

GOD IS

Romans 9:10-21

Psalm 5; 1 John 4:7-21



4 July 2021

Do You Know the God of the Bible?

Elohiym - Genesis 1:1 - What We Learned So Far

God Is . . . (Romans 9:10-13)

- At least, three things we learn from these verses:
 - ① God chooses - not man.
 - ② God loves some.
 - ③ God hates some.

God Chooses

- God **chose** Abraham to be the father of Israel. Abraham was not seeking God in Ur, yet God **sought** him! (Acts 7:2-3; Genesis 12:1-3; Nehemiah 9:7)
 - ★ Abraham had no knowledge of the true God when God chose him.
 - ★ Abraham came from an idol-worshipping family.
- God **chose** Isaac over Ishmael. (Genesis 17:19, 21)
 - ★ Isaac was promised by God many years before he was born.
 - ★ Isaac was born by the will of God **not** the will of man.
 - ★ God made a covenant with Isaac before he was born.
 - ★ God chose to bring the nation of Israel into existence through Isaac – not Ishmael.
- God **chose** Jacob over Esau. (Genesis 25:19-24; Psalm 105:9-10)
 - ★ Some might argue that God did not chose Ishmael because he was not a **pure** Jew.
 - ★ This argument could not be made with Jacob and Esau since the were twins from the **same** mother.
- God **chose** the nation of Israel to be His chosen people.
 - ★ Israel was **chosen** based on a covenant that was made hundreds of years before she was a nation. (Deuteronomy 4:37; 7:6-8; 10:15; Amos 3:2)
- God **chose** Saul to be the first king of Israel. Saul was not seeking the kingship of Israel. (1 Samuel 9:16; 10:1)
- God **chose** David to be the second king of Israel. David was not seeking the kingship of Israel. (1 Samuel 16:1-12)

- God **chose** King Josiah before he was born. (1 Kings 13:1-3)
- God **chose** Cyrus the Great before he was born. (Isaiah 44:28)
- God **chose** Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nations before he was born. (Jeremiah 1:5)
- God **chose** Mary as the **one** woman to bring the Messiah into the world. (Luke 1:26-31)
- Christ **chose** twelve apostles – not 11 nor 13; less or more. He even chose Judas knowing that he was a devil. (John 6:70; 15:16; Luke 6:13)
- God **chose** Paul to be His apostle to the Gentiles. (Acts 9:15)
- God **chose** who would be His own before the foundation of the universe. (Ephesians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; Matthew 11:25-26; John 6:37-40, 44; 10:27-30; 17:2-3; Romans 8:28-30, 33; 1 Peter 1:2; 2:9)
 - NOT ONE whom He chose was seeking Him. (Romans 3:10-18)
 - NOT ONE had any **ability** to do anything to save themselves. (Rom 5:6)
 - NOT ONE of them **could** do anything to save themselves. (Luke 18:26-27; Romans 8:7-8; John 6:44, 65; 10:26; Jeremiah 13:23; 1 Cor 2:14)
 - EVERY ONE of them were DEAD in their sins and dead people cannot do anything. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

“Jacob I Have Loved, But Esau I Have Hated” (Romans 9:10-12)

- Two men from the same woman at the same time.
- God **decided** (predestined) the **destinies** of these two men before they are born! == “The older shall serve the younger.” (See Genesis 25:23)
- God’s **decision** about the **destines** of these two men was made **before** either did **good** or **evil**.
- God’s decision not only affected the lives of these two men, but the two nations they represented, and **all** of **history**.
 - ★ In controlling the **destinies** of two men God demonstrated that He **is** in control of **history**.
- God did this so “that the **purpose** of **GOD** according to **election** might stand.”
 - (Isaiah 14:24) “Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have **purposed**, so it shall **stand**.”
 - (Isaiah 14:27) “For the LORD of host has **purposed**, and who will **annul** it? . . .”
 - (Isaiah 46:10) “My counsel (purpose) shall **stand**, and I will do **all** My pleasure.”
 - (Ephesians 1:11) “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestined** according to the **purpose** of Him who works **all** things according to the **counsel** of **His will**.”
 - (Ephesians 1:9) “having made known to us the mystery of His **will**, according to His good **pleasure** which He **purposed** in Himself.”
 - (Psalm 33:11) “The counsel of the LORD **stands** forever . . .”

- (Proverbs 19:21) “There are many plans in a man’s heart (mind), nevertheless the LORD’s counsel – that will stand.”
- (2 Timothy 1:9) “(God) who saved us and called us with a holy calling, **not** according to our works, but according to His own **purpose** and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.”

God Loves (1 John 4:7-21)

• God is . . .

- . . . **spirit**. (John 4:24) His spirit **fills** the heavens and the earth. (Jeremiah 23:24; 1 Kings 8:27; Isaiah 57:15). He is invisible. (Col 1:15; 1 Tim 1:17; 6:16; Hebrews 11:27). God **must** be worship in spirit and truth.
- . . . **light**. (1 John 1:5-7) Light stands for holiness, goodness and life and darkness stands for sin, evil, and death. God is the essence of excellency. Christians walk (live) in His light - not the world’s and in accordance to the light of His Word. (Psalm 119:105)
- . . . **love**. (1 John 4:8) Notice that John does not say, “God loves.” God is love itself. Love is the very nature of God. **GOD DEFINES LOVE.**

• Characteristics of God’s love:

- ① It is **uninfluenced**. Nothing in the objects of His love moves Him to love them! The love of God is **uncaused**. God loves because He loves. (See Deuteronomy 7:7-8) God loves us **FIRST** and then we love Him! (1 John 4:19) God loved us when we were sinners (His enemies)! (Romans 5:8, 10)
- ② It is **eternal**. There was never a time when God did not love His own! (Jeremiah 31:3; Ephesians 1:4-5). Because God loved His own for “eternity past” He draws them! (John 6:44, 65)
- ③ It is **sovereign**. God is God and does whatever He desires and pleases. (Psalm 115:3; 135:6; Job 23:13; Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 46:10) He is under no law and has no obligation to anyone. An example is His love for Jacob and His hatred for Esau. (Romans 9:13; Malachi 1:2, 3)
- ④ It is **infinite**. Just like His wisdom, essence, and power; God’s love is infinite because God is infinite. God’s love is great. **With THIS love** He loved us! (Ephesians 2:4) This is the definition of the word “so” in John 3:16.
- ⑤ It is **immutable**. (James 1:17) Since God is the same today, yesterday, and tomorrow, so is His love for His own! God’s love does not change! There is nothing that one can do to cause God to love them more or less! **NOTHING** and **NO ONE** can separate one from God’s love. (consider Romans 8:32-39 with John 3:16) No one can do anything that will cause to love them more or love them less. God loves.
- ⑦ It is **holy**. God’s love is **not** regulated by passion or sentiment. God’s love is regulated by **principle** – just like His grace, mercy, justice, wrath, hatred.

- ⑧ It is **tough**. God disciplines those whom He loves. (Hebrews 12:6-8; Proverbs 3:12; 13:24; Deuteronomy 8:5; Psalm 89:30-34; 119:71, 75; Revelation 3:19).
- ⑨ It is **gracious**. God loves those who do not deserve His love. (1 Timothy 1:14)
- ⑩ It is **through Christ alone**. God loves solely based on what Christ has done for His people - not what His people do or do not do. God loves those who are IN CHRIST.

God Hates (Romans 9:13)

- God reveals, not man, that He hates some.
- God reveals, not man, that He does not love everyone.
- Paul takes us back to Malachi 1:2-3. In this context, God was arguing that His love was demonstrated in Him choosing Jacob and not choosing Esau.
- Some like to **soften** "hate" to mean "to love less" but this not a sufficient argument in the context. It might be used in Luke 14:26-27 (see Matthew 10:37) but not here.
- Some like to say, "God hates sin but loves the sinner."
 - This is **TRUE** for the saved because we are sinners yet God loves us as He loves His own Son. God's love for His children is unconditional. God loves us "in Christ."
 - This is **FALSE** for the unbeliever. God hates the sinner.
 - It is the WRATH of God that abides on unbeliever NOT His love. (John 3:36)
 - We are ENEMIES of God before we are saved. (Romans 5:10; 8:7-8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Colossians 1:20-21)
 - God promises His vengeance, anger, and wrath on His enemies. (Nahum 1; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; Hebrews 3:11; 4:3; Revelation 6:16-17; Rom 1:18; Matt 3:7; John 3:36; Psalm 2:12; Eph 5:6)
 - Christ was sent into the world to be the propitiation (God's anger toward sinners) for His people's sins. (1 John 4:10; Roms 3:25-26)
 - Several passages in the Scriptures teach us that God hates the sinner – Psalm 5:5; 7:11; Proverbs 6:16-19; Hosea 9:15; Zechariah 11:8)
- ★ **WE MUST REMEMBER:** God's hatred is NOT like our hatred. His is a holy hatred. Just like God's love is much different from our, so too, is His hatred.

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