

MAN VS GOD

Zephaniah 1:2-3 ... "I [God] will consume everything from the face of the land, says the Lord: I will consume man and beast; I will consume the birds of the heavens. The fish of the sea. And the stumbling blocks along with the wicked. I will cut off man from the face of the land, says the Lord.

Zephaniah 1:14-15 ... "The great day of the Lord is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath..."

In their fear of things to come, men have become skilled in the art of remaking God in their own image. They say, "If there is a god, he cannot hurt people." The warnings and prophecies found in the Bible about the coming judgment are very frightening, but only for those who will be the victims of God's wrath. If you are a born-again Christian, the uniform you wear is that of a saint who is blessed by God for your obedience, and you have earned an eternity of peace and joy in heaven with God without facing judgment. If you are not born-again, you wear the same prison uniform as satan and his followers; a uniform that will not protect you from God's judgment on man. In fact, for those who follow satan, judgment has already fallen on them; they, along with their god satan, have already been sentenced to an eternity of suffering.

Men who find God's warnings unbelievable and too scary, create their own definition of God and tell us he is too compassionate and loving to do what today's verses tell us. Such men tell us that God would never punish his people so harshly, send them to suffer for eternity in hell, or reject those who disobey him. They tell us that God can only operate as a loving father, not as a judge; that he is compassionate, forgiving and fair to the extent that all men will enjoy heaven, despite their deeds or beliefs. And many people want to believe there are many ways to find and please God, not just the way prescribed in the Bible. But as you know, we do not always get what we want.

The Bible tells us that disobedience to God will result in our punishment, and sins that we do not repent of will separate us from God. Jesus himself said: "...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." There is no other way to reach God and enjoy his promise of eternity, than to accept the death of Jesus as punishment for your sins, and to repent of your sins. God IS compassionate, forgiving and fair, but only for those who follow Jesus.

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