

Does God listen to prayers only of Christians?

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Cornelius was not a Christian...

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

² A devout man, and **one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.**

³ He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

⁴ And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, **Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.**

⁵ And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:

⁶ He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: **he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.**

⁷ And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;

⁸ And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.

⁹ On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:

¹⁰ And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

¹¹ And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

¹² Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

¹³ And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.

¹⁴ But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.

¹⁵ And the voice spake unto him again the second time, **What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.**

¹⁶ This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

¹⁷ Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

¹⁸ And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

¹⁹ While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

²⁰ Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

²¹ Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

²² And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

²³ Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

²⁴ And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and he had called together his kinsmen and near friends.

²⁵ And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

²⁶ But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

²⁸ And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

²⁹ Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?

³⁰ And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

³¹ And said, Cornelius, **thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.**

³² Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee.

³³ Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, **Of a truth I perceive that God is no**

respector of persons:

³⁵ **But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.**

³⁶ The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by **Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)**

³⁷ That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

³⁸ How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: **who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.**

³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

⁴⁰ Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

⁴¹ Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴² And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

⁴³ To him give all the prophets witness, **that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.**

⁴⁴ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

⁴⁵ And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered

Peter,

⁴⁷ Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Did Jesus really die?

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Being born into a non-Christian family, as a child my first observation of Jesus was Him hung on a cross. Why Jesus, the Christian God was hung on a cross – with his face bowed down and his hands and feet pierced to the cross? As a child my mind couldn't comprehend why the Christian God is like this. I didn't ponder over it much as well. Many a times I saw the sculpture again and it was just impressed to my mind, but not giving much thought to it.

Why Jesus had to die? Wasn't it sufficient to just come to earth, display His power as God and then go back to heaven? Why this cruel death on the cross??

My question as a child – Why Jesus the Christian God was hung on the cross? Why he had to die?

Now no longer a child, and having many years of experience in life, I think I understand why Jesus had to die...

All of us know of the Adam Eve story in which they ate the forbidden fruit.

¹³ And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

¹⁴ And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; **it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**

¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for **it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.** – Leviticus 17:11

they **pierced** my hands and my feet. – psalm 22:16

¹⁴ As many were astonished at thee; **his visage was so marred more than any man,** and his form more than the sons of men: – Isaiah 52:14

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But **he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:** the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, **yet he opened not his mouth:** he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: **for the transgression of my people was he stricken.**

⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; **because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.**

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make **his soul an offering for sin**, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; **for he shall bear their iniquities.**

¹² Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and **he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

In the Old Testament and Tanakh (Jewish Bible), Jesus' death was prophesied years before He came to earth as a man.

Romans 3

²³ For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in **Christ Jesus**:

²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the **remission of sins** that are past, through the forbearance of God;

⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

⁹ Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

¹¹ And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom **we have now received the atonement.**

¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

²³ **For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

²⁷ Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. – Hebrews 7

¹⁴ How much more shall **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

¹⁵ And for **this cause he is the mediator of the new testament**, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

¹⁶ For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the **death of the testator.**

¹⁷ For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

¹⁸ Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

¹⁹ For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

²⁰ Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

²¹ Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the

ministry.

²² And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission.**

²³ It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

²⁴ For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

²⁵ Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

²⁶ For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

²⁸ So **Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many**; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

³ But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

⁴ For **it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.**

⁵ Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

⁶ In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

⁷ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

⁸ Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

⁹ Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. **He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.**

¹⁰ By the which will **we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

¹¹ And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

¹² **But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;**

¹⁷ And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

¹⁸ Now where remission of these is, **there is no more offering for sin.**

²⁸ He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

²⁹ Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath **trodden under foot the Son of God**, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

³⁰ For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will

recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

³¹ **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

²⁹ The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

¹⁷ And **he bearing his cross** went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

¹⁸ Where they **crucified him**, and two other with him, on either side one, and **Jesus** in the midst.

¹⁹ And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was Jesus Of Nazareth The King Of The Jews.

²⁸ After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

²⁹ Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

³⁰ When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he **bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**

⁹ Now when **Jesus was risen early the first day of the week**

¹³ And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

¹⁶ But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

¹⁷ And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, **as ye walk, and are sad?**

¹⁸ And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

¹⁹ And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

²⁰ And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

²¹ But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

²² Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

²³ And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

²⁴ And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

²⁵ Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

²⁶ **Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?**

²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

³² And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked

with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

³³ And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

³⁴ Saying, **The Lord is risen indeed**, and hath appeared to Simon.

³⁵ And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

³⁶ And as they thus spake, **Jesus himself** stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.**

³⁷ But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

³⁸ And he said unto them, **Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?**

³⁹ Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

⁴⁰ And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

⁴¹ And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

⁴² And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

⁴³ And he took it, and did eat before them.

⁴⁴ And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

⁴⁵ Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

⁴⁶ And said unto them, **Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to**

suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, **he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

⁷ In whom **we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,** according to the riches of his grace;

The Revelation of **Jesus Christ**, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass;

¹³ And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

¹⁴ His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

¹⁵ And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

¹⁶ And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

¹⁷ And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

¹⁸ **I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore,** Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

⁹ And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: **for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;**

¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

¹¹ And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

¹² Saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.**

¹³ And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, **Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.**

¹⁴ And the four beasts said, **Amen.** And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Jesus

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¹⁸ Now where remission of these is, **there is no more offering for sin.**

²⁸ He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

²⁹ Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath **trodden under foot the Son of God**, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

³⁰ For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

³¹ **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

²⁹ The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

¹⁷ And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

¹⁸ Where they **crucified him**, and two other with him, on either side one, and **Jesus** in the midst.

¹⁹ And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was Jesus Of Nazareth The King Of The Jews.

²⁸ After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

²⁹ Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

³⁰ When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he **bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**

⁹ Now when **Jesus was risen early the first day of the week**

¹³ And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

¹⁶ But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

¹⁷ And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, **as ye walk, and are sad?**

¹⁸ And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

¹⁹ And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

²⁰ And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

²¹ But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

²² Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

²³ And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a

vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

²⁴ And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

²⁵ Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

²⁶ **Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?**

²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

³² And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

³³ And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

³⁴ Saying, **The Lord is risen indeed**, and hath appeared to Simon.

³⁵ And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

³⁶ And as they thus spake, **Jesus himself** stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.**

³⁷ But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

³⁸ And he said unto them, **Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?**

³⁹ Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

⁴⁰ And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

⁴¹ And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

⁴² And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

⁴³ And he took it, and did eat before them.

⁴⁴ And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

⁴⁵ Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

⁴⁶ And said unto them, **Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:**

⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, **he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

⁷ In whom **we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,** according to the riches of his grace;

⁹ And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: **for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;**

¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

¹¹ And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

¹² Saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.**

¹³ And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, **Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.**

¹⁴ And the four beasts said, **Amen.** And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Is there only one God?

Is there only one God?

God revealed Himself as

Hear, O Israel: The Lord **our God is one Lord:** - Deuteronomy 6:4

¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, **What is his name?** what shall I say unto them?

¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, **I Am That I Am:** and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I Am** hath sent me unto you. - Exodus 3

⁶ Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and **beside me there is no God.** – Isaiah 44:5

⁵ **I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me:** I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

⁶ That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else.

⁷ I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: **I the Lord do all these things.**

⁸ Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; **I the Lord have created it.**

⁹ Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

¹⁰ Woe unto him that saith unto his father, What begettest thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?

¹² **I have made the earth, and created man upon it:** I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.

Through out the Old Testament and similarly in Jewish Torah and Tanakh (Hebrew Bible), God reveals Himself as one and there is none beside Him.

There is no doubt there is only ONE GOD - The true living God.

In the new testament its described about Jesus ,

1 In the beginning was the Word, and **the Word was with God, and the Word**

was God.

²The same was in the beginning with God.

³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

⁴In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

¹⁴And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

¹⁷For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by **Jesus Christ.**

¹⁸No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 8

⁵⁷Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

⁵⁸**Jesus** said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, **I am.**

John 10

²⁴Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, **How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.**

²⁵Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

²⁶But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any

man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

³⁰ **I and my Father are one.**

³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

³² Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

³³ The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that **thou, being a man, makest thyself God.**

³⁴ Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?

³⁵ If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

³⁶ Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

³⁷ If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

³⁸ But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, **that the Father is in me, and I in him.**

⁶ **Jesus** saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life:** no man cometh unto the Father, **but by me.**

⁷ If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

⁸ Philip saith unto him, **Lord, show us the Father,** and it sufficeth us.

⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not

known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

¹⁰ Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

2 John

⁹ Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

²² For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

²³ That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. **He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father** which hath sent him.

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; **but is passed from death unto life.**

There is only One God – One being in Three persons – The Father , The Son Jesus Christ and The Holy Spirit.

Three persons, but one God.

Can a man at the same time be a Son, a Father and a Husband?

A man is the Son of his mother.

The same man is a husband to his wife.

The same man is a father to his child.

But He is still the same person, but three different roles. -> We can understand

this applicable for human beings.

As of God, HE is infinitely superior than human beings. He is our Creator. He is one being and existing in three distinct persons - The Heavenly Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit.

1 John 5

⁷ For there are three that bear record in heaven, **the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.**

Couples who struggle with fertility issues

Couples who struggle with fertility issues

I have come across many couples who don't have children. For some its a matter of grief to their hearts. In fact for most, its a matter of sadness. Others just accept it as it is and move on with life. In fact childlessness can happen to any couple irrespective of Family background, social and economic status and religion.

Some choose the path of IVF and see their desire come true. In some countries, not having a child puts much social pressure on the woman and she suffers in silence. Many times I have seen couples who had to answer why don't you have children? Are you visiting a doctor and getting treatment? ...

In the old testament there are many examples of barren women who could bear children at a later stage in their life.

³¹ And **when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.**

And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.

² And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?

²² And God remembered Rachel, and **God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.**

1 Samuel 1

And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

⁵ But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but **the Lord had shut up her womb.**

⁶ And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the Lord had shut up her womb.

¹⁰ And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore.

¹¹ And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

¹⁹ And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the Lord, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the Lord remembered her.

²⁰ Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after **Hannah had conceived**, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord.

In Psalms its mentioned, Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Indeed children are a reward from God. It's God who opens and shuts up the womb.

In the new testament period in which we live, its still a fact that its God who opens and shuts up the womb. Its as per His good pleasure.

And as **Jesus** passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

² And his disciples asked him, saying, **Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?**

³ **Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**

Revelation 4

⁸ And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty**, which was, and is, and is to come.

⁹ And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

¹⁰ The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ **Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**

We should never over look the fact that our Creator God is also our Heavenly Father.

When Jesus was resurrected, He mentioned – John 20:17

but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto **my Father, and your Father**; and to my God, and your God.

God is our Heavenly Father. He definitely knows what's best for us. I know about couples having children after a long period of waiting. I also know cases where God chose not to give children to some godly couples.

He is God. At the same time our Heavenly Father who knows what's best for us. He will not withhold that what's best for us.

If you are one who have a child, love the child as a gift from God and bring up the child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.)

If God chose not to give a child, let His will be done as He knows best.

Paul mentioned about marriage in 1 Corinthians 7

³² But **I would have you without carefulness**. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

³³ But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.

³⁴ There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may **please her husband**.

³⁵ And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may **attend upon the Lord without distraction**.

If the Lord please not to give a child, let the wife love her husband and pray to God for guidance as how to use their lives as pleasing to the Lord. The Lord has a specific purpose for each of our lives. The Lord will reveal His will and let the couple's lives be a blessing to many!

²⁶ Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Jesus prayed -

⁴² Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: **nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done**.

Let us love the giver of the gift more than the gift itself. Let us love God

and know that He knows what's best for His children. If He withholds something, He will reveal the reason at some time and be assured that we will thank Him for His infinite wisdom and for His love to us.

Do Christians have Three Gods?

In the Old Testament or Torah

God revealed Himself as

Hear, O Israel: The Lord **our God is one Lord**: – Deuteronomy 6:4

¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, **What is his name?** what shall I say unto them?

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⁶ Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and **beside me there is no God**. – Isaiah 44:5

⁵ **I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me**: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

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let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; **I the Lord have created it.**

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John 8

⁵⁷ Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

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Christians do not have Three Gods, but only one God - who is one Being which exist in three distinct persons. The Heavenly Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit are One.

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³⁶ Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

³⁷ If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

³⁸ But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, **that the Father is in me, and I in him.**

⁶ **Jesus** saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life:** no man cometh unto the Father, **but by me.**

⁷ If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

⁸ Philip saith unto him, **Lord, show us the Father,** and it sufficeth us.

⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

¹⁰ Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

2 John

⁹ Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

²² For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

²³ That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. **He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father** which hath sent him.

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; **but is**

passed from death unto life.

There is only One God – One being in Three persons – The Father , The Son Jesus Christ and The Holy Spirit.

Three persons, but one God.

Can a man at the same time be a Son, a Father and a Husband?

A man is the Son of his mother.

The same man is a husband to his wife.

The same man is a father to his child.

But He is still the same person, but three different roles. -> We can understand this applicable for human beings.

As of God, HE is infinitely superior than human beings. He is our Creator. He is one being and existing in three distinct persons - The Heavenly Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit.

1 John 5

⁷For there are three that bear record in heaven, **the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.**

Is not having a child a curse?

I have come across many couples who don't have children. For some its a matter of grief to their hearts. In fact for most, its a matter of sadness. Others just accept it as it is and move on with life. In fact childlessness can happen to any couple irrespective of Family background, social and economic status and religion.

Some choose the path of IVF and see their desire come true. In some countries, not having a child puts much social pressure on the woman and she suffers in

silence. Many times I have seen couples who had to answer why don't you have children? Are you visiting a doctor and getting treatment? ...

In the old testament there are many examples of barren women who could bear children at a later stage in their life.

³¹ And **when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.**

And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; and said unto Jacob, Give me children, or else I die.

² And Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel: and he said, Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?

²² And God remembered Rachel, and **God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.**

1 Samuel 1

And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

⁵ But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but **the Lord had shut up her womb.**

⁶ And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the Lord had shut up her womb.

¹⁰ And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore.

¹¹ And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

¹⁹ And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the Lord, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife;

and the Lord remembered her.

²⁰ Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after **Hannah had conceived**, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord.

In Psalms its mentioned, Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Indeed children are a reward from God. Its He who opens and shuts up the womb.

In the new testament period in which we live, its still a fact that its God who opens and shuts up the womb. Its as per His good pleasure.

And as **Jesus** passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

² And his disciples asked him, saying, **Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?**

³ **Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**

Revelation 4

⁸ And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty**, which was, and is, and is to come.

⁹ And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

¹⁰ The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ **Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**

We should never overlook the fact that our Creator God is also our Heavenly Father.

When Jesus was resurrected, He mentioned – John 20:17

but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto **my Father, and your Father**; and to my God, and your God.

God is our Heavenly Father. He definitely knows what's best for us. I know about couples having children after a long period of waiting. I also know cases where God chose not to give children to some godly couples.

He is God. At the same time our Heavenly Father who knows what's best for us. He will not withhold that what's best for us.

If you are one who have a child, love the child as a gift from God and bring up the child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.)

If God chose not to give a child, let His will be done as He knows best.

Paul mentioned about marriage in 1 Corinthians 7

³² But **I would have you without carefulness**. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

³³ But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.

³⁴ There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may **please her husband**.

³⁵ And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may **attend upon the Lord without distraction**.

If the Lord please not to give a child, let the wife love her husband and pray to

God for guidance as how to use their lives as pleasing to the Lord. The Lord has a specific purpose for each of our lives. The Lord will reveal His will and let the couple's lives be a blessing to many!

²⁶ Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Jesus prayed -

⁴² Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: **nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**

Jesus' attitude

Jesus' attitude

Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

² And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

³ And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

⁴ They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

⁵ Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

⁶ This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

⁷ So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

⁸ And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

⁹ And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

¹⁰ When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, **Woman, where are those thine accusers?** hath no man condemned thee?

¹¹ She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.**

Real Rest

The Food for thought post series contains 2 sections - Food for thought and food for body. Food for body (recipe) section can be found towards the end of this post.

Food for thought | Real Rest

Don't we all need rest - Rest for body and the soul? Sometimes whatever we have, good family, skills which make us feel good about ourselves, appreciated by others, money, possessions... still is there some restlessness within ourselves? **Some sort of discontentment** even if we are much fortunate and prosperous than many others in the world? Something innermost which money and relationships alone cannot satisfy? That **inner restlessness** and lacking something which doesn't seem to be satisfied by nothing in this world.

God has created us with a longing within us to seek after Him. Whatever the world offers cannot satisfy that inner restlessness.

Only **Jesus** can.

²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest.**

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and **ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, **my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth,** give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

Food for body | Berries and Hibiscus tea

I purchased this fruits blend loose leaf tea. The ingredients are listed below.

Red summer berries

Rosehips

Hibiscus

Dried bramley apple pieces

Add 1 teaspoon of this mix and brew for 3-4 minutes.

