**Blog 34**

**Who is God?**

The Old and New Testaments work together to give us the picture of who God is, who we are, and what God does with our rebellion.

We need the Old Testament to know God.

The profile of God’s traits is found mostly in the Old Testament and shown through His engagement with individuals. So, one reason we study Old Testament characters is to know God’s nature and man’s dilemma. We should never denigrate the Old Testament in our thinking.

* Our view of God will largely determine how we walked during our life.

The following are three short studies in the Old Testament that reflect the character of God.

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Case Study 1: Job

After being destroyed by God, Job’s friends lamented for Job, i.e., “Job 42:11 Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and everyone an earring of gold.”

Question: Who in the peoples mind inflicted Job with suffering?

Note: Job lost his 10 children, lost all his cattle, buildings were destroyed, and was inflicted with boils…and harassed by his friends.

Earlier in Job 37 and on, it appears Job thought he had a good defense for himself to make to God if only he could get face to face with God and make his case. Job raised his questions and arguments but notice in your reading that God did not take time to answer His questions. The answer inferred in the passages was “who was Job to challenge God”. One truth about God in Job is

* God is in control and has our best interest at His heart. And He gets to define what is our best interest. God is totally in control and He does what is right for us. In that He is good, all events in our life must be in our best interest. All events!

\*For further study of this trait of God study Jeremiah.

Case Study 2: Nation of Israel at Kadesh Barnea

Moses speaking

Num 14:18 The LORD *is* longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing *the guilty,* visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation.*

Num 14:19 Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

Num 14:20 And Jehovah said, I have pardoned according to your word.

Num 14:21 But truly, *as* I live, all the earth shall be filled *with* the glory of Jehovah.

Num 14:22 Because all those men who have seen My glory and My miracles which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted Me now these ten times, and have not listened to My voice,

Num 14:23 surely they shall not see the land which I swore to their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked Me see it.

Some of the truths on God:

* He is a forgiving God of our transgressions. “I have been pardoned according to your Word”.
* Surely, they shall **not** see the land which I swore to their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked Me see it.
* They were forgiven and probably in Heaven. They never got their promise of the promise land.
* The glory of God will go on and on over all the earth

Now review 1 Cor 3:11-15

1Co 3:15 If anyone's work shall be burned up, he shall suffer loss. But he shall be saved, yet so as by fire.

—*i.e. we are forgiven but there is still consequence.* \*For further reference on this truth, think on David and Bathsheba. David was forgiven but lost the child and his children and family was dysfunctional and went away drifted from God. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Case Study 3:

Book of Jonah

3 characters, 1 fish and 2 responses to the reality of God.

The men on the ship:

1. Jonah 1:16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly; and they offered a sacrifice unto the LORD and made vows.

Even the heathens feared God.

The people of Nineveh – the king speaking to the people.

1. Jon 3:9 Who knows? He (God) may repent, and God may have pity and turn away from the glow of His anger, so that we do not perish.

Jon 3:10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way. And God was compassionate over the evil that He had said to do to them, and He did not do *it.*

The Fish:

1. Jon 1:17 And the LORD prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.
2. Jon 2:10 And Jehovah spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out on the dry land.

Jonah:

1. Became angry with God because his prophesy didn’t come true and ergo his position as a prophet is ruined. I suspect Jonah knew God would be compassionate and thus he fled to Tarshish.

What can we learn of God?

1. God is in control of all, the humans, sea and the fish.
2. God is compassionate when they repent.
3. God is more interested in people than reputations. 4. From my friend Butch Linville: “Another insight to God.....He may change His mind (or His plan/intent) based on man's appeal (as in the case of Moses) or in case of man's change of heart/actions (as in the case of Nineveh or David)…..but He may give no explanation for the change (as in Jonah's case)”

\*For further reference on this truth, think and review the prophet Joel and see the emphasis God puts on repentance.

Applications:

Read and work through the following Old Testament Characters and note what you learn about God.

1. Joseph
2. Solomon
3. Jeremiah

Next blog I will share my discoveries.

Question to think on: Who is your God? There is a lot at stake for you in this question.