

## Research Questions for Pearls from the Prophets (Jeremiah)

### **RQ(39) Consider significant “remnant” examples prior to the time of the writing prophets?**

The remnant concept appears before the prophets.

Noah and his family were a remnant that survived the flood (Gen. 7:1–23).

Lot and his daughters were a remnant that escaped the destruction of Sodom (Gen. 19:29–30).

God told Elijah that a faithful remnant still existed in Israel (1 Kgs. 19:18). Fred M. Wood, Ross McLaren

The Israelites were the remnant of those who started out, and endured the 40 years’ wandering in the wilderness.

Note: consider the idea of saving a remnant; Joseph, Gen 45:7

Also; Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them or abhor them so as to destroy them completely, breaking my covenant with them. I am the Lord their God. Leviticus 26:44 (see also Deuteronomy 4:27)

Holman Old Testament Commentary - Jeremiah, Lamentations; Wood, Fred M.; McLaren, Ross; p.72

### **RQ(40) Where does Jesus “define” eternal life?**

Jesus - and the entire New Testament, for that matter - defines eternal life only once, with great precision, and in a way that has been largely lost in our day:

“This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3, NRSV). John Ortberg

See Eternity Is Now in Session: A Radical Rediscovery of What Jesus Really Taught about Salvation, Eternity, and Getting to the Good Place; Ortberg, John; p.4

### **RQ(41) What two towns were also destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah?**

[the consequence of idolatry]

The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur - nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, which the Lord overthrew in fierce anger. Deuteronomy 29:23

The kings of Admah and Zeboyim joined in the battle recorded in Genesis 14.

God used them as the “bad boys” instead of Sodom and Gomorrah in Hosea 11:8, “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim?”

Jeremiah prophesied against Edom: As Sodom and Gomorrah were overthrown, along with their neighboring towns,” says the Lord, “so no one will live there; no people will dwell in it. Jeremiah 49:18

### **RQ(42) What is the first question from God in the Bible?**

“Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9).

It’s God’s first recorded question in all of history, the shortest question of the entire Hebrew Bible

WayMaker: Finding the Way to the Life You’ve Always Dreamed Of; Voskamp, Ann; p.16

Tom: first game of Hide and Seek...

Note: the first question by anyone is by Satan.

Genesis 3:1, “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

### **RQ(43) What was God’s first command to man?**

- Genesis 1:28
- God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”
- Also note Genesis 2:15
- The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
- Note that work was expected in this “Paradise”
- will heaven be somewhat similar?

- His next command (Genesis 2:15) was that they should not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...

**RQ(44) What did God do immediately after creating mankind (male and female)?**

... the very first words recorded after the Lord created Adam and Eve (male and female) are these:

“God blessed them” (Genesis 1:28). Breakthrough Prayer, Jim Cymbala  
PDE: He rested; Genesis 2:2

**RQ(45) Name the instances where an angel or other representative of God is described with a (drawn) sword?**

- cherubim, to Adam and Eve, Garden of Eden, Gen 3:24
- angel, to Balaam, Numbers 22
- the Lord, to the people of Israel, Deuteronomy 32:41
- re: the Behemoth; His maker can approach him with a sword, Job 40:19
- the commander of the army of the Lord, to Joshua, Joshua 5:13ff
- angel, to David on the temple mount, 1 Chronicles 21:16
- the Lord, to enemies, Ezekiel chapters 5, 12, 1 and Micah 5:6
- Christ, to the churches of Asia, Revelation 1:16 and 2:12

**RQ(46) Where were gold or bronze representations made of animals?**

the golden calf (Aaron, Exodus 32)

bronze snake (Moses, Numbers 21:4-9; destroyed 2 Kings 18:4)

the Philistines sent back golden rats with the ark (1 Samuel 6:4ff)

Jereboam made two golden calves (1 Kings 12:25-28)

12 bronze bulls under the Bronze Sea (2 Kings 7:25, 2 Kings 16:17, 2 Chr 4:3, Jer 52:20)

[PDE]

(assumed bronze, like the bulls) lions (2 Kings 7:29, 36) [PDE]

Note: 12 lions on the steps to the throne (1 Kings 10:19-20, 2 Chr 9:18-19), but not clear what they are made of

**RQ(47) Where was a younger sister described as more attractive or beautiful than the older?**

Rachel/Leah; Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Genesis 29:16-17

Samson’s “marriage” – his would be father-in-law; “I was so sure you hated her,” he said, “that I gave her to your companion. Isn’t her younger sister more attractive? Take her instead.” Judges 15:1-2

**RQ(48) What healing miracles did Jesus perform on people who had been sick for some time?**

- Invalid at Bethesda (38 years), John 5:1-15
- A man born blind from birth (long), John 9:1-12
- A woman crippled for 18 years (18 years), Luke 13:10-17
- A woman with an issue of blood (12 years), Mark 5:25

Likely:

- Legion (likely long-term), Luke 8:26-39
- A man “full” of leprosy, Luke 5:12-14
- In healing the man born blind, Jesus said:
- “... this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

Note that the blind man shows God’s power not just in his healing, but in the strength that he shows in resisting the Jewish persecution.

See Eternity Is Now in Session: A Radical Rediscovery of What Jesus Really Taught about Salvation, Eternity, and Getting to the Good Place; Ortberg, John; p.4

**RQ(49) Who did Peter sit with when Jesus appeared before the Sanhedrin?**

The guards, Mt 26:58, Mk 14:54

But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest.

He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

Interesting courage for the one who denied Christ three times.

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**RQ(50) Who claimed that they had not been punished as much as they deserved?**

Ezra, Ezra 9:13

What has happened to us is a result of our evil deeds and our great guilt, and yet, our God, you have punished us less than our sins deserved and have given us a remnant like this.

PDE: consider also that Paul considered himself the chief of sinners

**RQ(51) What miracles did Jesus perform on people who were near death?**

- An official's son at Capernaum, John 4:43-54
- A centurion's servant, Luke 7:1-10
- Jairus' daughter, Luke 8:40-56

Actually dead (near from the "other" side) [Ray]:

- The son of the widow of Nain, Luke 7:11-17
- Lazarus, John 11:1-45

Special interest:

- Perhaps Peter's mother-in-law?
- Perhaps the (good) thief on the cross?

What was the only time that Jesus healed someone with a very recent issue?

- Malchus' ear

**RQ(52) The "Big Three", Peter, James, and John, were joined by another apostle for one private meeting. Who was this?**

Andrew, Mark 13:3

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and

Andrew asked him privately ... [about when the destruction of the temple would occur]

**RQ(53) Who had a pleasant sleep?**

Jeremiah

At this I awoke and looked around. My sleep had been pleasant to me. Jeremiah 31:26

Also,

[Ty] Ecclesiastes 5:12; The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.

**RQ(54) There is a record of every Israeli king's burial except one. Who is it?**

... we have a record of every king's burial except Jehoiakim's.

Holman Old Testament Commentary - Jeremiah, Lamentations; Wood, Fred M.; McLaren, Ross; p.287

I don't see a record of the burial of Jehoiachin... probably many others...

I apologize for this research question... [hsl]

**RQ(55) Name the letters to churches in which Paul claimed to not be a burden to those he was writing to.**

- 2 Corinthians 11:9; And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed. I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so.; also 2 Corinthians 12:13-14, 16; How were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was never a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong! Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. ... Be that as it may, I have not been a burden to you.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:9; Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.; also 2 Thessalonians 3:8; ... nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.

PDE: re: Galatians 6:2ff "Bear your own / one another's burdens"

**RQ(56) Where did the disciples quote from the OT to Jesus?**

hint: bread;

- John 6:30-31; "So they [the disciples] asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"

- Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ [from Exodus 16:4; Neh. 9:15; Psalm 78:24,25]

**RQ(57) Where is there a mention of a woman or women running?**

- Hagar, running away from Sarah; Genesis 16:8
- Rebekkah, running to get water for Abraham’s servant; Genesis 24:20
- (she also ran to tell her mother; Genesis 24:28)
- Rachel, ran to tell her father after meeting Jacob; Genesis 29:12
- Ruth, who did not run after younger men; Ruth 3:10
- Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, running from the empty tomb; Matthew 28:8
- Mary Magdalene, running from the empty tomb; John 20:1-2
- Rhoda, when Peter knocked on the door, ran to tell those praying for him; Acts 12:13-14
- Ray: others instances of crowds running – must have included women

**RQ(58) What did the King of Sodom ask Abram for after the recovery of Sodom and Gomorrah?**

[After Abram returned from rescuing the people from Sodom and Gomorrah – remember he let Lot choose]

... Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram ...

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.”

Gen 14:18-21

Similarly, God wants a people [main theme];

He doesn’t need our sacrifices [Psalm 50:9-13, Isaiah 1:11]

Ray: this is one of many metaphors that show God rescuing us

Note: the king showed honor here, but obviously the cities fell because of their evil nature

**RQ(59) Which of the gospels record the fact that Jesus healed the ear of the high priest’s servant (Malchus) after Peter cut it off with a sword?**

Only Luke, Luke 22:49-51

Considered the commotion that would have occurred when Peter cut the ear off of Malchus (blood, aggression, etc.); only the calm healing of the man’s ear could have stopped this

**RQ(60) Name when there were times of fasting and prayer before a confrontation with a great leader.**

Jehoshaphat, 2 Chronicles 20:1-4, to seek help against Moab and the Ammonites

Esther, Esther 4:15-16, before going into King Xerxes to plea for her people

Daniel, Daniel 2:17ff, before going in to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream

Note: Joseph likely prayed before being brought into see Pharaoh (Genesis 41)

**RQ(61) Find two instances where people asked Jesus “Don’t you care?”**

Mark 4:38; Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

Luke 10:40; But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

Consider the irony of the situations:

Christ actually cared enough to die on the cross for us!

**RQ(62) What great leader had a mother who was also his great-aunt? [provided by Steve]**

Moses, Exodus 6:20

Amram married his father’s sister Jochebed, who bore him Aaron and Moses.

Think about how Moses might have felt in having to present this law:

Do not have sexual relations with your father’s sister; she is your father’s close relative.

Leviticus 18:12

**RQ(63) Where is God described as having feathers?**

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. Psalm 91:1-4

PDE: consider Matthew 23:37, where Jesus longed to gather his people as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings (which are assumed to have feathers)

**RQ(64) Where did unnamed Pharisees try to save Jesus by advising Him to leave the area?**

[Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem]

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." Luke 13:31

Ray: early on, there were very likely more Pharisees interested in what Jesus was saying

PDE: Jesus' brothers also advise Jesus to go to Judea to avoid trouble (John 7:3)

**RQ(65) Who used the word "Please" to God when asking for something?**

Moses (NIV), Ex 4:13, Ex 32:32, Num 11:15, Num 12:13;

But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else." Exodus 4:13

But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written." Exodus 32:32

If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin. Numbers 11:15

So Moses cried out to the Lord, "Please, God, heal her!" Num 12:13

Abraham's servant, praying for success in finding a wife (Genesis 24:42)

note Jairus asked Jesus to heal his daughter and might have used "Please"; many other requests implied the word

also consider how Jesus prayed to God in the Garden of Gethsemane

**RQ(66) Who made an imposing altar, not for sacrificing, but as a witness?**

Reuben, Gad, Manasseh (east of Jordan); Josh 22:10-30;

And when the Israelites heard that ... the whole assembly of Israel gathered at Shiloh to go to war against them... [and] said to them: "How could you turn away from the Lord and build yourselves an altar in rebellion against him now?"

[the response:] "... God, the Lord! He knows! And let Israel know! If this has been in rebellion or disobedience to the Lord, do not spare us this day. ... may the Lord himself call us to account.

"... Look at the replica of the Lord's altar, ... not for burnt offerings and sacrifices, but as a witness between us and you."

When Phinehas the priest and the leaders of the community heard [the response], they were pleased.

Is there a lesson in this? Be careful about judging others!