

Repent - cont.

These verses speak of God's response (positively or negatively) after man exercises his free-will (Jeremiah 18:6-10). When God's character is displayed in connection with man's free-will, he does repent (change) after man acts in some way.

Again, why you ask? It is because God is merciful and longsuffering not willing that any should perish (Psalm 90:13; 135:14; 106:45; Ezekiel 18:30-32; Joel 2:12-14; Jonah 4:2; Romans 2:4; 2 Timothy 2:25; 2 Peter 3:9). God often "repents" (changes) in order to save anyone who wants to be saved.

Repentance Needed

The fact is that all mankind needs to repent (change) and come out of sin. The erring, sinful, non-convert and non-Christian needs to repent (Luke 5:32; 24:47; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 11:18; 17:30; 20:21; 26:20). The erring, sinful, unfaithful Christian also needs to repent (Acts 8:22; 2 Cor. 7:10; Rev. 2:5,16,21,22; 3:3,19).

Unfortunately, some today refuse to repent (Jeremiah 8:6; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Hebrews 6:6; Revelation 2:21; 9:20-21; 16:9,11). Friend, will you change today or refuse? - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Live your life as an exclamation, not as an explanation.
- You are never hopeless when your hope is in God.
- Withstanding temptation is good; staying away from it all together is even better.
- You cannot live your life going in the wrong direction (hell) and arrive at the right destination (heaven).

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Does God Repent, Or Not?

And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent; for he is not a man, that he should repent.

- 1 Samuel 15:29 -

And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death; for Samuel mourned for Saul: and Jehovah repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

- 1 Samuel 15:35 -

Preliminary Observations

Sometimes we are told in the Bible that God repents and in other places we are told that God does not repent. Sometimes we are told that he does and does not repent in the same chapter! (See above in 1 Samuel 15.) So, which is it? Does God repent, or not?

The place to begin in understanding this apparent contradiction is to understand the meaning of the word “repent” as it is used in the Bible. The word “repent” in the Bible is often, but not always associated with sin. Mankind, for example, needs to repent of their sins. Since mankind needs to repent of sin, we wonder how is it that God can repent when he doesn’t sin.

However, the word “repent” simply means to change or to turn (Exodus

13:17; Judges 21:6,15). God, being light (without sin), does not need to “repent” of sin (1 John 1:5). But, God does change his mind if and when he needs to. Change is the basic meaning of repent and the word does not always involve changing from sin.

The Bible does not contradict itself. When the Old Testament says that God does not repent and God does repent, there is no contradiction. The Old Testament is speaking of two different circumstances with reference to God’s actions.

“Repent”, in the Old Testament, is from the Hebrew word *nacham*, meaning “to sigh; to breath strongly; to be sorry; to repent”. Sometimes God, without any connection to his own sin (since there is none), is “sorry” that he has done something in the past and now he wants to change that for one righteous reason or another.

God Does Not Repent

The Bible states that God does not repent. For example, Numbers 23:19 reads: *God is not a man, that he should lie, Neither the son of man, that he should repent: Hath he said, and will he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and will he not make it good?*

Other Bible verses that teach the same thing would be 1 Samuel 15:29; Psalm 110:4 [Heb. 7:21]; Jeremiah 4:28; 20:16; Ezekiel 24:14; Hosea 13:14; Zechariah 8:14; and Romans 11:29.

These verses speak of the unchanging, divine nature and character of God (Malachi 3:6; Hebrew 13:6). When God’s character is displayed unilaterally without any connection to man’s free-will, he does not repent. Why, you ask? Well, it is impossible for God to lie; it is against his nature to change in this way (2 Timothy 2:13; Titus 1:3; Hebrews 6:18; James 1:17).

God Does Repent

The Bible also states that God does repent. For example, Genesis 6:6 reads: *And it repented Jehovah that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*

Other Bible verses that teach the same thing would be Exodus 32:12-14; Deuteronomy 32:36; Judges 2:18; 1 Samuel 15:11,35; 2 Samuel 24:16; 1 Chronicles 21:15; Jeremiah 15:6; 26:13,19; 31:19; 42:10; Hosea 11:8; Amos 7:1-6; and Jonah 3:5-10 [Lk. 11:32].

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