

LOVE AND CHOICE

The Openness of God

G.O.L.D.

G.O.L.D.

Goodness

G.O.L.D.

Goodness

Love

G.O.L.D.

Goodness

Love

Dynamic Power

G.O.L.D.

Goodness

Openness

Love

Dynamic Power

G.O.L.D.

Goodness

Openness

Love

Dynamic Power



Open?

- Open hearted?
- Open arms?
- Open to real relationship ?
- Open to change?

Aristotle

- Unmoved mover

Aristotle

"Evidently, then, it thinks of that which is most divine and precious, and it does not change; for change would be change for the worse, and this would be already a movement.....Therefore it must be of itself that the divine thought thinks (since it is the most excellent of things), and its thinking is a thinking on thinking"

Christian theology

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in
light inaccessible **hid** from our eyes

Unresting, unhasting, and **silent** as
light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou
rulest in might;

We blossom and flourish as leaves
on the tree, and wither and perish,
but **naught changeth thee.**

God rules – OK?

- He is very clear about accomplishing what He is going to do

God rules – OK?

Isaiah 46: 9-11 "Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.

God rules – OK?

- He is very clear about accomplishing what He is going to do
- Aspects of national and individual futures

Hezekiah

2 Kings 20:1-6 In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.’” Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying, “Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

Hezekiah

And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. And I will add to your days fifteen years.

Saul

1 Sam 9:15-17 Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear the day before Saul came, saying, “Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him commander over My people Israel, that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My people, because their cry has come to Me.” So when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, “There he is, the man of whom I spoke to you. This one shall reign over My people.”

Saul

1 Sam 15:10-11 Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, “I greatly **regret** that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.”

1 Sam 15:35 ...the LORD **regretted** that He had made Saul king over Israel.

The Potter

Jeremiah 18:7-8 “The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, **I will relent** of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.”

God of the Possible

- “How long...?”
- “I thought you would.... But you didn't...”
- “If my people... then...”

Chair prediction

- The chair will not float off into space
- The chair will not turn into a vase of chrysanthemums
- The floor will stay solid

When was it
decided that you
would hear this
talk?

So what.....?

- God is Good
- The God who is Love desires a genuine relationship with us
- The God who is Love rules, but we are in a war zone
- What we do really counts
- What we pray really matters