

## The ingredients to our build love for God Pt 1 Know Him

This is our first teaching on the necessary ingredients to build our love for God. The first step to loving God is to know him. We will cover three points- (I) If a person does not know the LORD they will never hear His voice, (ii) Israel were to love the LORD their God with all their heart and soul, (iii) the prophets were sent to remind Israel of God's mighty works that they would know that He is the LORD.

A little more detail on our three points- according to the scriptures-

1. If a person does not know the LORD they will never hear His voice. Eg. Samuel

[4] That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

[5] And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

[6] And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

[7] Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

[8] And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. (1 Sam.3: 4-8).

The judgments upon Pharaoh were because he did not know the LORD

[4] But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.

[5] And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them. (Ex.7: 4-5)

2. Israel were to love the LORD their God with all their heart and soul

“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might” (Deut.6: 5).

Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deut.13: 3).

Jesus reiterated the commandment

“And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself” (Luke 10:27)

3. The prophets were sent to remind Israel of God's mighty works that they would know that He is the LORD.

[8] Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered through the countries.

[9] And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols...

[10] And they shall know that I am the LORD, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them (Ez.6: 8-10).

The Lord gave them statutes and judgments, include His sabbaths to be sign between them and Himself that they may know that “I am the LORD”

[11] And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments...

[12] Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them. (Ez.20:11, 12).

The worse we sin, the less we know God- and for Israel they were more disobedient than the heathen “So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel” (2 Chr.33: 9).

Hence, the LORD sent the prophets because Israel were being judged that they would know Him  
[5] And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.  
[7] Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Your slain whom ye have laid in the midst of it, they are the flesh, and this city is the caldron: but I will bring you forth out of the midst of it.  
[10]...I will judge you in the border of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. (Ez.11: 5,7,10).

Out of interest: the phrase- “know that I am the LORD” occurs seventy seven times in the OT. **Sixty three times in Ezekiel** and the other fourteen spread over Exodus, Joel and, Deuteronomy and 1 kings.

#### Illustration

There is a period of time before marriage known as courtship, where a couple get to know one another, their likes, their dislikes, what they enjoy, their history and their hopes for the future. Are they are good match? There may be TV programmes where a couple marry on site, but that is pure sensationalism and regardless of the show, the couple will still have to get to know each other before love develops.

#### Questions

- i) What are two knowable attributes of God Almighty- that differentiate Him from Allah of the Qur’an?
- ii) How do we know the LORD?
- iii) Why is it important to know the LORD?

#### Answers from the scriptures

- i) Two knowable differences between- Allah of the Qur’an and the God of the Bible:
  - a) God Almighty fought for Israel, and is involved in our spiritual battles today (2 Cor. 10: 4), whereas Allah gets his believers to kill the infidel and fight his battles, and
  - b) God Almighty of the Bible sent His Son to die on the cross for our sin. Those who believe are motivated to love him- “...because he first loved us.” (1 Jn.4:19), whereas Allah does not show his love to his believers by sacrificing his son for their sin, because he has no son.

ii) We know God Almighty by spending time with Him in prayer and in the Holy Scriptures, seeking His will, walking with Him and being obedient to Him and His word.

iii) It is important to know the LORD, to learn of all his deeds, to know His character- He is worthy of our trust, for He is the one true God, and there is none other- Is.43: 10- “Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me”- CF- 2 Sam.22: 3- “The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower...”

Therefore, it is important to know the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. To know-

\* How He chose Israel because He loved them

[7] The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

[8] But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (Deut.7: 7, 8).

But they refused to obey, BUT God was ready to pardon and of great kindness

“And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not” (Neh.9: 17).

\* His love for this world, which was why He sent His only begotten Son

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16)

When believers come to know how distinctly different the God of the Bible is: how loving, kind, full of tender mercies, and all that His Son Jesus did on the cross- to show His love, then their love for Him will grow. But if they have a distorted, knowledge of Him then their love for Him will not be so strong.

Let us- “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...” (2 Pet.3: 18), that as we search the scriptures and our knowledge of our Lord grows, so will our love for Him! Amen.