

THE BIBLE WAY TO HEAVEN

Realize That God Loves You.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
(John 3:16).

The Bible Says That All Men Are Sinners.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory to God." (Romans 3:23).

God's Word Also Says That Sin Must Be Paid For.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

The Good News Is That Christ Paid for Our Sins.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8).

We Must Personally Pray and Receive Christ by Faith as Our Personal Saviour.

The Bible Says, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (Romans 10:13).



Memory Verse- II Peter 3:9

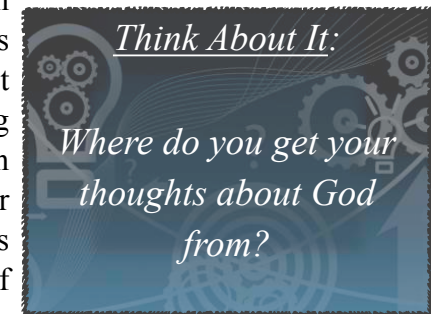
"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

At the time of Isaiah's prophecy, Israel is facing threat from Assyria. Isaiah foretells the coming Assyrian and Babylonian captivity. The children of Israel must be distressed with such a dim future. The first eight verses in Isaiah chapter forty spoke about the comfort that is coming. God does not leave the children of Israel comfortless.

Chapter forty is the transition chapter and begins with the words "comfort ye, comfort ye". In our last study we looked at the coming comfort in John the Baptist and in Jesus Christ. Israel rejected their coming comfort and crucified Jesus Christ. We have the promise of comfort today in the return of Christ.

What concept of God do you have in your mind? Where did you formulate this concept from? We all have an idea of who God is in our minds. These ideas come from what we have heard from others, read in a book, fabricated ourselves, or learned from the Word of God. Read Isaiah 40:9-11. Isaiah immediately calls our attention to God by stating, "behold your God". Behold means to fix your eyes on or to see with attention and care.

*Your
Thoughts*



Your
Thoughts

Behold Your God is Strong (10)

Christ came first as a lamb to the slaughter. Read Isaiah 53:6-7. He came humble and quiet. Israel was looking for a king to lead in power and defeat the Roman rule. The Jewish leaders did not recognize this in Jesus so they crucified their king.

The book of Revelation tells us that Christ is coming again in power and might, *“and out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron”*. Read Revelation 19:11-21. Jesus Christ is returning in such power that no opposition will be strong enough. Jesus Christ is coming to rule and reign as King of Kings. Read Philippians 2:9-11.

Think About It:

We have to accept all that the Bible teaches about God, not just what we like.

In Christ’s strength, He will, *“tread the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God”*. What do you think about the wrath of God? Does it scare you? What about the love of God? Can God have wrath and love at the same time? How can you reconcile the two?

Wrath is God’s holy and just anger or displeasure against sin. Read Romans 1:18. The Bible is full of God’s wrath. Some may say, “would a loving God allow people to go to hell?” Others just dismiss the wrath of God and only speak of God’s love. To dismiss the wrath of God is to misunderstand who God really is. If you only like the God of love and dismiss the God of wrath you have created an idol in your mind to your own liking.

A good judge must exercise justice against an offense no matter how good a person may be. God must punish sin. God’s wrath was placed upon Jesus Christ on the cross. You must have Jesus Christ as your Saviour to escape His wrath. Read John 3:16-18.

Your
Thoughts

You cannot separate the wrath, justice, and love of God. We have to accept the truths about God as the Bible teaches each. The wrath of God is just as real as the love of God, and I must accept it as truth. I cannot pick and choose what I like about God. People who do this are setting up an idol of God in their mind. The idol reflects their thoughts of who God should be.

Behold Your God is Gentle

Isaiah speaks of the coming Messiah reigning with power. This same Messiah coming in power is referred to as the Shepherd. Jesus Christ is referred to as the, *“Shepherd and Bishop of your souls”* in I Peter 2:25, the *“chief Shepherd”* in I Peter 5:4, and *“the good shepherd”* in John 10:1-14. The God of wrath is also a gentle shepherd towards His sheep.

The job of the shepherd is to feed the flock. We are fed through God’s Word. The shepherd cares for the weak ones and leads the young believers. The shepherd protects the sheep from the enemy. The shepherd deals softly and gently with the sheep.

What a contrast! The power and wrath of God that will be poured out on all the ungodly and those who are without Christ compared with the gentleness of a shepherd with his sheep. II Peter 3:9 reminds us that God, *“is not slack concerning his promise”*. God will execute justice. II Peter 3:9 also reminds us that God is *“longsuffering...not willing that any should perish”*. The only thing that keeps the wrath of God from coming right now is the time of longsuffering.

Think About It:

The God of wrath is also a gentle shepherd towards His sheep.

What are your thoughts about God?
Are they your own or from the Bible?