

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Zechariah 6:9-15; John 19:1-7

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L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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. What are some of the ways believers today can proclaim: “The LORD is our righteousness”?
[Jeremiah 23:1-6]

Because of the righteous life He lived, Jesus saved me from the eternal consequences of my sins by His death on the cross. Jesus now indwells me and gives me the hope of glory. Jesus shows me what to do so I can do the right thing instead of the sinful thing. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live within me to pray for me and empower me to live righteously when I am tempted to do wrong. All the

righteousness that I do or have credited to me is the righteousness of Jesus Christ living and working in me.

2. Why is it important for the followers of Jesus Christ to study the Old Testament prophets even when they seem difficult to understand? [Zechariah 6:9-15]

God has chosen a variety of ways in the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi to teach us many different truths about the Messiah and what people can expect from Him when He comes twice into the world. As we study the many different ways the Bible talks about the Messiah and Jesus, we learn about a lot of different truths about His work from different aspects. As we learn more about the Old Testament and the New Testament teachings, as difficult as some of the prophets are to understand, we can gradually better understand the Bible and the prophets. When we study the different prophecies about Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps our understanding and confirms and strengthens our faith in both the Bible and Jesus.

3. Why might it be important that Pilate found and declared no legal case against Jesus? [John 19:1-7]

Pilate's conclusion shows that Jesus did not break any Roman laws, nor did Jesus do anything that might indicate He advocated rebellion against the government. If Jesus had broken any laws or had incited riots, the Jews would have used this against Jesus in His trial before Pilate. After Jesus' resurrection from the dead, Jesus' disciples could

preach about Him without advocating the policies of a former crucified criminal against Rome. Pilate and other Roman authorities had no reason to arrest any of Jesus' disciples, because neither Jesus nor His disciples broke any Roman laws or advocated rebellion. Peter and other disciples of Jesus would be brought before Jewish courts, and the Jewish leaders would eventually stone Stephen to death.

4. What reason did the Jews give Pilate when they insisted that Pilate have Jesus crucified? Do you think the reason they gave was the real reason? If not, what do you think their real reason might have been? [John 19:1-7]

They gave the reason that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God.

No. This was not their real reason.

Jesus threatened their authority, power, and wealth. He was popular among the people and the people listened gladly to Jesus. He cleansed the temple, and He would have insisted that the Jewish leaders treat everyone fairly and justly, especially in God's house. The people were following Jesus and not them.

5. In your opinion, what did the high priests, scribes, and Pharisees who insisted that Pilate crucify Jesus really think about the Law of God and how did they treat it? [John 19:1-7]

They did not respect the Law of God, but chose what parts of the law to obey, disobey, and change by their traditions. They broke the Law of God when it was to their benefit. For example, they promoted the use of false witnesses (lying) at Jesus' trial before the high priests so they could murder Him (contrary to the Ten Commandments). They also stole from the people by the use of money changers in the temple (and probably in other ways). For them, the Law of God was no longer a valid, objective standard to be obeyed. For them, the Law of God became a set of rules they could manipulate to achieve their selfish goals. For them, "the end justified the means," instead of the Law of God serving as the basis for right decisions, actions, and judgments. They had no love for God and no fear of God's just judgment based in the Law of God.

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