

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



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IS GOD REALLY YOUR GOD?

TEXT: Galatians 3:26-29, "26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Sometimes when I get in bed at night and begin my prayers to God, I am overwhelmed with the goodness of God. I tell Him, "Thank you so much for being my God".

My mind begins to dwell on that thought. I am thoroughly surprised to find out that though God is the only God, He refuses to be everyone's God. For God to be your God is conditional. Let me prove it.

When He approached Moses, He said, "I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Exodus 3:6

However, when He spoke to Israel, He insisted that since He was their God, they must be holy. Leviticus 11:45, "For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy."

Leviticus 20:7, "Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God."

He made a covenant with them and told them His being their God was conditional. Leviticus 26:3, 11-18, 45, "3 If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; 11 And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you. 12 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. 13 I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright. 14 But if ye will not hearken unto

me, and will not do all these commandments; 15 And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: 16 I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. 17 And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you. 18 And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. 45 But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the LORD."

But Israel disobeyed God and turned to other gods so He promised a captivity to correct their thinking and they would become His people again. Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, "1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. 3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. 9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!"

Jeremiah reviews that it was conditional from the get-go. Jeremiah 7:23-28, "23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. 24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward. 25 Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them: 26 Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers. 27

Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee. 28 But thou shalt say unto them, This *is* a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth."

So God promised the greater David and they could become His people. **Jeremiah 30:9, 22,** "9 But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. 22 And **ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.**"

Jeremiah 31:1, "At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and **they shall be my people.**"

Ezekiel also made promises that if they would do right He would be their God. **Ezekiel 36:26-28,** "26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*. 28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and **I will be your God.**"

The prophet, Hosea, foretold of Gentiles becoming His people. **Hosea 2:23,** "And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to *them which were not my people, Thou art my people;* and they shall say, *Thou art my God.*"

The writer of Hebrews quotes Jeremiah about the new covenant. **Hebrews 8:8-12,** "8 For finding fault with them, he saith, **Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:** 9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 10 For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." He can be our God.

We began by saying that God was the God of Abraham. The Jews were secure in having Him for a father....But

He was also the father of Ishmael of Hagar and the sons of Keturah.

It is the Spiritual sons of Abraham that are heirs to the promise, like our text says. **Galatians 3:26-29,** "26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many

of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**"

Abraham had great faith in his separation from old things. He obeyed by giving up security, his home town, family, past religion, houses, and lands.

He had great faith by his sojourning as a pilgrim and stranger in tents. He had no houses, fenced cities, and confessed that he was a stranger and pilgrim. All he got was a graveyard. In this life he looked for a city....a Heavenly country. **Hebrews 11:10,** "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God."

He had great faith by his stamina to hold on to God's promises. He and Sarah had faith to conceive seed.

He had great faith when he was willing to offer his beloved son as a sacrifice. He believed the Gospel. He believed the pre-named, only begotten son would rise from the dead. He loved God more than family.

This is the kind of a man and woman that God is not ashamed to be their God. **Hebrews 11:6,** "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Think about that sentence.

We, too, have had a call... a promise... guidance... and we are going to a city and He is our God. **Revelation 21:3**

Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. So obey the call to separate. Confess and live like you're a pilgrim and stranger on the earth. Look for that city with faith, hope and stamina. Sacrifice all so God will not be ashamed to be your God; His People.

You're not home. There are battles, trials, disappointments and graves. Do not fear death... that is, a door to the place where God is.

Look for a Heavenly city that shows a social life, security, and whose foundation, designer, and builder is God.

Is God really your God? Is He ashamed to be called your God? Does He consider you one of His people? Do you really have the privilege to say "Our Father, which art in Heaven?"

If you do not have the:

- ↳ Faith of Abraham
 - ↳ Stamina of Abraham
 - ↳ Attitude of Abraham and
 - ↳ Hope or desire for a city and Heavenly country
- Can you really say God is your God?