

Key to Unit 7

GOD CLEANSSES THE NATION

Here is our suggested answer for Unit 7.

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

Syria and Israel's threat to attack Jerusalem perplexed king Ahaz. God sent Isaiah, to advise Ahaz that the real threat was Assyria from whom he sought protection. Even so, God's purpose would not be thwarted. A remainder would return. Which is what Isaiah's son's name, She'ar-yashuv, means. (Isaiah 10:20-22. Romans 9:27-29)

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. Passover and Day of Atonement instituted.
8. A prophet like Moses promised.
9. David of **Judah's tribe** succeeds Saul.
10. David makes Jerusalem his capital city.
11. Solomon builds the temple on Moriah.
12. The nation splits into two and degenerates.
13. Virgin's son, Immanuel predicted.
14. New Covenant predicted.
15. Israel and Judah taken captive into Babylon.
16. The temple and Jerusalem totally destroyed.
17. The restoration of the remnant predicted.
18. The Anointed One {the Messiah} predicted.
19. Termination of the Covenant Predicted.
20. Israel and Judah re-united as Jews.
21. The remnant, purged of idolatry, return.
22. The temple and city walls rebuilt.

23. The remnant enjoy about 300 golden years.
24. Crises come before the Messiah comes..
25. "Elijah" is to be the Messiah's herald.¹

Understanding the Bible

Unit 8

HE ARRIVES !

A Roman Colony - Corrupt and Dejected

Daniel's 69 x 7 years were almost over.² The Jews' fervently anticipated a Messiah. They thought that he would throw-off the cruel Roman yoke. This provoked the Romans to crush any sign of revolt.

The chief priests lived in style. The temple outer courtyard had become a market, where money was changed into "holy" money to buy animals on sale there for sacrifice. Radical religious leaders, concerned with outward observance, lacked compassion. Zealots agitated for armed resistance. The perplexed humble poor bore the brunt of it all.⁴

In The Village of Bethlehem [About BC 4]³

Here in obscurity - unannounced, except to a few shepherds - a young virgin gave birth to a son - the Messiah!⁵ - Many still find that hard to believe.⁶

They named him Jesus.^A Both his mother and her husband, Joseph, were from Judah's tribe and direct descendants of king David.⁷ Whilst Jesus was still an infant, the local puppet king, paranoid at the thought of being deposed, massacred all children under two. Forewarned, the family had fled into Egypt.⁸ Once again Satan had failed to thwart **the man-child**.⁹ After the king died they returned to Israel but settled in the north, in industrial Nazareth^B

The Messiah is Here !

30 years on, crowds flocked to uninhabited places in Judea, to hear a priest's austere son - John^C - preach "Repent for heaven's kingdom is near". He claimed to be preparing the way for "the Lord". He was not really Elijah but he had his spirit and zeal.¹ It is essential to appreciate the spiritual nature of Old (and New) Testament visionary predictions.

John immersed people in water for their sins to be forgiven but when his second-cousin (Jesus) asked to be immersed, John felt unworthy for the task. However the Lord Jesus persuaded him that it was the right thing to do. The miracle that followed made John realize that his own second-cousin was the long-promised Messiah. John had performed the priest's task of preparing him for sacrifice, by plunging him in water.¹⁰ John announced to his followers that the Lord Jesus was God's sacrificial lamb who would take away the world's sin.

Direct Confrontation with Satan

Satan immediately tried to tempt the Lord Jesus and failed. He had assumed that they both had the same basic desires. You see - Satan has no idea what altruism is.¹¹ The Messiah sympathised with people who had problems. He was not self-seeking.

The Imminent Heavenly Kingdom

The Lord Jesus taught many people about his kingdom, saying that it was imminent, that it was not earthly but spiritual and to enter it one had to undergo a spiritual birth. He claimed to be the son of God and to have existed eternally.¹² Yet some wondered if he was the promised Messiah because he advised them against resistance and encouraged them to love their enemies. However he denounced bigotry. The religious elite reacted badly to that.

The Nation's Covenant with God Severed

The radical Jews plotted with the quisling priests to have him arrested. After 3.1/2 years they managed to get Jesus convicted of treason and executed. That finally severed their covenant with God and instituted a new one, validated by the shed blood of God's lamb¹³ - the ultimate sacrifice.¹⁴ Though it seemed Satan had succeeded, after 3 days the Lord Jesus came out of his tomb.¹⁵ Many of the ancient saints also came out of their tombs and were seen in the city of Jerusalem.¹⁶

The Messiah's Kingdom Established¹⁷

During the next seven weeks he prepared his disciples for the start of his kingdom here on earth, then he returned to heaven. Empowered by the Holy Spirit of God they began that work on the day of Pentecost. Those who believed that the Lord Jesus is the Messiah and repented of their sins, were immersed in water for their sins to be forgiven. That immersion depicted the Messiah's burial and resurrection. By it they buried their old life, rose to a new life¹⁸ This spiritual kingdom, which began in Jerusalem¹⁹ has spread throughout the world.²⁰ Innumerable people of all nations have visualised him nailed to the "cross"²¹ - seen that it was for them he died²² - and become his devoted subjects in his heavenly kingdom. They were given a new name - Christian.^D²³ They strive to do the Divine will on earth as it is done in heaven.²⁴

Readings:-

Matthew 1-4:17. 5-13. 16. 17. 20:17-29. 22-28.
Mark 1. 9. 10:35-45. 12. 15. 16.
Luke 1-2. 17:20-21. 20:39-47. 24.
John 1. 3. 4. 7. 18-21.
Acts 1-2.7:48-11. 14. 15. 17. 20-22.

Questions:

- 1 Did Satan tempt the Lord Jesus in the same three ways that Eve was tempted?

- 2 What is the difference between the kingdom the Jews expected and the Lord Jesus' kingdom?

Notes:-

- A) Jesus (Heb.- Yashua) means YHWH is salvation.
- B) See note on the word "Nazarene" in Chapter 11 of our studies in Isaiah
- C) John (Heb.-Yohanan) means YHWH is gracious.
- D) Christian means: one devoted to the Messiah (Christ)

References:-

- 1 Malachi 4:5-6. 2 Daniel 9:24-27.
- 3 Micah 5:2 4 Joel 2:30-31. Ps. .82:1-5
- 5 Gen. 3:15. Is.7:14. 9:6
- 6 Is. 53:1-2. Jer. 31:22.
- 7 Gen. 49:10. Is. 9:7. Mic. 5:2
- 8 Hosea 11:1
- 9 Is. 66:7. Gal. 4:4. Rev.12:5,13.
- 10 2 Chr.4:6 (The Hebrew for AV "wash" = plunge. J.C.Ellicott's commentary)
- 11 1 Cor.2:14-15. 1 Pet. 5:8
- 12 Ps. 2:7. Heb. 1:2. Is.9:6
- 13 Zech. 11:10-11. 13:1
- 14 Dan. 9:27
- 15 Gen. 3:15. Ps. 16:10,11. Is. 53:7-11. Rom. 1:4
- 16 Job 19:25-26 17 Colossians 1:13
- 18 Rom. 6:1-6 19 Is. 2:1-4. Micah 4:1-3
- 20 Hos. 1:10. Rom. 9:24-26.
- 21 Gal. 3:1. 1.Cor. 1:23-24.
- 22 Is.53:4-6. Gal 2:20. 23 Is.62:2. 1 Pet. 4:16
- 24 Is. 2:4. 11:1-10 Micah 4:3.

Send any queries to:-

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

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Understanding the Bible

Unit 8

HE COMES
[The Messiah Enthroned]
 with
Key to Unit 7
 and
Charts for Unit 8