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## Does God Even Need Us?

**Isaiah 56:6-7:** (NASB) *<sup>6</sup>Also the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants, everyone who keeps from profaning the Sabbath and holds fast My covenant; <sup>7</sup>Even those I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer...*

I think that one of the danger areas as Christians is that of complacency. We can easily get into the frame of mind that says: we know God and Jesus, so it's all good! Is it? What if you don't believe in God - does God believe in you? What if you have doubts about God - does God have doubts about you? What if you are absolutely sure that you do not and will not ever need God? Will God ever need you? What if you are Hindu or a Buddhist? Does God have any use for you? What do we think? Are we just happy that we know God? DO we really know God? Are we more important than those others we just mentioned? Does God even need us?

### Our only question for consideration:

#### **Does God even need us?**

First, what are some of the ways to look at God in relation to His needing this world?

### Possibilities...

1. God does not need any of us and further,  
He really doesn't care about us.
2. God does not need any of us but would like  
for us to need Him.
3. God does need us – He is deficient and the  
human family fills that void.
4. God does need us – but only a few of us  
and the rest are relatively useless.
5. God does need us – all of us. His need for us  
is not because of a deficiency but because of a  
Plan that calls for our participation.

**Exodus 20:1-6:** Does this text make God sound IMPERFECT, INSECURE and INCOMPLETE?

The word here used for "jealous" is only used in relation to God in the Old Testament.

**Vine's:** God is not tainted with the negative connotation of the verb. His holiness does not tolerate competitors or those who sin against Him. In no single passage in the whole Old Testament is God described as envious. Even in those texts where the adjective "jealous" is used, it might be more appropriate to understand it as "zealous."

On the contrary, God is just the opposite.

## JEALOUS? ZEALOUS!

Does God have a thoroughly thought out plan from the start, or is it a haphazard approach to His creation?

**Revelation 13:8:** Foresight indicates thinking and planning.

**Genesis 3:14-15:** The sentencing of sin also already included a promise, already showing a plan.

**The prophetic connection between the "seed" of Satan and Jesus' time:** Matthew 12:34

**John 8:44:** Jesus makes the connection to the Pharisees as being the children or seed of the devil. Jesus was the seed of the woman; Jesus said the Pharisees were the seed of Satan. The Pharisees led him to his crucifixion and thought they destroyed him. A bruise on the head to a serpent means death, but a bruise on the heel would not be fatal. The prophecy predicted that the "bruise" Satan would give him would not ultimately be fatal.

Is perfection a state of stoic isolation or is it a state of overflowing creativity and goodness?

**Proverbs 15:33 Psalms 25:9:** Humility comes before wisdom. To understand God first requires being humble.



Did God go through all the trouble of creating the world, only to see all of His work cave in on him?

Daniel 7:13-14: There is very comprehensive language used in this prophecy. It describes a complete "world changing" event! Does this have any bearing on God's needing or wanting us? God's work through Jesus would be not only world changing but fair as well.

Isaiah 42:1-4: There is a very clear theme - bringing forth justice.

**The fulfillment - Jesus quotes the Isaiah prophecy above:** Matthew 12:14-18

1 Corinthians 15:22 Luke 2:10 Romans 5:12-19: One man, Adam, brought us into sin and death; one man, Jesus, brought the same number of people into the grace of God.

So far, it seems that we can sum up God's plan through Jesus with one word:

**Redemption!**

So if there is a plan for redemption, then there must be a planning, wise, just, loving and powerful source for that plan...

**Redemption!**

The close relationship between philosophy and religion shows us that most all of the human race is asking questions and seeking enlightenment. Let's look at a few non-Christian ways this is done:

#### **HINDUISM:**

(Source: [www.Hinduism.about.com](http://www.Hinduism.about.com)) Hinduism is the world's oldest extant religion, with a billion followers, which makes it the world's third largest religion. Hinduism is a conglomeration of religious, philosophical, and cultural ideas and practices that originated in India, characterized by the belief in reincarnation, one absolute being of multiple manifestations, the law of cause and effect, following the path of righteousness, and the desire for deaths.

Basic tenets of Hinduism: There is no "one Hinduism", and so it lacks any unified system of beliefs and ideas. Hinduism is a conglomerate of diverse beliefs and traditions, in which the prominent themes include:

Dharma (ethics and duties), Samsara (rebirth), Karma (right action), Moksha (liberation from the cycle of Samsara).

Per N.S. Gill at About.com, there are one third of a billion Hindu gods. What does God think of Hinduism?

#### **BUDDHISM:**

(Source: [www.Buddhism.about.com](http://www.Buddhism.about.com)) Buddhism is a religion based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, who lived about 26 centuries ago in what is now Nepal and northeastern India. He came to be called "the Buddha," which means "awakened one," after he experienced a profound realization of the nature of life, death and existence. In English, the Buddha was said to be enlightened, although in Sanskrit it is bodhi, "awakened."

Basic Teachings: In spite of its emphasis on free inquiry, Buddhism is not whatever you want it to be. It might best be understood as a discipline, and an exacting discipline at that. And although Buddhist teachings should not be accepted on blind faith, understanding what the Buddha taught is an important part of that discipline. For example, the foundation of Buddhism is the Four Noble Truths. The Truths are:



The truth of suffering (dukkha); The truth of the cause of suffering (samudaya); The truth of the end of suffering (nirhodha); The truth of the path that frees us from suffering (maggā).


So what do you think God thinks of Buddhism? Do these millions of people matter to God? Are they are part of REDEMPTION?

Philosophy is all about asking questions. The ways philosophy and religion become contrary is when religion shuts down the ability to question. Does that mean that faith gets thrown out the window because you are questioning?



Job 7:17-18 Psalms 8:4: Job and David are both engaging in the same process of Descartes. They are asking penetrating questions about their existence. We are so small, God is so big, why does God pay attention?

What is the difference between a Christian approach to life and a purely

  
We have a God that provides for us but also desires participation in our lives.



philosophical approach? The proper Christian approach asks questions within the context of faith and prophecy, not just blind faith. There are literally hundreds of prophecies in the Bible upon which to base our faith.

Isaiah 42:5-8: God gives out of bountifulness, out of an overflowing character that is a giving character. The Plan for Redemption is evidence of this. Redemption is a process.

Mark 4:11-12: But why would God only want a few to know about these things, if He is so bountiful? This is part of understanding the Plan of Redemption, which includes Salvation.

1 Timothy 4:10: Everybody is included ("all men"), but there is a group separated out ("specially of those that believe").

Hebrews 9:24-28: In the Old Testament, the Holy Place (the Tabernacle) was to show something greater later on - Jesus. Jesus was the true sacrifice and that sacrifice was needed only once.

Redemption is a broad based, widely applied concept in Scripture.

**Salvation is, according to scripture, presented in two parts:** Romans 8:18-21: Part 1: The creation (everybody) is waiting for...Part 2: ...the revealing of the sons of God (specific ones).

All are included. Romans 8:22-23 Acts 24:14-15: God's Plan has the element of Redemption, which satisfies justice. (One man was responsible for the downfall of everyone; one man is responsible for the uprising of everyone.)

With Salvation, there are two different segments - "especially those that believe," and the Savior of "all men."

Also see: 1 John 2:2

**The Results of Redemption and Salvation:** Daniel 2:44: The new kingdom of God replaces that of the rulers of earth. It will never be destroyed. God's want for us is so great, loving, wise, and just, that His plan encompasses all mankind...including the Hindu, the Buddhist, the Muslim, the Christian, the atheist - with compassion. It gives them all the opportunity through redemption for ultimate salvation.

### **Working Definitions:**

**Redemption**: The transaction that Jesus completed with the sacrifice of his life that unequivocally purchased the entire human race from the death sentence to which Adam's sin condemned them.

**Salvation**: The path towards eternal life that the redeemed human race is placed upon once the redemption price has been applied to them.

*So does God even need us?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*