## **God is merciful**

## **and**

## **does not pay us back as our sins deserve! 23 July 2023**

## **We finished with this last week!**

## ***Nehemiah 9:17 They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage.***

## ***But You are God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them.***



## **Here is a definition of God.**

## ***But You are God:***

## ***Ready to pardon,***

## ***Gracious and merciful,***

## ***Slow to anger,***

## ***Abundant in kindness,***

## ***And did not forsake them.***

## **Yet they made an idol and worked Great PROVOCATIONS!**



## ***Neh 9:19 Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, To lead them on the road; Nor the pillar of fire by night, To show them light, And the way they should go.***

## **They rebelled and rebelled and rebelled.**



## **Yet God who is always maligned as unfair and cruel, did this…**

## ***Neh 9:20 You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them,***



## ***And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst.***

## ***9:21 Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out And their feet did not swell.***



## **Forty years of discipline because of THEIR LACK OF FAITH! Yet God still does this!**



## **Verse 22:**



## **Gave them kingdoms**

## **Defeated armies**

## **Destroyed giants before them**

## ***23 You also multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, And brought them into the land Which You had told their fathers To go in and possess.***

## ***24 So the people went in And possessed the land; You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, The Canaanites, And gave them into their hands, With their kings And the people of the land, That they might do with them as they wished.***



## ***25 And they took strong cities and a rich land, And possessed houses full of all goods, Cisterns already dug, vineyards, olive groves, And fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and grew fat, And delighted themselves in Your great goodness.***

## **This was the time of Joshua and all his victories over extremely WICKED PEOPLE.**



## ***Neh 9:26 “Nevertheless they were disobedient And rebelled against You,***

## ***Cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets, who testified against them To turn them to Yourself; And they worked great provocations.***



## ***9:30 Yet for many years You had patience with them, And testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen;***



## **God was patient all along before finally Israel and Judah were both captive to the Gentiles and the time of the Gentiles had begun!**



## **Still though God did this:**

## ***Neh 9:31 Nevertheless in Your great mercy You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them; For You are God, gracious and merciful.***



## **When people malign God remind them of this**

## ***9:33 However You are just in all that has befallen us; For You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly. 34 Neither our kings nor our princes, Our priests nor our fathers, Have kept Your law,***



## ***Nor heeded Your commandments and Your testimonies, With which You testified against them.***

## ***35 For they have not served You in their kingdom, Or in the many good things that You gave them, Or in the large and rich land which You set before them;***

## ***Nor did they turn from their wicked works.***

## ***Romans 3:4 Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written:***

## ***“That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged.”***

## **Note man when confronted by the Holy God!**

## ***Ps 51:4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight– That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.***

## ***Job 42:1 Then Job answered the LORD and said: 2 “I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.***



## ***3 You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.***



## ***4 Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ 5 “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. 6 Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.”***

## ***Isa 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.***

## ***3 And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out,***

## ***and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”***

## ***6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”***

## ***Acts 9:1 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.***

## ***3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”***

## ***5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”***

## ***6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” 7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.***



## ***8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.***



## **WHO IS HE WHO CONTENDS WITH THE ALMIGHTY????**



## ***Job 40:1 Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said: 2 “Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it.”***

## **Next week: The prophets were sent…**