

The Character of God at Work in the Culture of Humans

Three Vignettes

Note: This is not late because of Steve. I injured my pinky doing something stupid and could not type for a couple of days.

What got me on this journey, the concept of being a witness, and using Virtual Vestry as a think tank.

Principles – God is love (in terms of Great Controversy Theology). Choice is an expensive gift, for God also or mostly. Safety of the vulnerable is a prime goal.

Policies and Culture – Each of these contemplations takes place at a different point in human history.

Hermeneutics – For this discussion the concept that Yahweh meets humanity in the situation, culture, time where they are and works to move said group closer to Heaven's principles.

Ranier Maria Rilke – *Be patient towards all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will find them gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day, into the answer.*

The Bureau of Unanswered Questions – For those that don't get solved?

Escape Hatches

The Flood-

- a. The teachings
- b. The warnings
- c. The options

Sodom and Gomorrah are part of the two events that got me into this journey
We can talk about them at another time if you all would like.

The First Passover

- a. *Joseph - generosity*
- b. *Population growth as a sign of being blessed.*
- c. *Health of newborns*
- d. *Signs from Moses*
- e. *Safety of Goshen*

A Story of Eunuchs – turning expectations upside down.

Context – Israel as a nation where legacy is a primary focus and is seen as coming through biological progeny. (Clearly this changes with Paul)

“ebed” - slave, household servant, castrated male, royal officer, important official.

Bible texts:

Deuteronomy 23:1,2 -the term used here refers to the formal services of the tabernacle or temple - from what I have read, they were also not allowed in leadership roles of the nation.

Isaiah 39: 7 – a huge curse

Isaiah 56:3,4 – an amazing blessing

Daniel - Chapters 1, 2 and 3 –

God turns two curses into unexpected and historic blessings.

Questions: As I type, these are hard for me because essentially, I am taking you on a journey with me. You are an amazing group that I respect enormously and care for as individuals and a community. So maybe ...

1. What might you want to study more for yourself or with us on Biblical issues connected to these concepts?
2. What in these stories resonates with you and your journey?
3. What angers you about these stories.
4. What in this journey today gives you vision or hope or curiosity.
5. How would this journey affect how you are with others?