



## RISE ON FIRE MINISTRIES TEACHING NOTES

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### **LEV 21:1 - 24:23**

#### **The Character of God: Did God Change After Jesus Came?**

**by PD Vander Westhuizen**

How do you view God? And do you view Him the same way the disciples did 2000 years ago? Or do you view Him the same way Moses did? Or do you view Him the same way Jesus did?

Either they all viewed God differently because God changed over time, or God never changed.

The way you perceive God will impact the way you live your life. Maybe you grew up in a church where God was proclaimed as an angry God always out to get you? Or maybe you grew in a church where God is a gracious and loving God that doesn't require holiness nor repentance; and never executes judgment.

Reading the old and new testaments, it can sometimes seem like God's character has changed as we travel from the front of the book, with God's judgements, to the back, with God's grace revealed through His Son. So when Jesus came, did something change? Did God soften up to executing judgement, to rather love us and not judge? What is the true character of God and how can we discover Him?

**How do you view god and do you view him the same way disciples did, Moses did, Jesus did.**

- How we perceive God will impact the **way we live for God**, fear God, do evangelism, and represent Him.
  - If we think of Him as a God **by which all goes**, we will portray Him as that to the world

- Or as an unloving God which is **only ever angry and out to get us**, we will portray that to the world.
- **Our culture has had a massive impact** on the way we perceive God.
  - **How we view God** is not the same in how we saw God 2000 years ago.
- As Yeshua was a picture of God, **we must imitate Him** to also reflect God's love and character

BUT: many perceive Yeshua as the God of the New Testament?

[Mal 3:6](#) "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

But what is His character?

### Torah & Prophets

- **Adultery**

Deu 22:23 "When a girl who is a maiden is engaged to a husband, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her,

Deu 22:24 then **you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city**, and shall **stone them to death** with stones, the girl because she did not cry out in the city, and the man because he has humbled his neighbour's wife. **Thus you shall purge the evil from your midst.**

- **Reason:** So that the evil will stop

- **Blasphemy**

Lev 24:16 'And he who blasphemes the Name of יהוה **shall certainly be put to death**, and all the congregation certainly stone him, the stranger as well as the native. **When he blasphemes the Name**, he is put to death.

- We cannot go and implement **Torah civil law**, because we do not live in a **theocracy**
- **Our hearts** must attribute the **same weight to sins** that God does.

**God is so holy: We couldn't approach the mountain**

[Lev 22:3](#) "Say to them, 'Any man of all your offspring throughout your generations who draws **near the set-apart offerings** which the children of Yisra'el set apart to יהוה, **while he has uncleanness upon him**, that being **shall be cut off from before Me. I am יהוה** am יהוה'.

**And God commands us to be Holy**

**But brings Grace when we have a humble, repentant heart able to receive His sacrifice**

[1Jn 1:8](#) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

[1Jn 1:9](#) If we confess our sins, **he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins** and to **cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.

**But did this character of God change when Yeshua came along, and if so, how?**

### **New Testament**

#### **Ananias and Sapphira: Dies for Lying**

Act 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and **to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?**

Act 5:4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived **this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.**"

Act 5:5 When Ananias heard these words, **he fell down and breathed his last.** And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

#### **Simon The Sorcerer: Tries to Purchase Holy Spirit**

Act 8:20 But Peter said to him, "Let your silver **perish with you**, because you thought to buy the gift of Elohim through money!

- If Peter was cursing him with death, surely He understands there is a **deadly** consequence for sin.

#### **Did Jesus come to take away the consequences of breaking God's law?**

- Yes, the **law of sin and death** was abolished
- Yes, He can **heal us** of our sins and **change our heart**
- But not excuse the **civil** punishments
  - E.g. Murderers will still receive punishment.
  - If God came to take away **civil judgements** of this world, why did He not save the thief off the cross with Him?

Why do we attribute a sin such as murder **to a higher level**, than **adultery, or blasphemy?**

**Jesus came to not condemn:**

**Joh 3:17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, **but in order that the world might be saved through him.**

**Next time He comes back:** As a lion to Judge

Mat 25:31 "And when the Son of Adam comes in His esteem, and all the set-apart messengers with Him, then **He shall sit on the throne** of His esteem.

Mat 25:32 "And all the nations shall be gathered before Him, and He shall **separate them one from another**, as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats.

Mat 25:33 "And He shall set the **sheep on His right hand**, but **the goats on the left.**

- **What laws will Jesus be judging by?**

**Our works condemn us:**

**Joh 3:18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

**Joh 3:19** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and **people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.**

**Joh 3:20** For everyone who does wicked things **hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.**

**Joh 3:21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

**But what about grace? What is grace:**

**Rom 6:1** What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?**

**Rom 6:2** By no means! **How can we** who died to sin still live in it?

**Rom 6:3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

**Rom 6:4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

**Rom 6:5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

**Rom 6:6** We know that **our old self was crucified with him** in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, **so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.**

**Rom 6:7** For **one who has died has been set free from sin.**

### **The Appointed Times (Lev 23) gives us a glimpse of the wonderful grace of God**

- Dates are important to people.
  - Ever forgot your anniversary?
- Similarly, dates are important to God.
  - He created the sun, moon stars, and all things as indicators of time and **then He created the sabbath**
- The **enemy** has taken away almost every single feast of God and exchanged it for a counterfeit
  - But why? Because a bride that misses every single date her bridegroom has asked her to join will severely **damage a relationship.**
- God is a God who **pursues us when we don't want Him**
- God is a God who then desires to **pause & meet** with His Bride And HER to pause & meet with Him.

His feasts teach us **His character**:

- **Shabbat**: An ongoing continuous relationship where He wants to meet every week
- **Passover**: God makes the first move by coming to die for His, displaying His love
- **Unleavened Bread**: God then desires us to remove the leaven (sin)
- **First Fruits**: Make a living first fruit offering of our life to God
- **Feast of Weeks**: Prepare the 50 day countdown to receiving His Spirit & Truth
- **Feast of Trumpets**: He returns
- **Day of Atonement**: Judgement
- **Feast of Booths/Sukkot**: Marriage Supper of the Lamb where we will  **dwell with Him**

**What He Does vs. What We Do**

- **God**: Meets with us (Shabbat)
- **God**: Redeems us (Passover)
- **Asks Us**: To repent (Unleavened Bread)
- **Asks Us**: To give our life (First Fruit)
- **God**: Gives us all we need (Spirit & Truth)
- **God**: Returns (Trumpets)
- **God**: Judges those who chose evil instead and did evil against us (Day of Atonement)
- **God**: Spreads His table for us (Sukkot)