

MSB270

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

Otis Q. Sellers, Founder - David R. Hettema, Director

IS YOUR GOD GREAT ENOUGH ?

By David R. Hettema

Among the religions of man upon this earth there are many gods. These are honored, revered and worshipped as the ultimate helper and life giver of those who place their faith in them. To name some of the best known, I can think of Buddhism's deity; Buddha, and Islam's god, Allah, Shinto's deity, Chin shen, and Judaism's God, JHWH (Yahweh).

Then there is a widely divergent group that carries the name "Christianity," one part of it that is widely received is the Catholic religion, whose hierarchy seem to make more of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, than God Himself. Also, there are numerous so-called Catholic Saints who are being prayed to more times than prayers made to the Lord, Jesus Christ. In my opinion Catholicism should be included with many other religions and individuals who only give Jesus Christ "lip service," those whom the scriptures refer to as "having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof (2 Tim. 3:5). There are many people in this world who do not recognize their creator, nor do they give Him any honor. Their deity is man himself, to them "there is no one higher." It is a religion of self-praise and position, whose only work is lifting yourself by your own bootstraps.

In our times, with the extensive worldwide media, most people hear and are concerned with what is going on in the world today. Universally, most people realize that this world is in trouble. When honest men look into this world's problems, they have to admit that man himself cannot rescue the world from the present headlong rush to destruction, it must be someone much higher than man, a deity that has the power and ability to stop the earth's destruction, change the course, and provide a lasting solution to all the problems that mankind faces.

Consider the following list of just a few of the major problems in our present world:

- **Wars and killing;** there are more than one hundred nations on this globe that are presently involved in a war with another nation. Lesser, but still deadly wars, relentlessly come nearer our homes.
- **Famine and disease;** we see the age-old problems of man and earth, a curse that follows the wars of mankind and failures in nature.
- **The increasing damage to the world's eco-systems;** this is a breakdown of earth's ecology. Global warming is threatening a coming crisis that could drastically change this earth.
- **Iniquity and corruption** in high places, a rapidly spreading plague where men in responsible positions sacrifice truth and their fellow man to satisfy their own greed.
- **The end of this world?** There is the realization that men are capable of destroying all life on this planet. Earth would then become a lifeless planet like others in our solar system. Truly, our Earth needs to be rescued, delivered and made safe from all of these problems and much more.

Is the God you worship great enough to rescue this world?

There is no religion upon this earth that teaches or sets forth a future in which it's deity will rescue this world and give mankind a better and surer life upon it, including the greater part of what the world regards as Christianity. There certainly are believing Christians who have separated themselves from all religion to freely search out the truth of God's Word and become familiar with God's plan for the future of the earth. But to say that all of Christianity and its various teachings proclaim that God will step in and rescue this earth would not be totally correct, for even the Christian Fundamental Dispensationalists have abandoned the earth as a "lost cause." Their expectation of being "raptured" away from this earth into heaven to escape the horrors of earth is totally unscriptural.

God's Word very clearly declares that Jesus Christ is the Savior of this world.

The first promise was stated in Genesis 3:15, where the seed of the Woman, Jesus Christ, would eventually bruise the *head* (the out-flowing source) of Satan.

That promise of God's gift of a savior for the world is woven into the fabric of the Old Testament and is declared openly in the New Testament by those who were the closest to His earthly ministry. The Apostle John by inspiration, wrote that **God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved** (John 3:16-17). John wrote again, after the Lord had ascended to His throne in heaven; "**We have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world**" (1 John 4:14).

God's words concerning Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world will not return to Him void; the Son was given the responsibility of earth's government that shall be upon His shoulders (see Isa. 9: 6-7).

In God's own words the gods of this world, and those who put their trust in them, have been put on notice—God in Christ will rule this earth: **Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; The world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously."** (Psa. 96:10). His kingdom activity is already written into the record. Hear what the scriptures tell us about what earth's Savior, Jesus Christ will do:

- **Wars and killing: Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!** (Psa. 46:8-10). In another place in Scripture God shows that the great peace that has come upon the earth is the result of His kingdom's intervention: **...for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.** (Isa. 2:3-4).

- **Famine:** At all times in history there has been famine and death some place in the world. Today there are many nations experiencing a severe lack of sufficient food supplies and in other nations, the effects of war raise the death toll to many thousands of adults and helpless children. Jesus Christ displayed His ability to meet hunger head on by feeding more than five thousand hungry people from five loaves and two fishes. There were twelve baskets of food left over. And He told the people: **...I am the bread of life, he who comes to me shall never hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst** (John 6:35). The Psalmist wrote prophetically about the benefits of God's government where there will be no hunger, as shown in Psalm 145:16: **..."You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing."**

- **Nature, the earth systems:** The eco-system, the food supply, and more are the subjects of the Prophets and Psalmists as they speak of a curse-free earth yielding her increase (Psalm 67). All nations will enjoy the new productivity of the earth: **They will say, This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited. Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it.** (Ezek. 36:35-36).

- **Disease:** Because of sin's entrance into the world, the truth about all living individuals is that they are "alive and dying." We live in a world that is subject to the penalties of Adam and Eve's disobedience. When God rules the world, sickness and death will be abolished and perfect health will be the portion of those who will be alive and living under Christ's rule. From the gospel record, one fact is outstanding; it is that when Jesus Christ healed the sick and raised the dead, He was demonstrating what men could expect when God rules the earth: **..."And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all"** (Matt 12:15).

- **Death:** There are no other gods, now or in history that have promised a physical resurrection from among the dead for every person—both the evil and the good. Most all religions, including the greater part of Christianity teach their converts that at death the "never-dying soul" exits the body to continue life in another realm, such as Nirvana, Valhalla, or the Happy Hunting Grounds of the American Indians. Most of the Christian denominations, as well as Islam and some of the other religions, set forth Heaven as the destination of the soul after death.

There is no scriptural basis for this teaching and most all the ideas of Heaven that are given from the pulpits are taken from John's inspired description of the New Jerusalem coming down from God in the time of the New Heavens and New Earth.

• **Resurrection:** Jesus demonstrated that He could raise the dead; the gospel record shows that every dead person he met was resurrected on the spot. At the resurrection of Lazarus, He made this declaration: **...I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?** (John 11:25-26). And it is also recorded: **Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me"...** (Isa. 44:6-7).

What say you Buddha? What say you Allah? And all other gods of the people, what say you?

Jesus Christ, our God is great and powerful—He can and will do what He has promised.

END

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