They would be a faithful "remnant", cleansed from idolatry.

A Remnant Return

Seventy years after Israel and Judah were taken captive Cyrus issued his decree for the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. A purged remnant of all the tribes returned to the devastated land as one nation under the banner of Judah. From then on the term Jews referred to the whole nation. Before, it was confined to Judah.¹ The restoring of Israel to Judah is predicted as two sticks becoming one.

Ezra and Nehemiah [continuation of Chronicles]

After repeating Cyrus' decree, the book Ezra, recounts the rebuilding and rededication of the Temple. Nehemiah narrates the rebuilding of walls of Jerusalem by a beleaguered "remnant".^B God always has a faithful remainder.

The Silent/Golden Years

The temple was rebuilt, the city walls were restored and the nation cleansed, never again to turn to idolatry. There followed the promised idyllic existence. They lived freely and unharassed for about 300 years. First under the protection of Persia, then Greece, until Antiochus Epiphanes imposed Greek culture. The last straw for the Jews came when he sacrificed a pig on the sacred altar. That provoked a civil war. The Jews gained a short period of independence but the Golden years were never to be regained. The Roman invasion ushered in the predicted political chaos which was to precede the coming of the day of YHWH.² Then a humble, disparaged Messiah would establish His eternal kingdom having a new and better covenant than that which was given to them under Moses. His kingdom would be spiritual. He would conquer with His "mouth" not with the sword.

God's Purpose Would Not Be Thwarted

The underlying theme of Isaiah is that God would ensure that the virgin^C would give birth to a son called Emmanuel.^D So whatever happened, however great the catastrophies, Judah would survive. A purged remnant would return^E and the kingdom be restored in preparation for that event.

Jeremiah made similar predictions and stated that a new covenant would replace the old.

When would these things happen?

In the book of Daniel, graphic vision portray the Anointed's^F eternal kingdom being established during the time of the Roman empire. Daniel predicts that the Messiah would come 69 x 7 years after an edict to rebuild Jerusalem, that during the next 7 years He would be killed and He would bring sacrifices to a conclusion, thus rendering everything associated with the temple redundant.

Zechariah predicts that at that time, which he refers to as "that day", God's covenant with the Jewish nation would be terminated and several other astounding paradoxical things would happen.

For more detail on "in that day of the Lord" ask for our free leaflet:- "THE MOUNT OF OLIVES SPLIT".

Jews called Malachi the "seal of the prophets". Malachi closes with a promise that Elijah would come first, to prepare the way for the Messiah.³

Eager Anticipation

"Since the beginning, no one heard, no one perceived, no eye saw, except you O God, what He prepares for those who await Him." Isaiah 64:4

Approximate Time-scale

Please see the accompanying chart.

Oddities to ponder over

- Why did God bother to restore that wicked nation? Surely it was not a petty-minded face-saving operation.

Readings:-

<u>Ezra.</u>	1.3-6. 10
<u>Nehemiah</u>	1-4. 6. 8-10. 13.
<u>Isaiah</u>	1-2. 4. 6. 7. 9-11. 13-14. 23-24. 28. 40-42. 52-53. 55. 61. 63-66.
<u>Jeremiah</u>	1. 16. 23. 25. 29-31. 33. 39. 43-44. 46-52.
<u>Ezekiel</u>	4-6. 8. 11. 18. 24-31. 34-37. 43:1-5

<u>Daniel</u>	1-2. 7. 9.	<u>Hosea</u>	1. 3. 8. 11. 14.
<u>Joel</u>	1-3	<u>Amos</u>	1. 2. 8. 9.
<u>Micah</u>	1. 4. 5.	<u>Malachi</u>	3:1-6. 4.
<u>Zechariah</u>	1. 8. 9. 11:7-17. 12:8-10. 13.		

Question: Why did God ask Isaiah to take his son with him when he was sent to Ahaz ? (Isaiah 7).

Notes:-

- A) Some predictions are in highly figurative language, for example: Babylon's overthrow and the religious/political chaos during the Roman occupation of Palestine, are depicted as disasters happening to the sun and moon etc..
- B) This is the end of the second series of historic narratives. which begin with 1st.Chronicles. (see Unit 6).
- C) Isaiah 7:14. Hebrew: **ha'alma = the virgin.**
This has to be **the woman's seed** - Gen.3:15.
- D) Emmanuel means - God with us.
- E) The name of one of Isaiah's sons, She'ar-yashuv, means - a remnant will return.
- F) Anointed = Messiah.

References:-

- 1 2.Kings 16:6, 25:25.
2 Acts 2:19-20 3 Matt.17:9-13

Send any queries to:-

Please include your name and address and state the unit and question with each query.

©2000 Simply Christians - Longford www.muqaddas.eu

Understanding the Bible

Unit 7**GOD CLEANSSES THE NATION
[The Captivity to the Golden Years]**

with
Key to Unit 6
and
Charts for Unit 7