

GOD’S GOT A PLAN

Deuteronomy 8:2-4 NLT Remember how the LORD your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands. ⁽³⁾ Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁽⁴⁾ For all these forty years your clothes didn’t wear out, and your feet didn’t blister or swell.

Matthew 4:4 NLT But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Exodus 19:5-6 NLT “Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. ⁽⁶⁾ And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”

GOD’S NOT DEVELOPING A RELIGION

Galatians 3:10-14 NLT But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God’s Book of the Law.” ⁽¹⁰⁾ So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.” ⁽¹²⁾ This way of faith is very different from the way of law, which says, “It is through obeying the law that a person has life.” ⁽¹³⁾ But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” ⁽¹⁴⁾ Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

Hebrews 7:19 NLT For the law never made anything perfect. But now we have confidence in a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

GOD DESIRES A RIGHT HEART

Romans 2:29 NLT No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.

Exodus 19:7-9 NLT So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the LORD had commanded him. ⁽⁷⁾ And all the people responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has commanded.” So Moses brought the people’s answer back to the LORD. ⁽⁹⁾ Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will come to you in a thick cloud, Moses, so the people themselves can hear me when I speak with you. Then they will always trust you.” Moses told the LORD what the people had said.

Psalms 9:7-8 NLT But the LORD reigns forever, executing judgment from his throne. ⁽⁸⁾ He will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness...

THINK & DISCUSS:

1. How are you fulfilling God’s plan for your life?
2. How are you trying to please God by your own power?
3. Share how your heart is for God!

Romans 3:19-28 NLT Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. ⁽²⁰⁾ For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. ⁽²¹⁾ But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ⁽²²⁾ We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. ⁽²³⁾ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ⁽²⁴⁾ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ⁽²⁵⁾ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ⁽²⁶⁾ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. ⁽²⁷⁾ Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. ⁽²⁸⁾ So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.