

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Psalms 104:1-7; Acts 2:21-39

Sunday, March 16, 2014

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. In Psalm 104, what indicates that King David was also among the prophets of God? [From Psalms 104:1-4]

The Psalm title indicates that King David wrote Psalm 104. God gave King David a vision of God the Father [the LORD] and God the Son [his Lord]. David heard God the Father talk to His Son [LORD to Lord]. From what David saw and heard, he revealed the distant future and some new truths about the Messiah that the Holy Spirit inspired and included in the Bible. When Jesus came and preached, He applied parts of this Psalm directly to himself. When Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit inspired him to include part of Psalm 89 in his sermon.

2. What can happen to those who persist in remaining the enemies of God and His Messiah? [From Psalms 104:1-4]

They will not find true happiness living contrary to the laws of God and rejecting the rule of God in this and the next life. They will be defeated by God and put under His feet in subjection to God. This prospect of their suffering moves Jesus' followers to share the good news of Jesus with others.

3. Peter said Jesus was “a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs.” Can you give some examples of each of these? Some of his miracles may be an example of all three.

Deeds of power: Jesus stilled a storm. Jesus cast out many demons.

Wonders: Jesus fed 5000 people with a few loaves and fishes. He healed the sick.

Signs: He changed water into wine. He raised Lazarus from the dead.

4. What did King David prophecy about death?

God would not abandon his or Jesus' souls to Hades (they would live again in the presence of God – think about Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus and where each man went after they died – Luke 16:19-31). Jesus' body would not decay in the tomb, and God would raise Jesus from the dead.

5. What types of evidence did Peter give that Jesus was the Messiah and God raised Him from the dead?

One type of evidence was the teachings and prophecies of their Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament). Another type of evidence was the experiences of many witnesses (including those of his listeners). Another type of evidence was the work of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Perhaps you can think of additional types of evidence.

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