



## 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.



## Assume God is Perfect, A Perfect God - YouTube

- If God is perfect then He cannot be benefitted in any way shape or form.
- There is no sense in saying anything is done for God's benefit.
- Therefore whatever is done "for God" is really for man.

**Exodus 20:1-6:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Then God spoke all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup>"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>3</sup>You shall have no other gods before Me. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup>but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

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:** (NKJV) *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Foresight indicates thinking and planning.

**Genesis 3:14-15:** (NASB) <sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, and dust you will eat all the days of your life; <sup>15</sup>and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."

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:** (NKJV) *Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*

**John 8:44:** (NKJV) <sup>44</sup>You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

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.



#### Why would God Create? A Perfect God - YouTube

- No reason for God to create if He is perfect.
- Theological excuses for evil involve God wanting things or things being done for His glory.
- We cannot benefit a perfect God.
- What kind of egomaniac needs to be praised 24/7?

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

So, what do you think God's plan is for the person we have been quoting from YouTube?

Proverbs 15:33: (NIV) *The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.*

Psalms 25:9: (NIV) *He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.*

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: (NKJV) <sup>13</sup>"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before Him. <sup>14</sup>Then to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

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: (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; **he will bring forth justice to the nations.** <sup>2</sup>He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; **he will faithfully bring forth justice.** <sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

There is a very clear theme - bringing forth justice.

**The fulfillment - Jesus quotes the Isaiah prophecy above:**

Matthew 12:14-18: (NRSV) <sup>14</sup>But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. <sup>15</sup>When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, <sup>16</sup>and he ordered them not to make him known. <sup>17</sup>This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah: <sup>18</sup>Here is my servant, whom I have chosen...



### Man's Mind Stifled by Religion, *The Naked Truth* documentary

- By virtue of man's superior mind, he rules the earth though many of our discoveries are evil.
- Searching and exploring brings logical and provable answers.
- Yet we cling to the unproven and un-provable centuries-old myths of religion.
- Many religions tell followers not to think but to blindly follow orders - just like soldiers.

*We need to ask ourselves - are we following blindly our spiritual leaders? We need to reason together, to think it through. We need to know why we follow something.*

- Soldiers kill in the name of God.

*If we look at the 20th Century, there has been more killing than all previous centuries combined. The vast majority of the killings have been political, not religious.*

- We have an "inbred ability to think and reason."

*Where did that ability come from?*

Here's an interesting "illogical and un-provable myth" from the Bible - the reason for the coming of Jesus - the question is - for whom does he die? The answer to that question bears heavily on the discussion of whether or not God really wants or needs us.

1 Corinthians 15:22: (KJV) *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Luke 2:10: (KJV) *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

Romans 5:12-19: (NRSV) (selected verses) <sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- <sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ...<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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!

Lucas Films Documentary:



Love/Hate relationship with Philosophy and Religion, Religion and Philosophy, *Lucas Films Documentary*

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:



Offerings at a Hindu wedding, by McKay Savage from Chennai, India, via Wikimedia Commons

(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."

In the remaining years of his life, the Buddha traveled and taught.

However, he didn't teach people what he had realized when he became enlightened. Instead, he taught people how to realize enlightenment for themselves. He taught that awakening comes through one's own direct experience, not through beliefs and dogmas.

In the centuries following the Buddha's life, Buddhism spread throughout Asia to become one of the dominant religions of the continent...The most common estimate is 350 million, which makes Buddhism the fourth largest of the world's religions.

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 (magga).

...beneath the Truths are countless layers of teachings on the nature of existence, the self, life, and death, not to mention suffering. The point is not to just "believe in" the teachings, but to explore them, understand them, and test them against one's own experience. It is the process of exploring, understanding, testing and realizing that is Buddhism.

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?



First all men are saved, and then they receive knowledge. What they do with that knowledge into eternity depends on their free will. A plan for man that is just includes free will.

**1 Timothy 2:4:** *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*



### Father of Modern Philosophy, Religion and Philosophy, *Lucas Films* Documentary

- Rene Descartes began his philosophical journey with doubting and questioning everything.
- "I think, therefore I am."

Job 7:17-18: (NASB) <sup>17</sup>What is man that You magnify him, and that You are concerned about him, <sup>18</sup>that You examine him every morning and try him every moment?

Psalms 8:4: (NASB) What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him?

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 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: (NASB) <sup>5</sup>Thus says God the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and its offspring, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it, I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as (the Jewish nation) a covenant (promise) to the people (the rest of the world), as a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup>To open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison. I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images.

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: (KJV) <sup>11</sup>And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: <sup>12</sup>That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.





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: (KJV) *For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.*

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

Hebrews 9:24-28: (NASB) *<sup>24</sup>For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; <sup>25</sup>nor was it that he would offer himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. <sup>26</sup>Otherwise, he would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages he has been manifested to put away sin (redemption) by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup>And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await him.*



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



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: (NASB) *<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

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: (NASB) *<sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.*

Salvation seems to be coming in a couple of different parts.



The ancient necessity of gods and myths, *The Naked Truth*

- All questions require answers - real or fabricated.





- No wonder people sometimes sacrificed human beings to placate their gods.
- Today we are supposed to know better.
- Man's mind makes him superior, yet we still shed blood in the name of the same god or gods.

Acts 24:14-15: (NIV) <sup>14</sup>However, I admit that I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, <sup>15</sup>and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

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: (NIV) He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

### **The Results of Redemption and Salvation:**

Daniel 2:44: (NKJV) And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

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.

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