

What is Love? Part 4

God is Love 1 John 4.8. He's the source of love, His love is divine, perfect and lavished upon us with extravagant abundance. It's a different quality, magnitude and nature to ours, even on our best day. We're made in His image but with human limitations.

We're deeply appalled by OT judgements, famine and war, like images in the news. In the NT the focus is less on judgements in this life and more on the afterlife. Nobody talks more frequently and seriously about hell than Jesus. Matt 13:41-43 or 47-50. The God who pours out His wrath against sin in the OT is the same God who will allow eternal judgment on those who do not believe in His Son.

God's judgement comes from Love. The Torah is not a set of harsh unbending rules to rob us of joy and make life hard, (Proverbs 1.8,9; the teaching it refers to is the Torah). 'Torah' can be translated as the loving instructions of a parent. These are instructions to help us get the most from our relationship with God, to see Him for who He is, and to live lives that reflect our identity in Him.

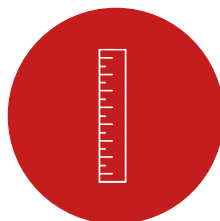
God is love, also He is Holy and Just. Holy; He sets apart from Him all that's not good. He is Just; there will be a penalty for wrongdoing. His judgements are not immoral, indiscriminating acts of anger, but happen after heartfelt warnings over many generations, with room for a 2nd chance, or a return from exile. His wrath is a righteous anger towards sin. There is no meaningful relationship where we ignore part of who he is, His holiness, and justice, reducing God Almighty to a benevolent grandfatherly figure.

God's love for everyone is why Jesus died on the cross. God's love for those who trust in Jesus is why he holds them in his hand and promises never to let them go. (John 10.29). Closing prayer Ephesians 3:14-21.



01 — Old & New Testament

How do we see the Old and New Testaments? Opposing or complementary? Why?



02 — Maturity

Did you ever think that the first 5 books of the bible (Torah) could be considered as 'loving instructions of a parent'? How does this change your perspective of the Old Testament, if any?



03 — Practising what (Emily) preaches

Emily believes that there is no meaningful relationship where we ignore part of who he is, His holiness, and justice, reducing God Almighty to a benevolent grandfatherly figure. Do you agree/disagree with this statement? Why?

