

Does God Destroy?

Luke 9:54-56

1. Jesus tells us that it is not His purpose to destroy men but to save them.
 - a. Jesus always reflected the Father's will. So if it is not Jesus' will to destroy then neither is it the Father's – John 5:19.
 - b. The Father did not send Jesus to condemn the world but to save it – John 3:16-18
 - c. It is Satan who desires to destroy lives – John 10:10; 1 Pet. 5:7-10
2. Doesn't the Bible, especially the Old Testament, teach that God destroys?
 - a. Most have denigrated God's character due to failure to understand the idiomatic language of the Hebrews in which God is said to do those things which He merely allowed or permitted.
 - b. Job 2:3-7 – The Lord says that He destroyed Job, however, it was Satan that actually employed devious methods of destruction upon Job (Job 1:10-12).
 - c. God actually delivered Job unto Satan as He does today in judgment – 1 Cor. 5:1-5; Exodus 12:12, 13, 23.
3. God actually protects us from destruction.
 - a. God is only said to destroy when He removes His protective presence – Psalm 145:20; Isa. 64:6-7; 43:25-28; 2 Kings 13:22-23; Prov. 1:24-28; Hosea 5:6.
 - *No one worships you or even asks you to help us. That is because you have turned away from us and **have let our sins destroy us** (Isa. 64:7; New Century Version)*
 - *And there is none that calls upon thy name, that wakes himself up to take hold of thee; therefore, thou hast hid thy face from us and **hast allowed us to wither in the power of our iniquities** (Isa. 64:7; Jubilee Bible 2000)*

- *So I put the high officials of your temple to shame. I let Jacob's family be totally destroyed. And I let people make fun of Israel* (Isa. 43:28; New International Reader's Version)
 - *That's why I don't allow your priests to serve me; I let Israel be destroyed and your people disgraced* (Isa. 43:28; Contemporary English Version)
- b. God is said to destroy when He “gives people up” and allows their enemies to destroy them – Isa. 34:2; 2 Chron. 12:5-7; Hosea 11:8-9; Eze. 21:31.
 - c. It is us who remove ourselves from God's presence. God is said to destroy us when He is no longer able to protect us – Psalm 73:27-28 (Luke 12:4-9).
 - d. God never changes, therefore His methods of destroying and reconciling do not change – Malachi 3:6-7 (James 4:6-8).
4. We suffer the destruction that we bring upon ourselves – 2 Pet. 2:1-2; Hosea 13:8-9
- a. People go to hell through their own free-choice: “*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and **broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:***” (Matt. 7:13)
 - b. When people make this choice God tells them to “*depart from me*” (Matt. 7:23; 25:41). God “destroys” by removing them from His protective presence and “giving them up” and “delivering them” to the results of their choices.
 - c. God is said to destroy by allowing the sowing and reaping process to take place – Psalm 5:10-12 (Ps. 9:15-17).
 - d. Our failure to pray opens us up to receiving the negative harvest that we have sown. God “destroys” by not protecting us from the consequences of our sins – Eze. 22:30-31.
 - e. Recompense is from the Hebrew word “nathan” which means to *allow* or *permit*.
 - f. “*...so I poured my indignation over them. With my fierce anger, I've consumed them. I brought the consequences of their behavior upon them,*’ declares the Lord God.” (International Standard Version)
 - g. A “recompense” is when God has given a person over to the power and consequences of their sin – Rom. 1:24-28; Deut. 32:35; Hosea 7:13-16.

- h. The expression “upon their heads” is always used in relation to a “sowing and reaping” fashion (Judges 9:50-57; 1 Kings 2:33; Neh. 4:4; Eze. 9:10; 11:21; 32:27)
- i. “Recompense upon their heads” and “visiting the iniquity” are synonymous phrases (Jer. 25:12-14; Hosea 9:7-9).
- j. “*And I will visit you according to the fruit of your doings*” (Jer. 21:14a; Darby).
- k. Sowing to the flesh reaps destruction (Gal, 6:7-8):
- *The man who sows to gratify his physical cravings **will reap destruction from them**, and the man who sows to benefit the spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit* (Goodspeed)
 - *For he who sows to his own flesh (lower nature, sensuality) will from the flesh **reap decay and ruin and destruction**, but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life* (Amplified)
 - *If you follow your selfish desires, **you will harvest destruction**, but if you follow the Spirit, you will harvest eternal life* (Contemporary English Version)
 - *If you plant in the soil of your corrupt nature, **you will harvest destruction**. But if you plant in the soil of your spiritual nature, you will harvest everlasting life* (God’s Word)
- l. God gives us knowledge of Himself and His Word but it is the willful ignorance and rejection of such knowledge that destroys us – Hosea 4:5-6
- m. When God says, “*I will also reject thee.... seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children,*” (KJV) He is not being vindictive. This is the law of reciprocity at work. God is rejected when we reject His Word (Psalm 81:10-16; Prov. 1:24-28; Isa. 30:15; 65:2; Jer. 5:3; 32:33; Zech. 7:11; Luke 7:30; 13:34; John 5:39-40).