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Knowledge of God Pt 1 Israel's lack of knowledge of God

This is our first teaching on the topic of the knowledge of God. We have searched the scriptures and established three points – (i) The Lord is God of knowledge, (ii) God desires His children to have knowledge of Him, and (iii) the children of Israel were destroyed for lack of knowledge of God.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our three points–

1. The Lord is a God of knowledge

“There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. [3] Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge” (1 Sam 2:2, 3).

2. God desires His children to have knowledge of Him

That He took them to himself for a people to “know that I am the Lord thy God”
“And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God...” (Ex.6: 7).

3. Israel were destroyed for their lack of knowledge of the Lord.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children” (Hos.4: 6).

Illustration

God worked signs and wonders in the Old Testament that His people, and those of other nations would know that He is the Lord and there is none other

“I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God” (Ex.16: 12)– c.f.– Ex.7: 3–5– “And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. [4] But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt...[5] And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord...”

Question of the scriptures

How did the children of God find knowledge of Him in the Old Testament?

Answer from the scriptures

* The children of Israel found knowledge through the law

“And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinims, and all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding” (Neh.10: 28).

* The Levites taught the good knowledge of the Lord

“And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the Lord: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings...”(2 Chr.30:22).

* The lips of the priests were to keep knowledge

“For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he [is] the messenger of the Lord of hosts” (Mal.2: 7).

Let Israel be an example to us today, that as children of God, as members of the body of Christ we would thirst for a knowledge of God, seek after wisdom and understand the fear of the Lord and so find knowledge of Him. Next week we look at the distinctive NT teaching to the church on the knowledge of God in Christ.