

A Study of God's True Character

What is God's true Character? Is God truly Love? Is God a punisher and destroyer? All these questions and more this study will address, but first we need to address the question **"Why Does it seem like there are two different sides to God?"** Let's start by taking a look at some bible contradictions in regards to God's character.

- *And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.* - Exodus 21:23-25

This scripture is from the Old Testament and it deals with the issue of getting even with someone, or payback. Should we get even with someone or payback according to Jesus?

- *Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.* - Matthew 5:38-39, New Testament.
- *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;* - Matthew 5:44, New Testament.

Here we see a direct contradiction between the Old Testament writer Moses, and the words of Jesus Himself. Why is this? Let's look at one more Bible contradiction before we answer this question.

- *I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.* - Isaiah 45:7, Old Testament.
- *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.* - 1 John 1:5, New Testament.

Here we see a massive contradiction when it comes to the fact that God has anything to do with evil. The Old Testament says **Yes**, While the New Testament says **No**. And keep in mind John the Bible writer in the verse above was taught by Jesus directly for three and a half years. So why the huge Bible contradictions?

- *And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.* - 2 Corinthians 3:13-15
- *And he (Jesus) will destroy (end) in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations.* - Isaiah 25:7

Above we see that there is a spiritual veil that is covering the minds and hearts of the old testament people. What caused this veil and what is it? When Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they became spiritually blind. This tree is Satan's tree, and Satan claimed

that if they ate from this tree their eyes would be opened. But the opposite happened, and a veil covered their minds and hearts, and they were blinded by the knowledge of good and evil. The veil is the knowledge of good and evil. This being good and evil according to Satan's definition, both are ungodly. Because of this veil the old testament people now thought God was both good and evil. In reality God is of the tree of life. However can God be both good and evil?

- *But I fear, lest by any means, as the **serpent (Satan)** beguiled Eve through his subtilty, **so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ**.* - 2 Corinthians 11:3

Here we see that Satan corrupted our minds by humanity eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which then leaves us blinded to the simplicity that is in Christ. This word "**simplicity**" in the original Greek writings means "**singleness**". The word "**singleness**" meaning the fact that Jesus is only of the tree of life, and not the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (**the veil**). The Old Testament people didn't understand this, and therefore they didn't understand God's True Character.

- *And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, **by the name of God Almighty**, but by **my name (character) Jehovah was I not known to them**.* - Exodus 6:3

The word "**name**" biblically also means "**character**" - 1 Samuel 25:25. So how do we see what God's True Character is?

- ***I have manifested thy name (character) unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.*** - John 17:6
- ***And I have declared unto them thy name (character), and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.*** - John 17:26
- ***For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.*** - John 5:20
- ***Jesus answered them, I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name (character), they bear witness of Me.*** - John 10:25

Jesus came to reveal God's True Character to humanity, "**He who has seen Me has seen the Father;**". Did humanity already understand God's True Character before Christ's ministry?

- ***He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and **the world did not know Him**. He came to His own, and **His own did not receive Him**. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, **to those who believe in His name (character)**:*** - John 1:10-12
- ***And we know that **the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true**; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*** - 1 John 5:20

Jesus came to give us understanding so we may know God. This means Jesus revealed God's True Character perfectly, but did even the disciples have a hard time understanding?

- Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "**You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.**" And they went to another village. - Luke 9:51-56

So how can we understand God for who He is and God's True Character? What's the solution?

- But even if our gospel is **veiled**, it is **veiled** to those who are perishing, whose minds the **god** of this age (**Satan**) has **blinded**, who do not believe, **lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.** For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. **For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.** - 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Then, behold, the **veil** of the temple was **torn in two from top to bottom**; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, - Matthew 27:51

Here we see the veil is done away with literally and spiritually by the glory of Christ in Christ's earthly ministry. The literal veil being torn into two pieces was a symbol that humanity could now see God's true character because of the testimony of Jesus Christ. God sent Christ to earth to bring humanity out of the Darkness (knowledge of good and evil) by the example of His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. God is wanting to restore us back to the tree of life if we are willing!

- He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and **His (Jesus) name (character)** is called **The Word of God.** - Revelation 19:13
- For **He** whom God has sent **speaks the words of God,** John 3:34

Jesus Christ is the 100% true revelation of God's True Character. We are to know and understand God solely by His Son who is the only perfect man to ever live and be sinless. With all this said let's now ask the question;

"What is God's True Character?"

Before we go into an in depth study to answer this question let's first address why it's important to know God's True Character.

- For all people walk each in the **name (character)** of his god, But we will walk in the **name (character)** of the Lord our God Forever and ever.
- The things which you **learned** and **received** and **heard** and **saw** in **me (Jesus)**, these **do**, and the **God of peace will be with you.** - Philippians 4:9

The verses above show that whoever we think God is in character we will imitate or replicate in our own character. We don't want a false understanding of God's character because then we will have a false representation of God in our character. Also, the things we learned, received, heard, and saw in Christ's ministry we are called to do in our lives. Our understanding of these different things will no doubt determine our character. With this in mind let's take a look at the attributes of God.

1. **God is Love** - 1 John 4:8 & 16. The New Testament was written in Greek and the word "love" in Greek in this verse is the Greek word "**agape**". Agape is an unconditional love that is in great abundance. This means God has a great abundance of love for every human being and this love is unconditional. Saint or sinner God has agape for all of us. This doesn't mean every person will be given eternal life, but it's God's purpose to try to save every soul through His agape love. Let's look at some verses about God's "**agape**".
 - ***And now abide faith, hope, agape, these three; but the greatest of these is agape.*** - 1 Corinthians 13:13
 - ***Owe no one anything except to agape one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall agape your neighbor as yourself." Agape does no harm to a neighbor; therefore agape is the fulfillment of the law.*** - Romans 13:8-10

Agape is the most important attribute of God as it is the foundation of His character. God's law is agape love which is why 1 John 2:3 says, "***And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.***" We know God if we keep His commandments because the ten commandments are a transcript of God's character. Therefore, God keeps His own law as its agape love.

- ***As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my agape. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my agape; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his agape.*** - John 15:9-10
- ***Greater agape hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*** - John 15:13
- ***By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have agape one to another.*** - John 13:35

God is agape, He wants us to realize this. He also wants us to love others with agape, which we can only truly do if we ask for God to fill us full with His Spirit.

2. **God is Peace**. We know God can give us the feeling of peace but he is also peaceful in nature.
 - ***Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love (agape) and peace shall be with you.*** - 2 Corinthians 13:11
 - ***Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.*** - Roman 15:33

- *And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because **he** (Jesus) had done **no violence**, neither was any deceit in his mouth.* - Isaiah 53:9
- *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, **harmless**, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;* - Hebrews 7:26
- *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, **The Prince of Peace**.* - Isaiah 9:6

God is peaceful in character and His only begotten Son showed this first hand. So if God is peaceful why has fire rained down from heaven?

- *And **he** (Satan) doeth great wonders, so that **he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men**,* - Revelation 13:13

Here we are told that Satan works great wonders, such great wonders that he can make fire rain down from heaven. Is there any evidence of this? What about when Satan attacks Job in the book of Job chapter 1? Satan rained down fire on Jobs' sheep and servants. Did Jesus hint at Satan being the one that rains fire down from heaven?

- *And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "**You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.**" And they went to another village.* - Luke 9:54-56

Who is the one who destroys? God or Satan?

- *And they had a king over them, which is **the angel of the bottomless pit** (Satan), whose **name** (**character**) in the Hebrew tongue is **Abaddon**, but in the Greek tongue hath his name **Apollyon**.* - Revelation 9:11

These words "**Abaddon**" and "**Apollyon**" mean: **The Destroying Angel**, **The Destroyer**, and **The Destroying One**. In other words **Satan** is the **One** who **destroys**, as this is his **name** (**character**). Is it a coincidence that John wanted Jesus to rain down fire in Luke 9 and John wrote Revelation 9:11? Jesus taught John who does the destruction and here it's recorded in the verse above. Can God be a duality? Can God both **Save** and **Destroy**?

- *But I fear, lest by any means, as the **serpent** (Satan) beguiled Eve through his subtilty, **so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ**.* - 2 Corinthians 11:3

Remember that Satan corrupted our minds by humanity eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which then leaves us blinded to the simplicity that is in Christ. And this word "**simplicity**" in the original Greek writings means "**singleness**". The word "**singleness**" meaning the fact that Jesus is only the tree of life, and not the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (**the veil**).

- **The thief (Satan) cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.** - John 10:10

Here we see that Jesus is only the tree of life and that He is not a duality. We also see that Satan is of the tree of death (the knowledge of good and evil). Christ sustains and gives life while Satan tries to take it away. So then what is God's Judgment or Wrath?

- **Then my **anger** (**wrath**) shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will **forsake** (**forget**) them, and I will **hide my face from them**, and they shall be **devoured**, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these **evils** come upon us, because **our God is not among us**?** - Deuteronomy 31:17

God's Judgment or Wrath is when God removes His presence and protection because of our unwillingness to follow Him and live righteously (live like Christ). God gives us perfect free will and offers His protection, but when we decide to live unrighteously we walk out from under God's protective umbrella.

- **And the **anger** (**wrath**) of the **Lord** was kindled against them; and he departed.** - Numbers 12:9
- **Be ye angry, and **sin not**: let not the sun go down upon your **wrath**: **Neither give place to the devil**.** - Ephesians 4:26-27

In the verse above we see if we sin we then have God's wrath. God's wrath then gives place to the Devil. Us **sinning** causes God to **remove His protection** (**wrath**), which then leaves us **vulnerable to Satan**. The wrath of God is a term that describes this mechanism. And this mechanism revolves around our free will and the decisions we make. God showed us what happens when He removes His protection in the Job chapter 1 & 2, and how Satan is **the Destroyer**. Does this mean Satan caused the flood?

- **And the **serpent** (**Satan**) cast out of **his mouth water as a flood** after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of **the flood**. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up **the flood** which the **dragon** (**Satan**) cast out of his mouth.** - Revelation 12:15-16

Here we see a spiritual flood that is caused by Satan which covers the whole world. More specifically a flood that covers God's church, which is referred to as "the woman". However, do we think this symbolism of Satan causing a flood is a coincidence? Why not symbolism using fire instead? This symbolism is God trying to show us this truth about a spiritual flood while also showing us who caused the literal flood. It's important to remember that when the literal flood was recorded in the old testament they thought God was both good and evil (the veil), hence why fire raining down and the flood are attributed to God's doing instead of Satan. The next question is "Is Satan the one who cause plagues?"

- **So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and **smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown**.** - Job 2:7

Here we see Satan struck Job with a plague of boils head to toe. Have we seen a plague of boils head to toe before? One of the Egyptian plagues was boils that covered the whole body (head to toe). We see another plague of boils at the end of time when the 7 last plagues come to this earth. Having said all that, Is there any evidence of Satan's destruction in Egypt?

- ***For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.*** - Exodus 12:23

We're seeing Satan's involvement in the major calamities of earth's history in the old testament. God was no doubt trying to show the Old Testament people the truth in regard to who is doing the destroying. Luckily there is some truth on this subject in the Old Testament that shows what God is revealing about His True Character. The last big question we need to answer is **"If God is agape, and peace with no violence then why is there a Hell?"**

- ***And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him (Satan) which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*** - Matthew 10:28

The word **"Hell"** in both the original Hebrew and Greek writings means **"Grave"**. This is why is John 3:16 Jesus said, ***"that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*** When we die and we go to the grave our bodies deteriorate or **"perish"**. The term **"Everlasting Hell"** means **"Everlasting Grave"** because the lost stay in the grave for eternity after the 2nd death. What about the term **"Eternal Fire?"**

- ***Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the penalty of eternal fire.*** - Jude 1:7

Here we see Sodom and Gomorrah is an example of **"Eternal Fire"** but is Sodom and Gomorrah still burning? Nope! The word **"Eternal"** is referring to the length of time, and the word **"Fire"** is referring to how something or someone is **destroyed**. Hence an **"Eternal Fire"** because Sodom and Gomorrah have been destroyed for ever by fire, and don't forget who **the Destroyer** who rains down fire. But what about what Jesus says below?

- ***And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*** - Matthew 25:46

We have been taught to view this as Jesus saying that there will be a place where we are punished for eternity for not following Him, and as a result we will suffer excruciating pain in a fiery furnace for eternity. This is not the case, an everlasting fiery furnace as we've seen above is not the case, its really an everlasting grave. Also, did Jesus say in the verse above that He Himself will inflict this everlasting punishment (everlasting grave)? No He didn't. Jesus is just stating the fact that the lost will not have eternal life and will be in the grave for eternity. Who causes this everlasting punishment?

- ***And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name (character) that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him.*** - Revelation 6:8

- *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death **he (Jesus)** might **destroy (annual)** **him that had the power of death, that is, the devil**; - Hebrews 2:14*

Here we see it is Satan that leads us and causes us to go to hell, which is the eternal grave. Satan has the power of death and the grave, not God or His Son. Why? Because Satan is of the tree of death (knowledge of Good and evil) and God and His Son are of the tree of life. It's the veil, which is the knowledge of good and evil, that leads us to hell. Satan causes the everlasting punishment because He is the author of death. All he wants is to get every person he can to lose their salvation. This is his punishment on humanity, and the results are everlasting. God is free will, He does not control us or limit us at all even if it means watching His children walk out from underneath His protective umbrella, and leave themselves exposed to Satan.

- *As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto **their own destruction**. - 2 Peter 3:16*
- *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance**. - 2 Peter 2:9*

The thing Satan has destroyed the most is God's True Character. Satan has convinced the world that God's character is his own. People don't want to serve a God of destruction and punishment and Satan knows this. God is working as hard as He can to reach every soul, and Satan is working as hard as he can to destroy every soul. But God is more powerful and God is currently revealing His True Character.

- *But the fruit of the **Spirit (God)** is **agape, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law**. - Galatians 5:22-23*

Jesus is called "**The Word of God**" in Revelation 19:13 for a reason. He is the fullness of God in every way and He perfectly manifested this to humanity.

- *To the **law (Ten Commandments)** and to the **testimony (Jesus Christ)**: if they speak not according to this word, it is because **there is no light in them**. - Isaiah 8:20*

We must look at the ten commandments, which is God's agape love, and look at the testimony of Jesus Christ; who showed God's perfect character of agape love to humanity first hand. "**He who has seen Me has seen the Father**;" God is agape and agape is from God, and agape is peaceful and is not filled with any violence.

- *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, **The Prince of Peace**. - Isaiah 9:6*
- *And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done **no violence**, neither was any deceit in his mouth. - Isaiah 53:9*

- *Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, - Matthew 27:51*

Let's ask God to remove the knowledge of Good and evil from our hearts and minds, so we can be restored back to the tree of life and abide in God's True Character. Jesus tore the literal veil and He wants to tear our spiritual veil so we can see Him clearly. Love you all, God bless!