

Chapter 10

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What are the differences between the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah?*

The succession of the kings of Judah remained within a single family line—the descendants of King David; Israel's did not. Israel had a continuous succession of kings who were not faithful to God; there were several good kings in Judah who made important religious reforms.

2. *Describe the reigns of King Hezekiah and King Josiah.*

King Hezekiah and King Josiah were both good kings in Judah who trusted God and followed his Law. Hezekiah trusted the help of the prophet Isaiah and fought off the Assyrians. King Josiah reestablished the Law of the Covenant and began a great reform in which they removed the idols from the Temple, tore down the altars built to other gods, and abandoned all of the practices that had been taken on from other religions.

3. *Explain the difference between the three Isaiahs.*

First Isaiah composed the first thirty-nine chapters of the Book of Isaiah around 740–700 BC. About two centuries later, the other two authors addressed similar themes of “First Isaiah,” but they adapted their messages to fit the audience at the time of their writing. Second Isaiah wrote chapters 40–55 during or shortly after the Babylonian Exile. Third Isaiah composed chapters 56–66 after the Babylonian Exile.

4. *What significance does First Isaiah's writings on Emmanuel have for Christians?*

Isaiah reassures the king that the Lord will give a sign, a child named Emmanuel (which means “God is with us”), and explains how salvation will be granted through this child. Isaiah's prophecy of Emmanuel is fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

5. *Describe two tactics Jeremiah uses to get the people's attention.*

Jeremiah stands in front of the Temple and says that God will allow the Temple to be destroyed. He compares the people to a rotten dirty loincloth. Jeremiah tells the people they will have to eat their own children to survive the siege from the Babylonians. Then he smashes a potter's flask and tells them that their sinful behavior has done irreparable harm, and like the flask, it cannot be fixed. He also puts a yoke around his neck that symbolizes the slavery and bondage the Babylonians will inflict upon them. He walks around and tells the people to give up and serve the king of Babylon.

6. *Describe two tactics Ezekiel uses to get the people's attention.*

Ezekiel builds a model of Jerusalem and then sits silently and watches it for about fourteen months. This is meant to represent God doing nothing as Jerusalem is conquered. He cooks his food on cow excrement to represent the depths people will go to ease their starvation during the siege. Ezekiel packs his bags and walks around town as if he is ready to be taken away by Babylon. When his wife dies, he does not mourn her, just as the people of Jerusalem will not be able to mourn their loved ones as they head off into exile.



7. *Describe and explain Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones.*

In Ezekiel's vision, the wind/breath (or *ruah* in Hebrew) brings life to the dry bones laying in a valley. *Ruah* is the wind that split the waters of the Red Sea and the breath that gave Adam life. Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones offers the people in exile a hope of escaping their "death" of captivity and returning home. It also prefigures Christ's resurrection from the dead.

8. *How does the Babylonian Exile play a role in the development of the captives' faith?*

Because the captives cannot practice their faith in public, their religious life can no longer be centered on sacrificial offerings and Temple worship. They become focused on composing and editing the writings of the Old Testament. Their view of history is seen through the lens of their relationship with God, so the Deuteronomic history explains how the worship of false gods, the unjust treatment of those in need, and failure to follow the Law are all prominent causes as to why God's people ended up in exile. The people in exile are also inspired to create new works, such as the Book of Lamentations.

9. *What are the similarities between Second Isaiah and John the Baptist's messages?*

Just as Second Isaiah points toward God's saving hand for the people of the Babylonian Exile, John the Baptist points toward our savior, Jesus Christ, for those held in the captivity of sin. Just as the captives in Babylon needed hope for salvation, Jesus Christ is our reason to hope.

