

Question 61

Name _____

**Q61 How were pious persons saved
before the coming of Christ?**

A61 By believing in a Savior to come.

Scripture Base: Num. 21:1-9; John 3:14-15;
John 8:56; Rom. 4:1-3; Gal. 3:10.

Doctrine: WCF 7:5, 8:6

Supplementary Questions

1. What is a pious person?

2. How did these men and women become saints?

3. How could they trust in Jesus when He wasn't born yet?

Song: #194 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'

Teaching Notes

Review Q 60 How long ago is it since Christ died? - *More than 2000 years.*

Scripture: Num. 21:1-9 and John 3:14-15: **The Fiery Serpents.**

Questions

1. One who loves God and lives a holy life.

The Bible calls them saints (*Eph. 1:1*). This doesn't mean they're perfect; but it does mean that they have been cleansed of sin and given a heart that loves what is right. Some examples include: Noah (*Gen. 6:9*), Abraham (*James 2:23*), Moses (*Num. 12:6-8*), David (*Acts 13:22*), Ruth (*Ruth 1:16*).

2. Were they saved by their own piety/works? No: Abraham (*Rom. 4:2*), Those who follow the works of the Law (*Gal. 3:10*) Those who try to save themselves by their own works are under the curse of the Law because they can't help but break it.

They were not saved by their works, but by trusting in Jesus.
(*Romans 4:1-3, John 8:56*)

3. They trusted God's many promises that He would send Him.

(*Gen. 3:15, Num. 24:17*). He also gave them pictures of the Savior: The Passover was a picture of the coming Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (*1 Cor. 5:7; cf. John 1:29*).

The bronze serpent was a picture of how Jesus would become a curse for His people and be lifted up on a cross, so that whoever would look to Him would be saved (*John 3:14-15; cf. Num. 21:1-9*).

Those in the Old Testament days who believed God would send the Messiah, and who trusted in that Messiah who was coming, were saved by Him.

Gospel: You can't see Jesus either. He died almost 2000 years ago. But He can save you because He was raised again to life, and was lifted up into heaven, and is still there willing to save anyone who comes to the Father through Him (*John 14:6*). If you trust what God said about Him and look to Jesus to save you, He will save you from your sins in the same way He saved those who lived before Jesus came.

Extras: Time Line part 2

Song: Trinity Hymnal #194 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"