

Know God Or No God

I. Lessons From David

2 Samuel 24:10-16 (NIV®)

¹⁰ David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, O LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

¹¹ Before David got up the next morning, the word of the LORD had come to Gad the prophet, David's seer:

¹² "Go and tell David, 'This is what the LORD says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'"

¹³ So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come upon you three years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me."

¹⁴ David said to Gad, "**I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into the hands of men.**"

¹⁵ So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died.

¹⁶ When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

DO NOT BE OFFENDED BY GOD'S CHARACTER, LEARN!

II. The Character Of God

1) God Is Faithful

1 Corinthians 1:9 (NIV®)

God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

2) God Is Just

3) God Of Truth

4) God Is Love

5) God Of Discipline

Hebrews 12:6 (NIV®)

because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

6) God Of Mercy

Micah 7:18 (NIV®)

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

Isaiah 55:7 (NIV®)

Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

7) God Is All Powerful (Omnipotent)

Jeremiah 32:17 (NIV®)

"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

8) God Knows (Omniscient)

9) God Is Jealous

Exodus 20:3-5 (NASB®)

³ "You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. ⁵ "You shall not worship them or serve them; **for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God**

10) God Is Redemptive

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV®)

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Revelation 5:9 (NIV®)

⁹ And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and **with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.**

III. Learning To Trust

2 Timothy 1:8-12 (NIV®)

⁸ So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, . . . ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, **because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.**

Proclamation

(from Revelation 3:14-22)

I accept the counsel of "the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation." I know that nothing is hidden from him. I repent of my indifference and ambivalence. In pride I have imagined I was self-sufficient and had no needs. I was unaware of my desperate circumstances and stood arrogantly declaring my own righteousness. I repent. In Christ alone can I face the future triumphantly. Only through blood of Jesus am I cleansed, justified and sanctified. It is through the blood Jesus that I have been redeemed, made holy and set apart to God. Thank you for disciplining me in your great love. I choose to overcome, in the name of my Lord and King, Jesus of Nazareth.