

dec 3

wow! it has been a busy time lately. i guess it is for everyone around christmas season. we have been excited and busy about getting a prayer request section set up on our website. it seems to finally be functioning. i hope you will all visit and try it out. i know it is set up for prayer needs, but just us a shout for now to show everything is working as thought. now on to more important things.

i was thinking the other day, how so many people view God as an overbearing and strict God in the old testament when we compare Him with the Jesus we know and love. He set up a strict set of laws for His chosen people to live by. (and yes, He even had a chosen people.) when they entered the promised land, He commanded them to kill all; man, woman and child. he even determined to eliminate all the people, except a chosen few, in a great flood. surely this was not the same God that Jesus called Father.

we know and are assured of this one fact: God cannot change. that would mean He would have to go from bad to worse or from worse to better. just like it is to say, God cannot lie. His speaking a word would make it happen. therefore it would not be a lie. He cannot change in any direction!

He is the creator of all things and all things exist only by His will. if God were to nap for even a second, all this would cease to be. His power and being are so far beyond our comprehension that the understanding of it would be harder than a nat

swallowing an elephant. we are a creation, testing to know the extent of His love and mercy. some because they seek to know the forbidden. others because they seek to know Him; to explore all that He is.

the world judges by their worldly standards; standards they themselves have determined. it is like the creatures discovered at the depths of the oceans. it is so dark, they have not even developed eyes to see. they move around by feel alone. (does that sound like this generation? if it feels good, do it.) eyes give one the ability to see ahead at what's coming. the eyes of our understanding allow us to know that we are the created and He is the creator.

as the word says, "now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." 1 cor 10:11 God was not showing favorites when He picked a "chosen people". He found one man who would trust Him completely, and built a people through him. He would work through them. all the errors and rebellion they would make, and His dealing them, would serve to give us a glimpse into the nature of God; help us to know Him.

do you really consider them a "chosen people"? consider that they have been persecuted throughout the ages by the enemy. he sought to destroy them because they were God's "special ones". he targeted them relentless. even now they are persecuted and hated. (christians, also being His "chosen ones", join in their persecution.) the truth was that God had a plan of redemption. a plan to save more than them; a plan

to save everyone.

His son would fulfill the requirements of the law and then pay for all their sins. He alone would pay the price they could never pay. He would suffer their judgement and return to shout "accomplished".

was God so different in the old testament, or did we just not have full understanding? understanding of His true nature and His plan. the prophet jonah knew his God when he proclaimed: "for i know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm." jon 4:2 jonah thought judgement was deserved, while God wanted mercy. "for I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings." hos 6:6

God wants to know us and for us to know Him. He wants to share His self and be beheld in His glory. we shall one day stand in glory; a glory not our own. and so, we will fall on our face as we cry, "holy, holy, holy are You Lord".

God cannot change and we cannot. we must put on the Lord Jesus Christ. we shall be clothed with His glory while our sins are clothed with a cloak of invisibility. then when God's plan has been accomplished, the universe will shout! "o death, where is thy sting? o grave, where is thy victory?" 1 cor 15:55

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