

# What About Good Non-Christians?

As I write this article, I am well aware of very important scriptures.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** [New King James] *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’”*

**The nearest I can come to having the thoughts of the Almighty, Holy Creator God, is to repeat what He has inspired to be recorded in His Word, the Christian Bible, [2 Peter 1:20-21].**

**Matthew 7:1-2** [New King James] *“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”*

**Only God Himself is able to make perfect judgement for only He really knows any human being [Psalms 139:1-16].**

**James 3:1** [New King James] *“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”*

**This makes me cling to God’s Word, the Christian Bible, very closely, to avoid a stricter judgement at the Second Coming of my Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the Old Testament through His prophets God judged the nations **not** only for their idolatry and religious sins, but particularly for their moral failure and cruelty to other human beings.

**Habakkuk 2:6-8, 12-16** [New King James] *“Will not all these take up a proverb against him, and a taunting riddle against him, and say, ‘Woe to him who increases What is not his, how long? And to him who loads himself with many pledges?’ Will not your creditors rise up suddenly? Will they not awaken who oppress you? And you will become their booty. Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the people shall plunder you, because of men’s blood and the violence of the land and the city, and of all who dwell in it.” ... “Woe to him who builds a town with bloodshed, Who establishes a city by iniquity! Behold, is it not of the LORD of hosts that the peoples labour to feed the fire, and nations weary themselves in vain? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbour, pressing him to your bottle, even to make him drunk, that you may look on his nakedness! You are filled with shame instead of glory. You also, drink! And be exposed as uncircumcised! The cup of the LORD’s right hand will be turned against you, and utter shame will be on your glory.”*

Condemned for plundering other people’s property, pride and drunkenness, then the sin of idolatry is briefly mentioned, [verses 18-19].

**Isaiah 14:4-6** [King James] *“That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.”*

Isaiah foresees God’s destruction of Babylon the oppressor because she *“smote the people”* and because of her pride, [v11].

**The Old Testament constantly stresses that religion and ethics go together.**

**True worship of the Creator God must include righteousness and justice.**

Idolatry and moral corruption also go hand-in-hand.

So God judges people for moral and religious sin together.

**Romans 3:23** [New King James] *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

**The New Testament teaches that all people fall short of God’s standards of holiness, all are sinners.**

**When we talk about “good non-Christians” therefore, we are using comparative terms.**

In comparison with other human beings some may be considered “good,” but in the comparison with the glory of God we have to consider what God’s Word tells us.

**Isaiah 64:6** [Amplified Bible] *“For we all have become as one who is unclean [ceremonially as a leper], and all our righteousness, our best deeds of rightness and justice are as filthy rags or a polluted garment. We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away, far from God’s favour, hurrying us to destruction.” [Leviticus 13:45-46].*

**Human merit is never adequate to earn God’s favour.**

In this context the good news that Jesus Christ brought from God the Father shines out as very good news.

**All true Christians long to share this good news with all the world who have at this time been blinded to it by Satan.**

**2 Corinthians 4:4-6** [Amplified Bible] *“For the God of this world, [1 John 5:19], has blinded the unbelievers’ minds, that they should not discern the truth, preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, the Messiah, Who is the image and likeness of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, [and Saviour] and ourselves merely as the servants. Bond slaves for Jesus’ sake. For God Who said, let light shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts so as to beam forth the Light for the illumination of the majesty and glory of God, as it is manifest in the Person and revealed in the face of Jesus Christ, the Messiah.”*

**While we can deduce the fundamental elements of the good news we are to preach from the New Testament [covenant], we cannot be sure how much of our message people need to receive before they can be offered salvation from eternal death, [Romans 6:23].**

**Judgement belongs to God alone, not to us.**

It is wise to stay humble when talking about God’s final judgement.

By God’s grace we can and should know for sure whether we are going to receive eternal life, even are experiencing it now.

**1 John 5:10-13** [New King James] *“He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”*

This eternal life is ensured by the active presence of the Holy Spirit within our lives, [**Ephesians 1:13-14**].

**Romans 8:11** [New King James] *“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”*

This promise refers **only** to those who obey God's commands, [Acts 5:32] ask for His presence, [Luke 11:13], do not grieve Him, [Ephesians 4:30] or quench the work He is doing within us, [1 Thessalonians 5:19] and the intimate relationship we have with the Holy Spirit will produce in us the very character of God, [Galatians 5:22-25].

**The hearts and minds of other people is only known by God.**

Our task as true Christians remains to share with all its fullness the good news of what God has done through Jesus Christ.

**Acts 4:12** [New King James] *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

**God's Word, the Christians Bible, is emphatic that salvation from eternal death is only through Jesus Christ.**

**Muslims firmly reject any suggestion that Jesus Christ is God.**

The idea that Jesus died on the cross is an anathema to them.

**The doctrine of the Trinity is a stumbling block to Hinduism.**

**Although some Jews accept that Jesus Christ was part of their national and religious history, they cannot accept His claim to be God incarnate and do not believe He died on the cross as our sin-bearer.**

**Matthew 7:7** [New King James] *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”*

This promise was made by Jesus Christ to His disciples, as the context shows, but He included “everyone” [in verse 8].

**2 Peter 3:9** [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

**It is God's desire that everyone will come to repentance, which is the first step towards accepting Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord.**

**2 Corinthians 6:2** [New King James] *“For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”*

This is a quotation from **Isaiah 49:8** and is directed to the Christians in the Church at Corinth.

**John 6:44** [New King James] *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

**This indicates a limited number of people will be called to accept Jesus Christ in each generation and offered salvation now.**

Jesus Christ mentions a resurrection [“raise him up”] which is a key to what will happen to the rest of humanity.

**To answer this question we have to look at what Jesus Christ revealed to the apostle John, who had a vision of hope for all who have never known Jesus Christ or God's Word, the Christian Bible.**

**Revelation 1:10** [New King James] *“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,”*

The vision was linked to “*the Lord’s Day*” that refers to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 20:1-3** [New King James] *“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”*

**First Satan and his demons are locked away from humanity so that he cannot continue his deception and lies, [2 Corinthians 4:4; John 8:44; 1 John 5:19].**

**Revelation 20:4-6** [New King James] *“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”*

**These are all who are referred to as Christians in 1 Corinthians 15:50-54; Matthew 25:30-34; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 who will begin their rule under Jesus Christ of all who come through the tribulation alive.**

**Revelation 20:7-10** [New King James] *“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*

**Gog and Magog refer to people who are at the extremities of the world [verse 9] who are Satan’s last effort to overcome the work of Jesus Christ centred in Jerusalem and the Middle East.**

The outcome of this final battle is without doubt victory for Jesus Christ against Satan and those whom he has dominated, [**Revelation 19:19**].

The scene is now set for God to fulfil His desire that all humanity will come to repentance and accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

**Revelation 20:11-13** [New King James] *“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.”*

**The fact that they were standing before the Throne of God indicates a resurrection back to physical life.**

“*The books were opened*” refers to the books of the Christian Bible being opened to their understanding for the first time.

“*The book of life*” means that eternal life is being offered to all those who accept what is written in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

**These people will be judged on how they receive and accept what is written in the Christian Bible.** The length of time is **not** specified but could be the normal human life span, allowing for all levels of intellect and ability to learn.

**As with all that God does, this shows His great patience, compassion, love and mercy towards all human beings.**

**Revelation 21:1-7** [New King James] *“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’ Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’ And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.’”*

All who accept Jesus Christ will live in this new world tomorrow, where there will be no more death, sorrow, crying or pain.

All who overcome their human nature that had in the past been influenced by Satan [**Revelation 12:9-11**] will inherit this new world tomorrow.

**But all who refuse to repent and overcome their human nature and continue their sinful way of life will face a second and final death.**

**Revelation 21:8** [New King James] *“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*

Such people are listed in this scripture and in –

**Revelation 22:15** [New King James] *“But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.”*

The word “*dogs*” denotes adherents to heathenish worship, or male prostitutes, is added to the list, [**Deuteronomy 23:17-18**].

**How should we respond to what has just been shown to us in God’s Word, the Christian Bible?**

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

Offer our lives to Jesus Christ as a living sacrifice, to show our gratitude for what God has done for us through His life, death and resurrection, that we could never do for ourselves.

**Revelation 12:2** [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Ask that God will send the Holy Spirit [**Luke 11:13**] to re-educate our lives and lead us into all truth [**John 16:13**], also to cause the “*fruits*” of the Holy Spirit to grow within our lives as we follow His lead.

**Galatians 5:22-25** [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

**These are the very characteristics of our Creator God, allowing Him to fulfil His original purpose for human life.**

**Genesis 1:26-27** [New King James] *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

“Image” is the Hebrew word “*tselem*” meaning resemblance, shadow or outward form, all human beings are physically created in God’s “*image*.”

But the “*likeness*” Hebrew word “*demûwth*” meaning manner, model, attributes that is character will take time in the intimate presence of God whose character we wish to reflect, hence human life.

Within all of this plan for humanity God gives us the ability to choose if we will learn to love Him as He loves us, [**1 John 4:19**].

The Greek word used to express this special love is “*agapé*” a spontaneous love irrespective of the “*rights*” or response of the recipient, [**Romans 5:8**], a sacrificial love [**John 3:16-17**] that puts aside personal desires [**Philippians 2:5-8**] to love the object of that love.

**Only such humans will receive the opportunity of eternal life to continue to know and love our Creator God for eternity, [John 17:3], the choice is yours.**