

THE GOD OF THE OLD COVENANT WAS MISREPRESENTED

Bertie Brits

February 14, 2016

We will continue to have a look at fear and how to be free from fear. One of the things that we have to look at is the God of the Old Testament. I would like to explain the setting wherein we should interpret the writings of the Old Testament and how we should look at what is said by many of the writers of the Old Testament. There is a context where we can look at all these Old Testament writers that will really be challenging to our traditional mind, yet it will set us free from a lot of bondage and fear.

One of the first things that I want to do is to talk a little bit about the impact that fear has on a person's life. What fear does is fear removes you from reality. It starts to cause you to live in a certain way and have a certain thinking that is not cognitively correct. It will just bring pain and distress and a way of thinking that is not rational to you. If you look at somebody who has a fear or a phobia if you want to call it that, when it comes to lightening, we find a lot of people in South Africa will put blankets over their mirrors because they are scared that the mirror can draw the lightening in. When they hear lightening in the distance, then they have to run inside. All of a sudden they cannot think straight anymore because of fear. That is true with any kind of fear: a fear of heights, a fear of certain people, a fear of the dark, all these kinds of fears just makes you think irrationally.

It's the very same way when it comes to God. If we are afraid of God we will not have rational thinking in this life. We will not be able to make wise decisions. We will have a life that is driven and born from something that might not even be true or real. It is the same thing with God. If we are afraid of God, we will start to hear voices, listen to commands, start to do things that we think God says to us, which has never been said and which was never in the mind of God. We will be very busy with those kind of things thinking we are pleasing God and just continuing in fear and not experiencing the life that God has intended for us.

The first instance where we look at fear in the Bible is with Adam and Eve. When Adam ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he was naked. Then God came in the cool of the day to fellowship with Adam and just to talk with Adam the way He has always talked to Adam, the way He has always fellowshiped with Adam, and Adam hid himself. When he eventually came out, God basically said to him "Why are you hiding?" Adam said, "It is because I am afraid for I am naked." Then God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I told you not to eat?"

If you look carefully at the Bible and what is written, the Bible says that they were naked and not ashamed. So I don't think that God had made Adam and Eve naked and they had no knowledge that they were naked and they were living in ignorance and because of the ignorance of their nakedness, they were not ashamed. I think what took place there is, the way where you speak about nakedness, or it all depends on who is telling you that you are naked, that will cause certain effects in your life. That is why God clearly said to Adam and Eve, "Who told you that you were naked, that you ate of that tree?"

Because if God would speak to a person about his nakedness, he will feel comfort. If God speaks to you about your inability to do something, He will always reassure you that all your needs and wherever you don't have the ability to do something or bring something forth, it is taken care of by Him as a person.

A very good example of that is the woman who was caught in the very act of adultery. When she was caught in the act of adultery, and this is what traditionally happened in those days is that as she was caught in the very act, they would just come and draw the woman before the Lord. When you are caught in the very act of adultery you don't have a lot of clothes on. They drew her before the Lord in that state and there she was naked and ashamed because the Pharisees caught her in her nakedness. But when Jesus came and spoke to her, in the state of her nakedness, she felt clothed... although she was naked! She was naked and unashamed and that is what I believe the Bible talks about. The Bible talks about naked and unashamed from the perspective of who is talking to you about it.

When that woman was naked, and drawn before the Lord, she was afraid. I'm sure she was afraid of Jesus Himself because of what was spoken. The Bible says that the word, fear, involves torment or punishment. So if you live in fear, you have not been made perfect in love. So, when Adam feared in the beginning it was because he heard a word about his nakedness that caused him to think that God would punish him. What Satan got right was that man would be afraid of God and the moment we are afraid of God, we assign punishment to God in the sense of we see God as the source of our punishment. We see God as the one who wants to hurt us and not want to be good to us.

For those of you who just want to read a little bit more or just read outside of the Bible, there are many books written that have great value and can bless you. Look at the First and Second Book of Adam and you will see how Adam, every time something bad happened to him, every time, he thought it was God bringing it over him. God would come every time and show him, "It was not Me! It was not Me." That is the problem that I believe we have been struggling with since Adam and that was to be afraid of God where we think that God wants to punish or God will bring a hard time or God will bring a difficulty. From that perspective we want to build a love relationship with this God where He can actually bring forth His fruit which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, temperance and all those kinds of things, in our lives by His union with us, in loving us. It is very difficult to trust a person like that! It's very difficult to believe in a God that we believe actually that His Son, Jesus, had to rehabilitate Him from His anger in taking all the anger on His Son.

The whole thought is that this is a God that we actually need to be afraid of and then we find scriptures in the Bible in the Old Testament, talking about things like, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." What we hear is that we need to be afraid of God. Then we would like to find a reason why we would be afraid of Him and that reason brings many things to mind, like He killed this person, He killed that person. We should realize that all the Old Testament writers, when they wrote whatever they wrote, it was written, what I believe, in the power of the prophetic. It is a shadow of what was to come. It would be like a blind person trying to explain to you how something looks if this person has never in his life seen color. He has never in his life seen any light. He has been blind from birth and now he wants to happily explain to you how a certain thing looks. And that is how we need to look at the Old Testament people, even Adam.

After Adam ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, his eyes were blinded to see who God really is. He could not see God. There was no way that he could see God at all. Jesus Christ came and He revealed the truth about the Father. That is what He did! He revealed the truth about the Father.

The reason I want to preach on this is very simple. When we are afraid of God, we are not going to experience His life. We should not be afraid! For me to say, "You should not be afraid of God," or "Don't be afraid of God," is not going to help. You are going to need evidence. You are going to need a correction of belief by having one message upon the other message, upon the other message, come and wash your heart and reprogram your belief into the truth.

The first point I want to make is, "Fear makes you think irrationally and we cannot have fear and a quality relationship when we are afraid.

The second point I want to make is when we look at Adam and we see fear, we see how the Law or the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or Satan comes and he speaks to Adam about nakedness. And when he speaks to him, he is ashamed and being ashamed then, produces fear, not towards the devil, not towards the system you just heard, but towards the one who was only good to you.

If we look at Adam and we look at what he went through, and how he dealt with God, we see the following phenomena: The devil comes and brings the message where he sees his nakedness and then when he sees his nakedness, is projected towards God and brings forth a thought that the very God that was kind to you and is kind, He is the one who is going to punish you. That causes us to want to hide from God.

When we find the devil or the Law or the ministration of death, speak to us about our nakedness, it will produce an emotion that says that God will bring forth death over us. God is the Life Giver. God is the Savior and from that perspective, we will start to see all negative things as God punishing us. We will start to assign all death and all struggles and all sickness and all disease, we will want to put it behind the name of God. In that way we actually find that His name is being slandered! His name is being drawn through the mud! This is what the devil wants. He wants you to think that the inability that man has been created with, God did not make man to have eternal life by himself and by his own works. He created man to be the object on which God will bestow His love and so man will live forever.

What the devil comes and does is he says, "Do you see your inability to be like God? Do you see that you are not actually not like God if you look at your own works? Then he says, "Well, if you are not like Him, then this God will bring destruction to you. In that way the enemy actually kills man by taking man away from the love of God and in such a way he destroys man. That is why Jesus Himself said that Satan was a murderer from the beginning. The Afrikaans says, "The murderer of man, the murderer of mankind from the beginning." So the way that Satan murders us is by taking us away or through a wrong belief from the source of life which is the love of God, the goodness of God, by telling us that if we cannot live up to the standard that God lives by, that God will kill us and God will destroy us.

We have that mentality in the Church for many years. We can look at television programs and find out where there has been an earthquake, hurricane or tornado and then we are at a place where we will hear preachers say that it is the judgment of God over homosexuality. It's the judgment of God over anything possible. That is a lie! When it comes to the End Time Judgment, it is also this concept of God punishing people. It doesn't say, "God punished people." It says, "The punishment of unbelief ." It is not God punishing people. What will kill us is unbelief in the goodness of God ... not God.

I want to submit this to you: God has never killed anybody! I want to tell you that all the Old Testament writings of God killing people is misunderstood! It is not as it seems. This is my point, my counter argument that I bring to the table and it is very simple. If we would have been in a court of law you could have people who have the whole Bible, all the scriptures, and they can advocate that God kills people and that God has commanded people to be killed. And then this would be my point if I am advocating that God is a God of life and that He just brings life. This is my point that I bring to the table: **JESUS**.

The Word of God in the Old Testament, the message that God had in the Old Testament, all put together into a life that we cannot misinterpret, that we behold action of, if we take all of that Word in the Old Testament and we put it into action and see what God really meant, we get the manifestation of God in the form of Jesus, who is the perfect representation of the Father. If you have seen Him, you have seen the Father and we see Him not killing anybody! We see Him not bringing sickness and disease on anybody. We don't see Him bringing a storm. We see Him calming a storm. We don't see Him bringing hunger. We see Him feeding the hungry. We don't see Him causing people to sink into the ocean and drown. We see Him saving those, who, in unbelief, fell into a situation where they would drown and die. We see Him raising the dead. We see Him cleansing the lepers. We see Him touching the leper, which you weren't supposed to do. We see Him the friend of tax collectors and sinners. Then when He had the opportunity to call down fire from heaven and destroy those who didn't want Him in their city, He said, "No, that is not what I am going to do because I am not of the spirit of death but I am of the spirit of life!"

So we can take all of the Old Testament where we have to look at typology. We have to look at types and shadows. We have to look at background and we have to have all the homiletical things in place, we have to have all the apologetics, the whole thing, the whole system of many peoples' views and opinions together and then we might come to a certain truth where all the truth of the old was taken and put into a man and we could see what God has intended from the beginning. We see that He has not come to destroy man's lives but to save them!

When we look at Jesus, and we look at the judgment that He came to bring forth upon the earth, we clearly see that it is the fulfillment of Malachi 3 and Malachi 4 which I preached about on the two previous Sundays. Malachi 4 talks about a sun of righteousness that will arise with healing in its wings, that will clean the threshing floor, that will burn things away. This fire will be this "Terrible day of the Lord." What is this "Terrible Day of the Lord? The terrible day of the Lord was when God said to the Jews, "You are not My special people because of your ethnicity but that ALL people are the people of God." God came and He had healing in the wings of His judgment and He healed the sick, cleansed the leper and declared the acceptable year of the Lord." That was the Terrible Day of the Lord! Who was it terrible for? It was terrible for those who believed in the Jewish System and the Law System and terrible for anybody who wants to live by will power and all those kinds of things! It is terrible for the devil but not terrible for the people!

So, the judgment of God when Jesus came to the earth, was manifested in Him being good to people! That was the judgment of God! It was the terrible day of the sun of righteousness that shined on people and saw that come forth. That is what it is all about! So when we look at the Old Testament, when we look at what took place there, we have to realize that we are reading things that were written by people who had no clue on who God really was! They believed God. They trusted God but they had no clue. I tell you that even if Jesus would have manifested, if they had been in the day when Jesus walked the earth, Elijah would have called for fire. So Jesus Christ comes and He said, "The spirit I am of is the spirit of goodness."

The reason I say these things is to simply, and I can repeat myself, but it is just to get your heart washed with the message that God is only good. We are going to look at some scripture that is going to help us have something in our heart towards the Old Testament that can give us peace when we look at the God of the Old Testament and the writers of the Old Testament.

John 1

:16 And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.

:17 For the law came by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

What he is actually saying is when Moses came and gave what he gave, it wasn't of his fullness. **It was not a full revelation of who God was.** It says, “... of His fullness (which is Jesus) have we received Grace.

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

This is the record of John and it goes on and talks about who this Jesus really was. He says, “No man has ever seen God, but Jesus has **declared** Him. When you study out the word, declare, it means to reveal or to actually explain or introduce Him. So, it says that no man has ever seen God and I am sure that John would have had an argument with Moses. He would have argued with Elijah and with Jeremiah and Ezekiel and all these prophets of old who had claimed they had seen God.

John wasn't saying that no man has seen God or His shape or anything like that. What he was saying was, “No one has really understood who God really was. Nobody had a revelation of the Truth.” The Bible even says, “...*the land of the shadow of death.*” There was great darkness and then the Light, Jesus, came. So, we need to realize that when we read the Old Testament and we want to see who God really is, we are looking at manuscripts written by people who walked in great darkness who didn't have the light of the Gospel. They didn't have that but the Spirit would point to them that there is going to be something great... there's going to be the great day of the Lord. There's going to be something wonderful.

When we look at ways of interpretation and the way we communicate, we need to realize that what the Old Testament people thought, when they wrote passages, was not what God had in mind although they would write it. To give an example, there are people in South Africa and now all over the world, called the British Israel Movement. They believe that only white people, the Anglo Saxon white folk, are the only people of God and all other people are like animals. They believe that only these people will be saved, Now, if God would go to them and say to them, “I am going to cleanse the earth.” What would they hear? They can only hear in the light of their belief and what they will hear is that God is going to kill all other nations that are not pure in race. That is what they are going to hear but what God might say is, “I'm going to clean the earth from the very **belief** you have.” That's what God would mean.

I think that in the Old Testament when Elijah wrote those things and when Ezekiel wrote things, when these minor prophets wrote things, they wrote a lot of that having physical things of the earth in mind at that time. In the meantime, God was prophetically speaking about Jesus.

Things were written in the Old Testament with the mindset of God is against people, He is killing people and all bad was assigned to God. It's like Adam. When Adam wrote things he would say to Eve, "This bad is from God." Then he would even find the devil coming as an Angel of the light. When Paul said that the devil came as the angel of the light, he is even quoting from the book of Adam where the devil came as an angel of the light trying to say that God said this and God said that.. That is why Paul said that even if an angel comes and brings any other gospel, let him be accursed. Many times we can think that God is a bad God by some of the writings in the Old Testament.

But the final word on all of these things is the following: Would you say that the Old Testament writings are inspired? Absolutely yes! Are they inspired by God? Absolutely yes! Are they inspired by God in revealing the true nature of God? No! In the prophetic, pointing to what Christ has come to do for us and in the manifestation of the fulfillment of this prophetic, we have the revelation of who God really is. That is what I see and then we can read that no man has ever seen God and John was adamant about this. We are going to look at a couple more verses.

John 10

:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

:10 The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

What we see here is that Jesus says that He is the Door and that anyone who does not enter through the Door, is a thief and a robber.

John 10

:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that enters not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

:2 But he that enters in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. Who is this thief and this robber that He is talking about? Verse 8 tells us:

:8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. This means that Elijah couldn't lead people out. David couldn't lead people out. Noah couldn't lead people out. Nobody in the Old Testament, anybody that ever came before Jesus, never used the Door! They used, "Dos and Don'ts." They didn't have a view or a picture of who God really was. They didn't walk in the fullness of who God really was. Enoch walked with God but if we would go and look at the writings of Enoch, we would say, "Well, glory to God for some good stuff but there is not a clear picture of who God was, in what he said, or in what any of these people said. There is not a clear picture. Jesus is the window of heaven. Only through Jesus can we see into heaven. Only through Jesus can we see the life that God has for us.

So when we look at this teaching, we find that Jesus says that everybody that ever came before Him were thieves and robbers. So if we take what Elijah wrote, if we take the writings of Jeremiah, of David, Solomon, all those people, and we don't go to the cross and see how it applies to the cross, how it applies to what God has come and portrayed in Christ, and we say, "But God killed people when Noah was on the earth and God killed people here and God killed people there," I want to tell you that you are completely missing it and what will be stolen from you is the fruit of the Spirit and you will lose your life! That's what will take place. It will not be God who kills you!

Every account in the Old Testament of death, I believe, has something to do, somehow, with the god of this world, with the murderer of man which was from the beginning, the one who brings forth death. Even when Jesus was on the cross and the death that came forth on His life was not the Father killing Him! He was laying down His life. He laid down His life and gave His life to the murderers. What do murderers do? They murder. That's why it is written in the Bible that Jesus was murdered. The Jews murdered Him! He laid down His life. In other words, He gave Himself to the System that could murder Him, which was a Satanic System. That is what it was! So we cannot say that God killed Jesus on the cross! As little as we can say that God killed Jesus on the cross, that is how little we can say that God killed anybody.

I don't care what verse you quote, I want to see where Jesus killed somebody because, to me, even if Paul wrote that God killed somebody, it is alright. Let him write it but I want to see where the perfect manifestation of the Word of God that walked this earth and killed any person, or brought sickness to any person or hated sinners or judged people according to their sins in order to destroy them, or anything. The only harsh thing we could ever see in the Bible was when Jesus went into the temple and took a whip and the Bible says that He cleansed that temple. He drove everybody out of that temple. In doing that I see His passion and His zeal for the house where there should be prayer and where people should come and be in union with God. So where God could show His wrath or His passion or His zeal is towards any System that wants to make God out as a bad God that wants your money, that wants your this and wants your that. That is what I believe.

When we look at the Bible, let us read the Old Testament from the perspective of knowing that the people in the Old Testament didn't know there was such a thing as the devil. Very few of them, most of the accounts about Satan and the devil is in Job. The other people never wrote about the devil. Where in the New Testament we find two hundred references to the devil and the New Testament is only a fifth of the amount of writing of the Old. So, in a fifth, we find two hundred encounters where in the Old we find less than twenty accounts of the devil. People didn't believe in the devil. They believed everything bad comes from God. God brings good. God brings bad. God is so sovereign, He is even the one who brings forth the sin in you and He is the one who punishes the sin in you, should it come forth. It's such a crazy concept!

We even find people believing that today! God makes people homosexual and then God punishes them because they are homosexual. My goodness, could it be that people are homosexual just because of the way human bodies work? Could it be like that? Could it be that people are crippled or people are born blind or deaf because of the imperfections there is here and God has come to save people from what this normal life can actually bring them. Where He can save the homosexual from being homosexual. Where He can save the blind from being blind and where we don't have to preach this Monster God and then want people to believe in Him. How are we going to find people who are homosexual believe and trust and rely upon God if God is preached as this monster that just wants to destroy them, that is going to kill them, burn them! I mean, it's not going to work! We have to bring an accurate account of who God was and our accurate account will line up with what Jesus demonstrated when He was upon the earth.

What I want you to do is, and you don't have to try and analyze everything I have said, I want you to walk away with when you listen to this message, is this simple truth: There is a possibility that the God of the Old Testament, and what was said about Him, that everything wasn't true. Go and read Ezekiel 36 where He says, "I will come and sanctify My name for you have slandered My name by saying that I am the one who chases you away from the country." Go and read Ezekiel 36 and you will see it.