

Powerful Passages of the OT

Lesson 1

The Nature of God and Man

Isaiah 55:8-9

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.

“For as the heavens are higher than the Earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”
(NKJV)

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March 9, 2011

Isaiah 55:8-9

Author: The prophet Isaiah

Audience: Judah prior to Babylonian captivity

Time: Approx 700 BC

Overall Message: Judah’s sins (particularly idolatry) will result in God’s punishment through captivity in Babylon. God will ultimately restore physical Israel and also bring about a new, better spiritual Israel by way of the Messiah to come.

Specific Message: The restoration is a certainty. They may not see it because God’s plan is far above their ability to comprehend.

"A huge percentage of the religious problems of this world are caused by man's inability to comprehend what God is."

John Clayton, *The Source*, 1983.

- Ancient pagans considered as gods the physical elements of the Universe. (e.g. Sun, Moon, mountains, wind, storms, etc)
- Greeks considered gods as little more than a race of super-humans.
- Chinese consider him a wise and kind, philosopher.
- More recently, some picture him as a stern, grandfatherly disciplinarian in the sky waiting to zap us when we do wrong.
- Some say he initially created the Universe, then doesn't interact with it at all. Humans came through evolution.
- Other? _____

3

This lesson focuses on the nature of God and the relative place of man.

(On subsequent pages, please fill in the blanks with appropriate answers.)

**God provided us with
two records
that provide insight into Him.**

4

The 1st Record: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (RSV)

i.e. God gave us the written Word so that we may be properly equipped for good works.

To be properly equipped, we must read and study about the nature of God and of Christ.

Study to show thyself approved unto God... 2 Tim 2:15 (KJV)

5

The 2nd Record: Romans 1:20

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made...” (NAS)

i.e. the **nature of God** can be understood by examining the Creation.

6

In the beginning God created. . .

- **Space** -- For the Universe to occupy.
- **Matter** -- To fill the space. (e.g. stars, planets, gas clouds, atoms, etc)
- **Light (energy)** -- Visible light, ultraviolet, infrared, gamma rays, X-rays, etc.
- **Time** -- For mankind; The clockwork of seconds, hours, days, centuries, etc.
- **The Earth** -- A home for humanity.
- **The laws of nature** -- To govern how everything functions together.
- **All life** -- Both plant and animal.
- **Humans** -- Made in his spiritual image.

7

So what does this tell us about God?

- **Space** -- God created it, thus he _____
- **Matter** -- God is not matter. He is a _____ being.
- **Light (energy)** -- God is the source of all energy, thus He is _____.
- **Time** -- Was created for mankind. Thus God is _____
- **The Earth** -- His _____ provided a home for humanity.
- **The laws of nature** -- He is the ultimate _____ of the way things work, and they work _____.
- **All life** -- He _____ for humanity's needs.
- **Humans** -- While not human himself, He cares for us as His _____.

8

Majesty and Orderliness of God's Nature Revealed in the Design of Creation

The design of creation is orderly and intricate at any level, from the very large to the very small:

- The gravitational dance of the planets
- Ocean-atmosphere water cycle
- The interdependency of plants & animals
- The functioning of the human body
- Nature's biological clocks
- Fracture resistance of an abalone shell
- A hummingbird, nature's helicopter
- A butterfly hidden in a caterpillar
- The workings of the eye
- The power of the electron in the atom



These multiple-system designs require an _____

9

But, given the magnificent creation,
what does God's Word -- the other record -
- say about His nature?

Does it match what we see when
examining the creation?
If God created matter, space and time,
what is He?

For each set of scriptures on the following pages
(11 thru 22) fill in at the bottom the one principal
characteristic of God that is predominant.

10

Gen 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth.”

John 1:3 “All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.”

Psalms 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God..."

Isaiah 40:28 “Have you not known? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the Earth.”

Isaiah 45:12 (Thus says the Lord) “I made the Earth, and created man upon it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host.”

God is _____

11

Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man...”

Job 9:32 “For He is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him.”

Matt 16:17 “...flesh and blood did not revealed it to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”

1 Cor 1:25 "... the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

God is not _____

12

1 Tim 1:17 “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever.”

John 1:18 “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

John 4:24 “God is a spirit and those that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

1 John 4:12 “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, “

God is _____

13

Rev 1:8 " 'I am the Alpha and Omega', says the Lord God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.' "

Psalms 90:2 "...from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

Hebrews 1:12 "...thy years will not come to an end."

2 Peter 3:8 "...with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

1 John 1:1-2 “That which was from the beginning... we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us...”

God is _____

14

Jeremiah 23:24 "... 'Do I not fill the heavens and the Earth?' declares the Lord."

Acts 17:27 "...that they should seek God ... though He is not far from each one of us."

Matt 6:6 "...go into your closet and ... pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

Job 28:23-24 "God understands its way and He knows its place. For He looks to the ends of the Earth, and sees under the whole heavens."

God is _____

15

Ephesians 1:19 "...and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."

1 Chron 29:11-12 "Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed, everything that is in the heavens and the earth."

Jer 32:17 "Ah Lord God! It is thou who hast made the heavens and the Earth by thy great power and by thy outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for thee."

2 Chron 20:6 "O Lord, God of our fathers, art thou not God in heaven?... In thy hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee."

God is _____

16

Psalms 44:20-21 "If we had ... spread forth our hands to a strange god, would not God discover this? For He knows the secrets of the heart."

Luke 16:15 "But *Christ* said to them, 'You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts...'"

Psalms 94:11 "The Lord knows the thoughts of man..."

Matt 6:31-32 "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ... For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."

God is _____

17

Job 38:33 "Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the Earth?"

Jeremiah 31:35 "Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night."

Prov 3:19 "The Lord by wisdom founded the Earth; By understanding He established the heavens;"

1 Cor 14:33 "For God is not a God of confusion, but of peace."

God is _____

18

Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that he should lie.”

Psalms 12:6 “The words of the Lord are pure words as silver tried in a furnace...”

Proverbs 30:5 “Every word of God is flawless.”

Hebrews 6:18 “in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement...”

God is _____

19

Psalms 19:7-8 “The testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right rejoicing the heart.”

Deut 32:4 “A God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.”

Isaiah 30:18 “And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you, for the Lord is a God of justice...”

God is _____

20

Prov 3:12 “For whom the LORD loves He corrects,
Just as a father the son in whom he delights.”

1 John 4:8 “The one who does not love does not
know God, for God is love.”

1 John 4:16 “And we have come to know and have
believed the love which God has for us. God is
love...”

John 17:25-26 “O righteous Father! ...these have
known that You sent Me. And I have declared to
them Your name, and will declare it, that the love
with which You loved Me may be in them...”

God is _____

21

Luke 12:30-31 “For your heavenly Father knows
that you need all these things. But seek the
kingdom of God, and all these things shall be
added to you.”

Phil 4:19 “And my God shall supply all your need
according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Eph 2:4-5 "But God, being rich in mercy, out of the
great love with which he loved us, even when we
were dead through our trespasses, made us alive
together with Christ "

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He
gave His only begotten Son, that whoever
believes in Him should not perish, but have
eternal life.”

God is _____

22

Original Nature of Man

Genesis 1:26 “Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”

Man is _____

Genesis 1:28 “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the Earth.”

Man is _____

Genesis 1:31 “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.”

Man’s creation was _____!

Genesis 2:15 "God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.”

Man given part in _____

23

Then, Man Sinned

Rom 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...”

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way...”

Rom 3:23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

1 John 1:8 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

What was the result of the human creation’s actions?

24

1 Cor 6:9-11 "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you.

The human has the capacity to be really evil.

25

God can't associate with Sin

Psa 7:2-3 "The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside. They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, no, not one."

Psa 130:3 "If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?"

Prov 14:12 "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

What can Man do to recover from this separation from God on his own? _____

26

Warning: Sin has many forms and pitfalls

Hebrews

Dangers for Christians

3:12

Fall away from the living God

3:13

Be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin

4:1

Come short of the promise

4:11

Fall after example of disobedience

10:29

Count as unholy the sanctified blood

10:35

Cast away your confidence

12:15

Fall short of the grace of God

12:25

Refuse him who speaks from heaven

13:9

Be carried away by strange doctrines

All of us are continually subject to sin.

27

What is man that You are mindful of him?

Psa 8:3-6 "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.

Why does God still want sinful man to return?

28

Not Man's Plan, but God's

Jeremiah 10:23 “O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”

Rom 5:20-21 “But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

God provides the way to restore the separation: _____

29

What should be our response to God's nature?

Jesus said: *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”*
Matt 11:28-29

Peter said: *“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...”*
Acts 2:38

John said: *“... but, if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*
1 John 1:7

30