

Research Questions for Parallels

RQ(1) Name the significant head injuries of the Bible.

- Paul and Christ being slapped
- Goliath (helmet didn't cover him well enough)
- Dash heads of infants
- Spike in temple of Sisera in revolt (Judges 4:21)
- Abimelech hit with a millstone (by a woman) (Judges 9:52-53)
- Prophet asking to be struck so show an injury (1 Kings 20)
- James and John the Baptist beheaded
- Man will bruise the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15)
- Samson, hair and eyes (Judges 16:28)
- Zedekiah, eyes gouged out (2 Kings 25:7)
- Malchus' ear (John 18:10)

Also of interest:

- Absalom got his hair caught in a tree (2 Samuel 18:9)
- Elymas, Saul, Aram soldiers were blinded, but without "injury"

RQ(2) When does Jesus use something physical in one of His miracles?

- water, and the jars that contained it (water into wine); John 2
- mud/spittle to heal the blind man; John 9:6
- pool to have the blind man wash in; John 9:7
- transfer demons to pigs; Matthew 5:30ff
- net to catch fish; John 21:6ff
- coin in the mouth of a fish; Matthew 17:27
- loaves and fishes to feed the multitudes (twice); Matthew 14:13, Matthew 15:29
- garment (woman touched to be healed); Mark 4:26
- fig tree that was cursed; Matthew 21:18ff

RQ(3) Name those who were "better than before" after great adversity.

- Job (Job 42:10-12)
- Joseph, became second in Egypt after being a captive and prisoner (Genesis 41:41ff)
- Ruth and Naomi (Ruth)
- Rahab (rescued when Jericho was destroyed, Joshua 2)
- David (general; became king after being hunted as an outlaw)
- Abigail (married to Nabal ("fool"), nearly wiped out, then married David, 1 Samuel 25)
- Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:36)
- Paul, after being struck blind (Acts 9)
- Also consider the nation of Israel (promised in Deuteronomy 30:4-5)

RQ(4) Where did Jesus pick someone out of a crowd?

- Invalid at the pool (John 5)
- Disciples (in particular Matthew (Matthew 9:9, where the crowd was mentioned in a previous verse))
- Widow who lost her son (Luke 7:11-13)
- Woman with an issue of blood who touched the hem of Jesus' garment (Luke 8:45)
- Crippled woman healed on the Sabbath (Luke 13:10-13)
- Zaccheus (Luke 19:1-10)
- When Jesus cleared the temple of the moneychangers (Matthew 21:12)
- Paul (Acts 9)

RQ(5) Who was the first crippled person taken care of by someone else?

- Mephiboseth (2 Samuel 9:12)
- The first to take care of Mephibosheth was not David, but Mephibosheth's nurse who picked him up when he was just 5 years old (2 Samuel 4:4).

- Ziba was supposed to take care of him, but turned against him during the rebellion of Absalom.
- David welcomed him to his able for the rest of his life.
- Consider the cripples healed in the NT by Christ and His apostles
- Think of Margaret Mead's statement about the first sign of civilization was finding a bone that was healed

RQ(6) What was not supposed to be allowed to touch water?

- Jeremiah's linen belt, Jeremiah 13:1-12
- This is what the Lord said to me: "Go and buy a linen belt and put it around your waist, but do not let it touch water." So I bought a belt, as the Lord directed, and put it around my waist.
- God told Jeremiah to take the belt to Perath and hide it there in a crevice in the rocks, and he did. Many days later the Lord told him to go get the belt. He did but it was ruined and completely useless.
- Then God compared the ruined belt to the upcoming ruin of Judah and Jerusalem because they refused to listen to him, and followed other gods.
- "As a belt is bound around the waist, so I bound all the people of Israel and all the people of Judah to me," declares the Lord, "to be my people for my renown and praise and honor. But they have not listened."

RQ(7) Name miracles performed after some enabling activity [PDE]?

OT:

- Animals arrived in numbers after ark was built (and seven men saved)
- Moses: 1) struck Nile with staff – blood, 2) stretched out staff over streams - frogs, 3) struck dust with staff – gnats, 4) tossed handfuls of soot – boils, 5) hand to sky – hail, 6) hand over Egypt – locusts, 7) hand toward sky – darkness, 8) firstborn saved from angel of death after putting blood on doorposts
- Moses holding hands up for victory (having help was OK)
- Moses struck rock with staff to get water
- Gideon: dew appeared (or did not appear) after fleece was put out
- Naaman; healed after dipping in the Jordan 7 times
- Widow; oil flowing after/during making bread for Elijah/Elisha
- Elisha struck Jordan river with cloak to stop flow
- Elisha threw stick in water to float axehead
- Walls of Jericho fell after the Israelites marched around it for seven days

NT:

- Peter finding coin in fish's mouth
- Large fish catch when net cast on the other side of the boat
- Healing man born blind after putting mud on eye
- Healing after washing in pool
- Healing of lepers after they took off to go see priest
- Man healed after his friends lowered him through the roof
- Woman with an issue of blood touched the hem of Jesus' garment
- Philip had to run to catch the eunuch's chariot (then he was transported)
- In all cases, God knew the need and could have healed without direct interaction...

RQ(8) Who did things at night for secrecy (or because the people were afraid)?

- Gideon, damaging his father's idol to Baal at night; Judges 6:27
- Gideon, sneaking into the enemy camp at night; Judges 7:9ff
- Nehemiah, scouting out the wall of Jerusalem at night; Nehemiah 2:11-15
- Nicodemus, visiting Jesus at night; John 3:1ff
- Judas, bringing the soldiers to arrest Jesus; Luke 22:47

RQ(9) What is the last mention of the pillar that represented God's Presence?

- Deuteronomy 31:15; as God was telling Moses that he was about to die, and Moses was handing over the leadership to Joshua

- Numbers 14:13-15 (much earlier, but indicates that the Canaanites would see the pillar when they encountered the Israelites)
- Moses said to the Lord, "Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them. And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, Lord, are with these people and that you, Lord, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
- Nehemiah 9:19 (last mention)
- "Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the wilderness. By day the pillar of cloud did not fail to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take.
- Note that the manna stopped the day after Israel ate food from the land of Canaan, Josh 5:12

RQ(10) When was the "sound of victory" not a good thing?

When it is really the sound of sin –
the Israelites and the golden calf.

Exodus 32:17

Also, consider the victory that was turned into mourning, when Absalom was killed (2 Sam 19:2)
[PDE]

Think, too, of the notion of the high priests and Satan that they had achieved a victory when Christ as crucified [PDE]

When the ark was being moved to Jerusalem (Ms Kathleen)

1) celebration interrupted by Uzzah's death (2 Samuel 6)

2) celebration condemned by David's wife Michal (2 Samuel 6)

Consider also Elijah's let-down after the great victory over Baal (1 Kings 19)

RQ(11) Who composed the "Song of Moses"?

God apparently dictated it to Moses, Deuteronomy 31:19

"Now write down this song and teach it to the Israelites and have them sing it, so that it may be a witness for me against them."

Moses "wrote it" down... but it was inspired by God

RQ(12) What things were brought from a rock? [PDE]

Fire, Judges 6:21 (Gideon's altar)

Water, Exodus 17:6 / Numbers 20:11

Honey, Deuteronomy 32:13, Ps 81:16

Oil (from flinty crag), Deuteronomy 32:13

Olive oil, Job 29:6

Note that Jesus did not turn rock (stones) into bread, Matthew 4:3

From the class:

The 10 commandments (written on stone)

Christ the Rock that followed the Israelites; the church was built on that Rock

RQ(13) What prophet had his own cook?

Samuel, who asked the cook to prepare a special meal for Saul; 1 Sam 9:23-24

PDE:

Elijah, asked the widow to prepare a meal for him; 1 Kings 17:7-16

Elisha, a servant commanded to cook stew; 2 Kings 4:38

Also consider Jesus as a prophet; Martha prepared a meal for him; Luke 10:38-42

RQ(14) Were the ten commandments written on only one side of the tablets of stone?

No, both sides. Exodus 32:15

Same on both sides? Otherwise, they would have had to turn the tablets over to see it all; It would have been a lighter load to carry, though (Mrs. Kerce's observation)

Full copy on each side? Dustin: in ancient times, two copies of a covenant were made - here God gave man both

RQ(15) Who prayed the first intercessory prayer that caused someone to be healed?

Perhaps:

Then Abraham prayed to God and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his maidservants, and they started having babies again; Genesis 20:17-18

Actually, it was Abraham's action that caused Abimelech to assume that Sarah was not Abraham's wife

Jesus, of course, prayed and then healed

RQ(16) What is a common characteristic of Solomon's 700 wives (besides the obvious)?

They were all of royal birth, 1 Kings 11:3

This implies connections to many countries; most of the wives must have been foreign (PDE), though some of them could have been descendants of David or Israelite kings

RQ(17) Name the times an animal (such as a lion or a bear) killed or injured those who were disobedient.

- The fiery snakes against the Israelites; Numbers 21
- The prophet misled by the lying prophet; 1 Kings 13:24
- The man who would not strike the prophet as directed; 1 Kings 10:35ff
- Lions killed some of the people imported to Samaria after the Israelites were deported, and a priest was sent to teach them about the Lord; 2 Kings 17:25ff
- Lions killed the families of those who had accused Daniel, Daniel 6:24
- Two bears mauled 42 youths who insulted Elisha, 2 Kings 2:24

RQ(18) Were any of David's wives of "royal birth"?

- Michal was Saul's daughter; 1 Samuel 18:27
- Maacha (Maakah), the daughter of King Talmi; 1 Chronicles 3:2

RQ(19) Who killed lions or bears?

- David, as a shepherd, killed both lion and bear, 1 Samuel 17:36
- Benaiah killed a lion in a pit on a snowy day, 1 Samuel 23:20
- Samson killed a lion and later made a riddle out of the fact that bees made a home there (honey); Judges 14:5ff

RQ(20) Who prayed that God would answer the prayers of foreigners (in a generic)?

Solomon, 1 Kings 8:4ff; 2 Chronicles 6:32-33

RQ(21) Name three successive kings of Judah whose brothers were all (or all but one) killed.

- Jehoram, 2 Chronicles 21:4 (by Jehoram)
- Ahaziah, 2 Chronicles 22:1 (by raiders)
- Joash, 2 Chronicles 22:10 (by the queen mother Athaliah)

RQ(22) What king read the Book of the Covenant to the people?

- Josiah; 2 Kings 23:1-3, 2 Chronicles 34:30ff
- Moses also read the book of the covenant to the people; Exodus 24:7
- Ezra read from the Law and had those who gave interpretation; Nehemiah 8

RQ(23) Which of Job's comforters call him by name when they speak directly to him?

Elihu:

- Job 33:1; "But now, Job, listen to my words; pay attention to everything I say.
- Job 33:31; "Pay attention, Job, and listen to me; be silent, and I will speak.
- words."
- Job 37:14; "Listen to this, Job; stop and consider God's wonders.
- None of the other "comforters" addressed him in such a personal way.

RQ(24) Who was the first man to plant a tree?

- Abraham (tamarisk tree), Gen 22:33

RQ(25) When were the Israelites to keep vigil during the night?

Passover, Exodus 12:40-42

Consider:

- 1) this vigil never seems to have been a part of the Passover festival in subsequent years, though that was the intent
- 2) it was not a part of the Last Supper (a Passover celebration), but Jesus took vigil in the Garden of Gethsemane (and tried to get his disciples to keep it with him)