

# THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**A Journey Through the  
Old Testament**

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction,  
so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.

## **Genesis 3**

**1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field that the LORD God had made.**

**And he said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’ ”**

**2 The woman answered the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden, 3 but about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You must not eat of it or touch it, or you will die.’ ”**

**4 “You will not surely die,” the serpent told her.**

**5 “For God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”**

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***The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully. – Richard Dawkins***

**First, there are several clear scriptural truths that can help us to better understand the God of the OT.**

**Second, when we really understand Him, we will love Him more than ever, and want to serve Him more than ever.**

# 9 Principles to Help Us Know, Understand, and Love the God of the OT

- 1. There is a chasm between God's wisdom and our wisdom.**



**1 Corinthians 1:19 For it is written:**

**“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”**

**20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe?**

**Where is the philosopher of this age?**

**Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the  
world?**

**21 For since in the wisdom of God the world  
through its wisdom did not know Him,**

**God was pleased through the foolishness of what  
was preached to save those who believe.**

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# **1 Corinthians 2**

**6 Among the mature, however, we speak a message of wisdom**

**—but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.**

**7 No, we speak of the mysterious and hidden wisdom of God, which He destined for our glory before time began.**

# **1 Corinthians 2**

**8 None of the rulers of this age understood it. For if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

**9 Rather, as it is written:**

**“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him.”** [Isaiah 64:4]

**10 But God has revealed it to us by the Spirit.**

**The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.**

**11 For who among men knows the thoughts of man except his own spirit within him?**

**So too, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.**

**12 We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.**

**13 And this is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.**



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# **1 Corinthians 2**

**14 The natural man does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God.**

**For they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

**15 The spiritual man judges all things, but he himself is not subject to anyone's judgment.**

**16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to instruct Him?"** [Isaiah 40:13]

**But we have the mind of Christ.**

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## 9 Principles to Help Us Know, Understand, and Love the God of the OT

**1. There is a chasm between God's wisdom and our wisdom, that is bridged only by scripture.**

- Which means, there is a chasm between our judgement and God's judgement.
  - We cannot “judge” God from “our side of the chasm”.
  - Scripture must interpret scripture.

# 9 Principles to Help Us Know, Understand, and Love the God of the OT

**2. There is a chasm between God's wisdom and man's wisdom, that cannot be bridged by an unbeliever.**



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**Luke 24**

**45 Then He opened their minds to  
understand the Scriptures.**

## **Luke 10**

**21 At that time Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and declared, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and learned,**

**and revealed them to little children.**

**Yes, Father, for this was well-pleasing in Your sight.**

**22 All things have been entrusted to Me by My Father.**

**No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him."**

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## **Matthew 13**

**10 Then the disciples came to Jesus and asked,  
“Why do You speak to the people in parables?”  
11 He replied, “The knowledge of the mysteries  
of the kingdom of heaven has been given to  
you, but not to them.**



# Matthew 13

**10 Then the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Why do You speak to the people in parables?"**

**11 He replied, "The knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven **has been given to you, but not to them.****

**12 Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance.**

**Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.**

## 9 Principles to Help Us Know, Understand, and Love the God of the OT

**2. There is a chasm between God's wisdom and man's wisdom, that cannot be bridged by an unbeliever.**

### Four Takeaways:

**1. As believers, we cannot expect unbelievers to understand God and His ways.**

## 9 Principles to Help Us Know, Understand, and Love the God of the OT

**2. There is a chasm between God's wisdom and man's wisdom, that cannot be bridged for an unbeliever.**

### Four Takeaways:

**2. As believers, we should present the gospel and pray for an unbeliever. This is the bridge.**

## **2 Corinthians 3**

**14 But their minds were closed.**

**For to this day the same veil remains at the reading of the old covenant.**

**It has not been lifted, because only in Christ can it be removed.**

**15 And even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.**

**16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.**

## 9 Principles to Help Us Know, Understand, and Love the God of the OT

**2. There is a chasm between God's wisdom and man's wisdom, that cannot be bridged for an unbeliever.**

### Four Takeaways:

**3. As believers, we must not let our confidence in God and His word be shaken by what unbelievers think or say about Him.**



## 9 Principles to Help Us Know, Understand, and Love the God of the OT

**2. There is a chasm between God's wisdom and man's wisdom, that cannot be bridged for an unbeliever.**

### **Four Takeaways:**

**4. As believers, we are incredibly blessed!!**  
**- The Lord has chosen to grant us eyes to see and ears to hear!**

**Matthew 16**

**17** Jesus replied, “**Blessed are you, Simon** son of Jonah!

**For this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in heaven.**

## 9 Principles to Help Us Know, Understand, and Love the God of the OT

**3. A true believer has been given a faith that knows that GOD IS JUST.**

- This is part of the “faith package”.

# Hebrews 11

**6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him,**

**for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.**

**...and the punisher of those who do not.**

## 9 Principles to Help Us Know, Understand, and Love the God of the OT

### 3. A true believer has been given a faith that knows that **GOD IS JUST.**

- This is part of the “faith package”.
  - Faith is the entrusting of ourselves into the hands of a just judge.
  - Faith places the creature in complete submission to the will of the Creator.

## **Romans 9**

**17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”** [Exodus 9:16]

**18 Therefore God has mercy on whom He wants to have mercy,  
and He hardens whom He wants to harden.**



## **Romans 9**

**19 One of you will say to me, “Then why does God still find fault?**

**For who can resist His will?”**

**20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God?**

**Shall what is formed say to Him who formed it, “Why did You make me like this?”** [Isaiah 29:16; Isaiah 45:9]

**21 Does not the potter have the right to make from the same lump of clay one vessel for special occasions and another for common use?**

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# **Isaiah 45**

**9 Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker— one clay pot among many.**

**Does the clay ask the potter, ‘What are you making?’**

**11 Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker:**

**“How dare you question Me about My sons,  
or instruct Me in the work of My hands?**

**12 It is I who made the earth and created man upon it.**

**It was My hands that stretched out the heavens, and I  
ordained all their host.**

# **Job 40**

**1 And the LORD said to Job:**

**2“Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty?**

**Let him who argues with God give an answer.”**

**3 Then Job answered the LORD:**

**4“Behold, I am insignificant. How can I reply to You?**

**I place my hand over my mouth.**

**5 I have spoken once, but I have no answer—  
twice, but I have nothing to add.”**

## **Job 40**

**6 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:**

**7"Now brace yourself like a man;  
I will question you, and you shall inform Me.**

**8 Would you really annul My justice?**

**Would you condemn Me to justify yourself?**

## 9 Principles to Help Us Know, Understand, and Love the God of the OT

**3. A true believer has been given a faith that knows that GOD IS JUST.**



## **Romans 3**

**21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been revealed, as attested by the Law and the Prophets.**

**22 And this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no distinction,**

**23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**

## **Romans 3**

**25 God presented Him as the atoning sacrifice through faith in His blood, in order to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance He had passed over the sins committed beforehand.**

**26 He did this to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time,  
so as to be just and to justify the one who has faith in Jesus.**

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