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Making Sense of God

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Making Sense of God.

This article was prompted by a friend who asked me, "How do you make sense of the Christian God?" She said a lot of seemingly negative things regarding the forbidden tree, Adam and Eve, the people prior to the flood, the Ark and the animals etc. I had no answer simply because her reasoning was very well thought out and most of her questions made a lot of sense. She finished her conversation by saying, "If the God of the Bible is supposed to be so wise and so loving why did He create humans with the ability to be extremely cruel and evil, how do you make sense of a God like that?" Much of what she said was probably what many people who don't know God wonder, and even Christians might at some stage ponder the same thoughts but never talk about them, because it would be considered by many a lack of faith or blaspheming God. But it is a good question, "How do we make sense of God?" As the conversation progressed it became evident that the underlying thought being implied in her conversation was that the god she had chosen to believe in and embraced was a much fairer and a far more loving god than the God of the Bible. I mentally tried to reason our conversation through. I knew the human mind could create its own god, one that suits our natural thinking and the way we think things should be, a god that is fluffy, cuddly, like a Christmas Santa whose only purpose is to give and be kind and who would certainly not create anything with the potential to inflict cruelty and destruction on his own children.

THE APOSTLE PAUL SAYS, "THERE ARE MANY SO CALLED GODS IN THE WORLD."

- Although there may be *so-called gods* in heaven or on earth—as indeed *there are many "gods" and many "lords"*—⁶yet for us (the apostles) there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist (1 Cor. 8:5-6)

The human mind can create very real entities or gods in the imagination by the power of belief in that entity or so-called god. If this belief is strong enough it will cause the nervous system, the emotions and the feelings to react to those images or entities (good or bad) as though they are real, nevertheless though there may be many so-called gods in the world, there is only one true God. I understood that in my friend's mind the so-called god she believed in was to her not only far kinder, but also made far more sense to her than the God of the Bible does. The following questions show why she found it so difficult to believe in the God of the Bible, she asked me if the God of the Bible is love why would, He create:

- Humans that spend their holidays at hotels which rent out male children as sex objects so these evil created creatures on holiday can abuse an innocent child to satisfy their own lust.
- Creatures that kidnap innocent teenage girls like yours or my daughter and then sell them to be used as sex workers to other perverted created creatures (next to weapons of war and drugs this is the third biggest black-market trade in the world).
- Beautiful, harmless and gentle animals that are cruelly torn apart by stronger ones.
- Kings and Presidents so powerful that they can deceive entire nations, drop bombs on countries and destroy thousands of innocent families and ruin their children's lives forever?

She asked me, "What kind of love does God have when He can sit above his creation and allow so many innocent people to suffer cruelty at the hand of His own human creation?" She continued:

- How can your Christian God watch the extreme suffering of families and children suffer at the hand of His own power through famine, earthquakes, tornados, hail, lightening and the many other natural disasters etc.
- When she had finished asking these questions she said, "And you expect me to believe in your God you must be joking!" Implying that her so called god is a much fairer and certainly a far kinder god than the God of the Bible.

My friend's questions are not a reflection of her hardness, but of her kind-heartedness, she was not trying to crush me, but was simply responding from her compassion for the innocent and the less fortunate who she sees suffering so unjustly and unfairly in the world today. She like many others is simply trying to make sense of the cruelty, suffering and injustice that is going on around us every day and has the courage to voice the negative thoughts that are travelling through her mind. She is wise enough to believe that there is a God because of creation and appreciates its wonder and splendour and knows that it could not have all come together simply by chance, but she does not accept the Christian God of the Bible, but rather chooses to believe in a so called god who to her mind is kinder and makes more sense than does the God that is presented in the Bible.

HER QUESTIONS STARTED ME THINKING THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS.

- No human inventor is foolish enough to create in his inventions the inbuilt ability to destroy other products he has skillfully created and gets pleasure and enjoyment from unless he is making weapons for war, so why would the God of the Bible who is all wise create a creature so cruel that it has the power to inflict and destroy another of His created creatures who are gentle, kind and wouldn't do harm to anyone?
- Some believe God created some humans to be kind and others to be cruel, while others proclaim, He created all humans with the potential to be kind or cruel and it is the person themselves who from their own free will choose whether they will be good or bad. Either, way if God is all loving and all wisdom why would He even implant within His created human creation the potential to be violent, cruel and destructive? This not only makes no sense to my friend, but it also makes no sense to many others.
- Some say we have to know evil to know good, but if that is the case how are we going to appreciate good in eternity where there will be no evil? And why should someone else have to suffer, physical or mental disabilities, war, famine, natural disasters or whatever so that I can appreciate what a good life I have, where is any justice or fairness in that? Furthermore if there is a better life to come without evil, why didn't the God of the Bible who is said to be love begin there, rather than have thousands of years of human suffering, just so some fortunate people can appreciate good, none of this makes sense to my friend, but it doesn't make sense to thousands of others either.

I WONDERED HOW DO I RESPOND TO HER QUESTIONS AND HER REASONING?

Christians (I am one of them) general answer to human suffering is that all the evil in the world is because of sin and man's free will. Man chooses to be selfish, greedy and driven by their ego pride and greed or they choose from their free will to be kind, giving and loving, obviously there is a certain degree of truth in this statement, but man's free will does not create cancer and the many other diseases or sickness humans and even

little children suffer, or deformed babies and the multitude of natural disasters that destroy innocent families' homes and lives, or the cruelty we see in the animal kingdom. Having being challenged by my friend to ponder all these thoughts, I was overwhelmed, how do I justify the God I believe in, how do I make my God look good? How am I going to defend the God of the Bible, against the so-called god she has selected to embrace in her mind, especially since according to her belief, the god she loves and prays to would certainly not be the cause of any human suffering. To her the God I believed in was harsh, cruel and appeared to have a distorted sense of love and justice. Even the Bible itself says those that do good suffer what the wicked deserve, while the wicked prosper like those that do good should, where is any justice or fairness in that? (Eccles. 8:14) (Eccles. 9:2-3). I knew that she was not the only person to be thinking this way; I myself entertained many of these questions prior to knowing God and even in my earlier years of Christianity. I also expect this kind of reasoning and questioning flows through the mind of the general population and even Christians at various stages of their lives.

WHILE WALKING ALONG THE BEACH, UNDER THE BEAUTIFUL AUSTRALIAN BLUE SKY PONDERING ALL THESE THOUGHTS BEFORE GOD, QUIETLY WONDERING, HOW DO I ANSWER MY FRIENDS' LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS, I BEGAN TO REASON IN THE FOLLOWING WAY.

If a person chooses to believe in a so-called god and does not credit it with being the creator of all life, then it is a very weak god indeed and therefore is not even worth considering and certainly not deserving of the title, God. The dominant and primary characteristic that every so-called god that people chose to believe in all have one thing in common, they are all credited with being the source of all life and the creator of all things. Whether we believe in the Masonic god, the New Age god, the Christian God, or any so called god of any religion or even our own mental creation of a god, the one thing that we all believe, regardless of what god we are believing in is that our god is the creator of all things and the source of all life. Every so-called god whether true or false is credited with having this one attribute in common, therefore whatever accusations a person chooses to accuse the Christian God of, they also have to accuse their god of the same things.

Whenever or however mankind tries to invent God, no matter what god, it will always appear to the natural mortal, decaying and finite mind with it limited understanding, that the God of the Bible or any so called god a person choses to believe in has a distorted idea of what is fair, because to our natural human reasoning very little in the world appears to be just. Every god including my Christian God, based on my friends' questions and what exists on planet earth, and to the reasoning of our human mind appears to have a certain degree of harshness, a distorted sense of what is wise, and a strange view of what is fair and just, but I unlike my friend don't expect to fully understand God. I am only a small part of His creation made from the dirt of the earth, who am I that I should fully understand His ways on earth or even hold Him accountable to me?

FINDING A GOD THAT DOES MAKE SENSE

My challenge is for someone to present to me a god that does make sense to our human mind based on the reality of what we see of history, the ongoing cruelty, sickness, natural disasters and the unjust suffering especially in third world countries. Everyone who knows the God of the Bible, the Almighty "I AM" and God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and experiences His unconditional and abundant love accepts that they will never fully comprehend or clearly understand His ways on earth with their finite human and decaying mortal mind. For me, that is one reason why He is God. If I could work out and understand His sovereign and eternal

ways on earth and fully understand Him, He would simply be another human man, maybe a good one, but certainly not one deserving the title God. Throughout the Bible God has given us amazing prophecies, spiritual wisdom and wise proverbs. He has recorded His ways in history as it affects His people and given us many promises so that everyone who reads it is able to gain (with limitations) enough knowledge to understand His sovereign, all powerful, nature, and discover His amazing love that leads to salvation and eternal life.

My friend, the secular media or anyone with a little bit of intelligence can easily make the God of the Bible look very harsh and cruel if they chose to do so, but if anyone is going to go down that path they are also forced to make the same accusations to any so called god they are going to embrace or invent in their own imagination.

Therefore, we are left with only two choices:

1. We believe in God knowing we will never fully understand or comprehend His ways on earth.
2. We chose to believe there is no God at all.

CONCLUSION: the blessing and beneficial thing that I got from my friends' questions and my pondering is realising that there is no need to defend the God of the Bible. God never defends Himself, He simply says, "I AM" and those who believe and trust in Him do not need to defend or justify him either. If those who are believing in another so called god are brave enough to ask the same questions my friend asked me of the god they have created in the imagination of their own minds they will be forced to conclude their god does not make any more sense to their finite and limited mind than the eternal God of the Bible does. We are stuck with either having no God or having a God we will never fully understand and who to our decaying and mortal mind does not make sense, to our common and limited way of thinking.

THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY AND FATHER OF ALL

The Bible presents a God who loves mankind and whose desire is to dwell in the human heart by His Spirit and by love, but is unable to do so because of sin (wrong doing), nevertheless, Jesus said:

- God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

These words of Jesus shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that God loves you and me with such abundant and unconditional love that He was willing to sacrifice His only Son so that through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we could be granted the free gift of righteousness and God by His Spirit and love could dwell in our hearts.

David a man after God's own heart wrote:

- My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-13).
- David says God's knowledge is too wonderful for him it is so high he cannot attain to it. God called David a man after His own heart, David knew God's love, but he also understood it is pointless to try and fully understand God's knowledge and knew that God's ways on the earth are past finding out.
- Ethan a godly man renowned for his wisdom was fully confused with the ways of God on earth and his final answer to his confusion was, "Blessed be the LORD for evermore. Amen and Amen."

- Job a man God called righteous and blameless concluded after the LORD had questioned him with questions, he had no hope of answering that all human knowledge and understanding is pathetic when brought before God's knowledge.

To know God and have a deep and intimate relationship with Him we have to accept that we will never really fully know God or understand His ways on earth, nevertheless by faith we can fully experience His Spirit and His unconditional love dwelling in our hearts.

FOOTNOTE

A new world is coming one that will make sense, one that will be full of righteousness, peace, joy and justice, one without suffering, pain or hurt, one where the earth will produce an abundance of food for all and on which the lamb will lay down with the wolf, until then all Christians live by faith. For further information see the title:

- The Kingdom of God in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Resurrection (Second or White Throne Judgment).

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.