

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.**

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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,

But some will receive His mercy.

Romans 9

**14 What then shall we say? Is God unjust?
Certainly not!**

15 For He says to Moses:

**“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have
compassion.”** [Exodus 33:19]

**16 So then, it does not depend on man's desire
or effort, but on God's mercy.**

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5. God has a sovereign right to choose who will receive mercy and who will receive justice.

God is the Judge.

Every man stands before Him guilty.

Justice requires that every man's sentence is death.

It is the Judge's decision if He will offer mercy, and to whom He will offer mercy.

Romans 9

10 Not only that, but Rebecca's children were conceived by one man, our father Isaac.

11 Yet before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad, in order that God's plan of election might stand,

12 not by works but by Him who calls, she was told,

"The older will serve the younger." [Genesis 25:23]

13 So it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." [Malachi 1:2–3]

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Psalm 33

**12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people He has chosen as His inheritance!**

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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.**

Isaiah 43

**1 Now this is what the LORD says—
He who created you, O Jacob,
and He who formed you, O Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by your name; you are Mine!**

**2 When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you go through the rivers,
they will not overwhelm you.**

**When you walk through the fire,
you will not be scorched;
the flames will not set you ablaze.**

Isaiah 43

**3 For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush and Seba in your place.**

**4 Because you are precious and honored in My sight,
and because I love you,
I will give men in exchange for you
and nations in place of your life.**

Matthew 20

8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last ones hired and moving on to the first.'

9 The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius.

10 So when the original workers came, they assumed they would receive more.

But each of them also received a denarius.

Matthew 20

11 On receiving their pay, they began to grumble against the landowner.

**12 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said,
'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.'**

Matthew 20

13 But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you.

Did you not agree with me on one denarius?

14 Take your pay and go.

I want to give this last man the same as I gave you.

15 Do I not have the right to do as I please with what is mine?

Or are you envious because I am generous?'

16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

For many are called, but few are chosen.

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

- 5. God has a sovereign right to choose who will receive mercy and who will receive justice.**

**In the OT, God chose to show mercy
to Abraham and His descendants;
but not to others.**

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

6. God's glory is the single most important end for all of creation.

**God is glorified in His compassion and mercy
AND ALSO in His justice and wrath.**

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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?

Romans 9

22 What if God, intending to show His wrath and **make His power known**, bore with great patience the vessels of His wrath, prepared for destruction?

23 What if He did this to **make the riches of His glory known** to the vessels of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory—

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22 What if God, intending to show His wrath and **make His power known**, bore with great patience the **vessels of His wrath**, prepared for destruction?

23 What if He did this to **make the riches of His glory known** to the **vessels of His mercy**, whom He prepared in advance for glory—

24 including us, whom He has called not only from the Jews, but also from the Gentiles?

Exodus 15

1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

**“I will sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted.
The horse and rider He has thrown into the sea.**

**2 The LORD is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation.**

**He is my God, and I will praise Him,
my father's God, and I will exalt Him.**

3 The LORD is a warrior, the LORD is His name.

Exodus 15

4 Pharaoh's chariots and army

**He has cast into the sea; the finest of his officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.**

**5 The depths have covered them;
they sank there like a stone.**

**6 Your right hand, O LORD,
is majestic in power;**

**Your right hand, O LORD,
has shattered the enemy.**

Exodus 15

**7 You overthrew Your adversaries
by Your great majesty.**

**You unleashed Your burning wrath;
it consumed them like stubble.**

**8 At the blast of Your nostrils
the waters piled up;
like a wall the currents stood firm;
the depths congealed in the heart of the sea.**

Exodus 15

**9 The enemy declared,
'I will pursue, I will overtake.
I will divide the spoils;
I will gorge myself on them.
I will draw my sword;
my hand will destroy them.'**

**10 But You blew with Your breath,
and the sea covered them.
They sank like lead in the mighty waters.**

Exodus 15

**11 Who among the gods is like You, O LORD?
Who is like You—majestic in holiness,
revered with praises,
performing wonders?**

**12 You stretched out Your right hand,
and the earth swallowed them up.**

**13 With loving devotion You will lead
the people You have redeemed;
with Your strength You will guide them
to Your holy dwelling.**

Ezekiel 38

21 And I will summon a sword against Gog on all My mountains, declares the Lord GOD, and every man's sword will be against his brother.

22 I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed.

I will pour out torrents of rain, hailstones, fire, and sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him.

23 I will magnify and sanctify Myself, and will reveal Myself in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

Jonathan Edwards – July 1744

***'Wicked Men Useful In Their Destruction Only'* [Ezekiel 15:2-4]**

- 1. It's very evident that man can only be useful in one of two ways; either in 'acting' or in 'being acted upon'.**
- 2. Bringing forth fruit to God is the only way to be actively useful.**
- 3. If he is not bringing forth fruit to God, there is no other way in which he can be passively useful aside from being destroyed.**
- 4. In that way man may be useful without bearing fruit.**

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

6. God's glory is the single most important end
for all of creation.

God is glorified in His compassion and mercy
AND ALSO in His justice and wrath.

God is working for His own glory in
everything that happens in the OT.

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God's glory in showing mercy is
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God is glorified in His compassion and mercy
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God's glory in showing mercy to us
is connected to His glory in showing
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**God is glorified in His compassion and mercy
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**If God can be glorified by showing wrath to
His own Son, then He can also be glorified
by showing wrath to evil men.**

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His wrath to some is what makes His
mercy to others so precious.

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**In the OT, God “seems” harsh because,
in it He displays His wrath on mankind.
In the NT, God “seems” merciful because,
in it He displays His wrath on His Son.**

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To align our lives with God's purposes,
we will need to forsake all others in order
to be about God's glory.

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