

Chapter 7

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What is divine retributive justice?*

Divine retributive justice is the belief that God rewards and punishes people for their behavior during this lifetime.

2. *What is the ban, and what did it mean to the Israelites? How do we view the ban today?*

The ban is the practice of destroying everyone and everything in a defeated town and burning it as a sacrifice to God. For the Israelites, the ban was a sign that God was pleased with them, a way of placing their trust in God, God's punishment for the wicked, and a sacrificial offering. Today we view the ban as a horrific and terrible act to carry out.

3. *How is history presented differently in the Bible versus how historians present it today?*

Modern historians attempt to offer an objective analysis of past events based on the historical evidence. In the historical books of the Bible, the writers offered a theological interpretation of their past events. They attempted to express the meaning of events in light of their faith in God.

4. *Explain why Joshua is considered the "new Moses."*

Joshua is considered the "new Moses" because of the similarities between the two. Moses and Joshua were both leaders commissioned to guide the Israelites to the Promised Land. Moses followed God who was in the form of clouds and fire, while Joshua followed behind God's presence in the Ark of the Covenant. Both passed through bodies of water at significant events in the lives of the Israelites.

5. *Explain how the deuteronomistic cycle is repeated in the Book of Judges.*

In the Book of Judges, we see this cycle repeated over and over again: (1) the Israelites sin by worshipping other gods or some other form of disobedience, (2) God punishes them by allowing another nation to defeat them, (3) the Israelites repent and cry out to God for mercy, (4) God sends a judge to deliver them and they triumph over their enemies.

6. *How does Hannah prefigure the Virgin Mary?*

Hannah and Mary were both faithful women who gave birth to sons in miraculous circumstances. Both of their children were leaders who worked to carry out God's will. Mary's prayer (Cantic of Mary) and Hannah's prayer have a number of similarities.

7. *Why was it wrong for the Israelites to request a king?*

First, it was wrong for the Israelites to request a king because they were supposed to be holy. This desire to be like all the other nations was a problem because being holy meant being set apart or different. Second, their covenant with God meant they were to put their complete trust in him and his leadership. By asking for a human king, they were showing their lack of trust in God.

8. *In what ways was Ruth an unusual hero in the Old Testament?*

Ruth was an unusual hero because she was not a military leader. She was also a female hero, which is notable in a male-dominated society. Finally, she was not an Israelite but a foreigner, a Moabite.

