

God's Ways are beyond our Comprehension!

August 23, 2015

In Isaiah 55:6 it exhorts us to seek the Lord while he may be found and call on him while he may be near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord and he will have mercy on him and our God for he will freely pardon. The Lord says that his thoughts are not our thoughts and neither are our ways his ways. Even as the heavens are higher than the earth so are God's ways higher than our ways and his thoughts our thoughts. It goes on to say that even as rain and snow come down from heaven and don't return without nourishing the ground so God's Word will not return to him empty but will accomplish what God desires and achieve the purpose for which it was sent. Throughout the Bible there are many examples of things happening to people that they didn't understand nor comprehend, but God used those events to reveal his character and also Satan's character so people would not be ignorant of the good and evil in this world. Romans 11:33 says this: Oh the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God; how unsearchable his judgments and his paths beyond tracing out. Who has known the mind of God and who has been his counselor?

There were times throughout the Scriptures that God humbled people in order for them to understand that we are mere clay and he is the potter. Isaiah 64:8.

In 2 Kings chapter 5, there is a familiar passage of Scripture. Elisha had replaced Elijah as God's prophet and he was doing miracles just as he had asked of God.

Naaman was a commander of the army for the king of Aram. He was a great man in the king's sight and was highly regarded. But Naaman had leprosy. Soldiers from Aram had gone into Samaria and taken a young girl captive and she became a maid to Naaman's wife. When she heard that Naaman had leprosy, she said that it was too bad that Naaman didn't know the prophet in Samaria because he could heal him of the leprosy. Naaman spoke to the king of Aram and the king sent Naaman to the king of Israel with a letter asking the king to cure his officer, Naaman, of leprosy. The king of Israel was so distraught when he read the letter that he tore his clothes and asked, "Am I God? Am I able to kill and bring back to life? Why would this man send someone to me to be healed of leprosy? Is he trying to pick a quarrel with me?"

When Elisha heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes and become so upset over the letter, he sent him a message asking why he had torn his clothes and he asked the king to send the man to him that Naaman might know that there is a prophet in Israel. Naaman arrived at Elisha's door with his carriage and horses and Elisha sent Gahazi to tell him to wash in the Jordan River 7 times and he would be healed.

Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought surely he would come out to me and stand over me and call on the name of the Lord his God and wave his hands over the spots of leprosy on me that I might be healed. There are cleaner waters in Damascus than the

dirty River Jordon. Why couldn't I wash in one of those so I could be healed?" He turned away in a rage. Naaman's servant went to him and reasoned with him. He told him that if Elisha had asked him to do a hard thing or great thing, he would do whatever it took to be healed. Why not do the simple thing that he had asked him to do? Wash and be cleansed. So Naaman went to the River Jordon and dipped 7 times and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young child. Naaman returned to Elisha and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. Please accept a gift from me. Elisha refused his gifts but did give him as much soil as his mules could carry and he promised never to worship idols again but he would worship the God of Israel. Elisha bade him to go in peace.

A rich ruler came and addressed Jesus "Good teacher, what must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus first spoke to him about the meaning of "Good". There is none good except God. He then spoke to him that he should obey the commandments and Jesus listed ones that the young man was familiar with and adhered to. Don't commit adultery, don't commit murder, do not steal, do not give false witness and honor your parents. The ruler said, "I've kept these commandments from my youth up." Then Jesus said, "You lack one thing. Go and sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me."

When he heard this, he became sad and slowly walked away for he had great riches. If only he had understood that the riches of this world are temporary but the gifts of God are eternal. Jesus said to remember Lot's wife. Deliverance came to Lot's family because of Abraham's prayers and righteousness, yet even as the angels led the little family band away from destruction and warned them not to look back, Lot's wife could not bear to leave the city. Her heart was in this world, in the city of Sodom and she looked back to get one more glimpse of the home that she loved and she turned into a pillar of salt. Look at 1 John 5:3. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God is born of God. Everyone who loves the Father also loves his Son. We know that we love the children of God by obeying God's commandments and his commands are not burdensome for everyone who loves God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world even our faith. We cannot gain heaven through good works nor can we buy our way into the pearly gates. We must take up our cross and follow him. His disciple, Peter, didn't agree with Jesus dying on the cross. He said "This will never happen to you" but Jesus said, "Get behind me Satan" See Matthew 16:23. When Job's wife told him that he should curse God and die, he replied, "You speak as a foolish woman. Should we only receive good things with no hardships in life? In all the hardships that Job suffered he didn't sin against God. No other book in the Bible reveals the true character of Satan as vividly as the book of Job. His evil, hateful, unmerciful character is revealed in its fullness against the righteous man of God, Job. Also revealed is the depth of God's love in this book of Job. Job ends with "I knew about God and now I have seen him."