

The Humble God

In the Old Testament the verb Repent is used 100+ times. Several times it speaks of God repenting.

Daniel Bourguet writes:

"If the Old Testament speaks so clearly about this and in so many places, it can hardly be blasphemous to say that God repents, but it is such a delicate issue, and so upends our ideas because we are suddenly faced with the revelation of God's extreme humility!"

Was Christ humble?

Was God humble?

John 14:8-9

⁸ Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

- If Christ is the image of the Father then God the Father is humble.

Numbers 23:19

¹⁹ God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

1 Samuel 15:29

²⁹ And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.

- The prophet quotes Numbers and God did not repent of removing Saul as king. But God has chosen to repent many times.

Genesis 6:6

⁶ And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. (KJV)

⁶ The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. (NIV)

- NIV ignores the Hebrew word totally
- NACHAM: to sigh-breath strongly, implies to be sorry, it also means to console. In the KJV Bible it is translated 57 comfort, 41 times repent and 9 times comforter

Amos 6:8

⁸ The Lord God hath sworn by himself, saith the LORD the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein.

- God hath sworn!

Amos 7:1-3

⁷ Thus hath the Lord God shewed unto me; and, behold, he formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings.

² And it came to pass, that when they had made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, O Lord God, forgive, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small.

³ The LORD repented for this: It shall not be, saith the LORD.

- Amos intercedes and God repents

Amos 7:4-6

⁴ Thus hath the Lord God shewed unto me: and, behold, the Lord God called to contend by fire, and it devoured the great deep, and did eat up a part.

⁵ Then said I, O Lord God, cease, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small.

⁶ The LORD repented for this: This also shall not be, saith the Lord God.

Jeremiah 42:10

¹⁰ If ye will still abide in this land, then will I build you, and not pull you down, and I will plant you, and not pluck you up: for I repent me of the evil that I have done unto you.

- Not only did he repent and not send judgement, he promised the opposite. I will build you- I will plant you
- But if you go to Egypt I will not be with you.

Jonah 3:9-10

⁹ Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

¹⁰ And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Jonah 4:1

4 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

- He did not want a God who repents

None of these prophets would dare to ask God to repent. They all ask God to forgive.

However, there was one man who's relationship with God was so intimate that he asked God to repent. Who was this man?

Exodus 32:12-14

¹² Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.

¹⁴ And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

- Moses asked God to repent and He did. Only one other man in the future would have that special privilege.

Deuteronomy 18:18

¹⁸ I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.