

# 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.

## 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.
2. There is a chasm between God's wisdom and man's wisdom, that cannot be bridged by an unbeliever.
3. A true believer has been given a faith that knows that **GOD IS JUST.**

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

**4. These two truths make God Just in all He does in the Old Testament (and beyond).**

**A. God is far more holy, righteous, and pure than we can ever really grasp.**

**B. Man is far more sinful, unrighteous and evil, than we can ever really grasp.**

## **Genesis 6**

**5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great upon the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was altogether evil all the time.**

**6 And the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.**

**7 So the LORD said, "I will blot out man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—every man and beast and crawling creature and bird of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them."**



## **Genesis 8**

**21 When the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma,  
He said in His heart,**

**“Never again will I curse the ground because of  
man, even though every inclination of his heart  
is evil from his youth.**

# **Romans 1**

**18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.**

**19 For what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.**

**20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are without excuse.**

# **Romans 1**

**21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking and darkened in their foolish hearts.**

**22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools,**

**23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images of mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.**

# **Romans 1**

**28 Furthermore, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, He gave them up to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.**

**29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, and depravity.**

**They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice.**

**They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful. They invent new forms of evil; they disobey their parents.**

**31 They are senseless, faithless, heartless, merciless.**



## **Romans 1**

**32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things are worthy of death, they not only continue to do these things, but also approve of those who practice them.**

## **Romans 2**

**5 But because of your hard and unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.**

**6 God "will repay each one according to his deeds."**

**7 To those who by perseverance in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life.**

**8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow wickedness, there will be wrath and anger.**

## **Romans 2**

**9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil, first for the Jew, then for the Greek;**

**10 but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, first for the Jew, then for the Greek.**

**11 For God does not show favoritism.**

**12 All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.**

**13 For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but it is the doers of the law who will be declared righteous.**

## **Romans 2**

**14 Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.**

**15 So they show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts either accusing or defending them**

**16 on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Christ Jesus, as proclaimed by my gospel.**

## **Romans 3**

**9 What then? Are we any better? Not at all.**

**For we have already made the charge that Jews and Greeks alike are all under sin.**

**10 As it is written:**

**“There is no one righteous, not even one.**

**11 There is no one who understands,  
no one who seeks God.**

**12 All have turned away,  
they have together become worthless;  
there is no one who does good, not even one.”**



## **Romans 3**

**13 "Their throats are open graves;  
their tongues practice deceit."**

**"The venom of vipers is on their lips."**

**14 "Their mouths are full  
of cursing and bitterness."**

**15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;**

**16 ruin and misery lie in their wake,**

**17 and the way of peace they have not known."**

**18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."**

## **Romans 3**

**19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.**

**20 Therefore no one will be justified in His sight by works of the law. For the law merely brings awareness of sin.**

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# Isaiah 6

**1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted; and the train of His robe filled the temple.**

**2 Above Him stood seraphim, each having six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.**

**3 And they were calling out to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Hosts; all the earth is full of His glory."**

## Isaiah 6

**4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook, and the temple was filled with smoke.**

**5 Then I said:**

**“Woe is me, for I am ruined,  
because I am a man of unclean lips  
dwelling among a people of unclean lips;  
for my eyes have seen the King,  
the LORD of Hosts.”**



## **Romans 3**

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***“All sin is found in secret atheism. ...  
Every sin is a kind of cursing God in the heart;  
an aim at the destruction of the being of God.  
... A man in every sin aims to set up his own  
will as his rule,  
and his own glory at the end of his actions.”***

**- Stephen Charnock**

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

## 4. These two truths make God Just in all He does in the Old Testament.

God is righteous, and requires perfect righteousness.  
Man is unrighteous, not meeting God's requirement.

Therefore, all men deserve God's wrath.

Therefore, no one can ever receive injustice.

In the end, most will receive God's justice,

Some will receive God's mercy,

And these will also receive God's grace.

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**Therefore...**

**God's attitude toward man in the OT is  
1000x more merciful than it is wrathful.**

## Genesis 15

**13 Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.**

**14 But I will judge the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will depart with many possessions.**

**15 You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.**

**16 In the fourth generation your descendants will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."**





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**When we think of men as victims,  
we necessarily are saying God is unjust.**

**Job 40:8 Would you really annul My justice?  
Would you condemn Me to justify yourself?**

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**Mercy that is deserved, is not mercy.  
Grace that can be demanded, is not grace.**

## **Lamentations 3**

**22 Because of the loving devotion of the LORD  
we are not consumed, for His mercies never fail.**

**23 They are new every morning;  
great is Your faithfulness!**

**24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in Him."**

**25 The LORD is good to those who wait for Him,  
to the soul who seeks Him.**

**26 It is good to wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.**

**27 It is good for a man to bear the yoke  
while he is still young.**

## **Lamentations 3**

**37 Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has ordained it?**

**38 Do not both adversity and good come from the mouth of the Most High?**

**39 Why should any mortal man complain, in view of his sins?**

**40 Let us examine and test our ways, and turn back to the LORD.**



# **Lamentations 3**

**41 Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven:**

**42 "We have sinned and rebelled; You have not forgiven."**

**43 You have covered Yourself in anger and pursued us; You have killed without pity.**

**44 You have covered Yourself with a cloud that no prayer can pass through.**

**45 You have made us scum and refuse among the nations.**

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## **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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**Some might ask...**

**Why focus so much on the contrast of  
the holiness of God and the evil of man?  
Isn't that too negative?**



# 25 Reasons Why We Need This Worldview

This is a God's view.

The Biblical worldview is a big God and small man.  
We can't interpret scripture without it.

This is the beginning of wisdom (salvation).  
“Blessed are the poor in spirit”

We experience true joy and blessing, paradoxically  
through a God-centered worldview rather than a  
man-centered worldview.



# 25 Reasons Why We Need This Worldview

God's mercy in salvation is much more precious to us when we know what we have been saved from.

God's mercy in salvation is much more precious to us when we know what we have been saved to.

It causes us to love Him and worship Him in truth.  
It causes us to be eternally grateful for His mercy.

It makes Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross the centerpiece of all creation.

# 25 Reasons Why We Need This Worldview

It humbles us and removes all boasting from us.  
It raises my daily dependence on Him.

The Christian faith is not about good “self-esteem”,  
But it is about “Christ esteem”.

Living as though my ‘old self’ is dead and my ‘new self’ is “in Christ”, is now a blessing, not a curse.

It causes me to think of pleasing God before I think of pleasing myself, or others.

# 25 Reasons Why We Need This Worldview

It eliminates complaining and murmuring.  
Everything in our lives is better than what we deserve.

It causes me to want others to share this worldview.

When God is big and I am small...  
Then others become just the right size.

It makes Jesus Christ's sacrifice for me an example of my sacrifice for others.

# 25 Reasons Why We Need This Worldview

It makes me want to trust Him with the rest of my life.

It places Him above all other things in my life.

It brings God glory.

When I see my nothingness and His everythingness,  
It makes me want Him to receive glory, not me.

It makes Him worth dying for.



## **Romans 8**

**31 What then shall we say in response to these things?  
If God is for us, who can be against us?**

**32 He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up  
for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, freely  
give us all things?**

**33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is  
God who justifies.**

**34 Who is there to condemn us?**

**For Christ Jesus, who died, and more than that was  
raised to life, is at the right hand of God—and He is  
interceding for us.**





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