

Message Notes

"A Vision of God to live and die for"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – *It's all about your view of God...*

WRONG VIEWS OF GOD

1. Resident Policeman
2. Grand Old Man (Spiritual Santa Claus)
3. Meed and Mild (Oh, Look at the Nice Jesus!)
4. God-in-a-box
5. Whatever you want him to be

"The most important thing about you is what you think about when you think about God..."

Does a vision of God like this lead to any kind of passionate, non-wasted life? (Philippians 1:20-24)

A Vision of God to live (and DIE!) for

The Amazing Offer
(Exodus 19:1-8)

Our God is a Holy God!
(Exodus 19:9-19)

Know that the Lord your God is God!!
(Exodus 19:20-25)

YEAH, but that was Old Testament stuff...
or was is it?

Hebrews 12:18-29

Application – *"Don't waste your life with a vision of God that is weak and wimpy!"*

Exodus 19:1-25

¹In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on the very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ²After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. ³Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶'you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." ⁷So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak.

⁸The people all responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD. ⁹The LORD said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you," Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said. ¹⁰And the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Make them wash their clothes ¹¹and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹²Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not go up the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. ¹³He shall surely be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on him. Whether man or animal, he shall not be permitted to live.' Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they go up to the mountain." ¹⁴After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes. ¹⁵Then he said to the people, "Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations." ¹⁶On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. ¹⁷Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently, ¹⁹and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

²⁰The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up ²¹and the LORD said to him, "Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish. ²²Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them." ²³Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, 'Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.'" ²⁴The LORD replied, "Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them." ²⁵So Moses went down to the people and told them.

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**DON'T
WASTE
YOUR LIFE!**

LIVING LIFE TO THE VERY MAXIMUM!

How to Waste Your Life!

Luke 9:18-27

²³Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. ²⁵What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? ²⁶If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”

Wrong Pictures of God

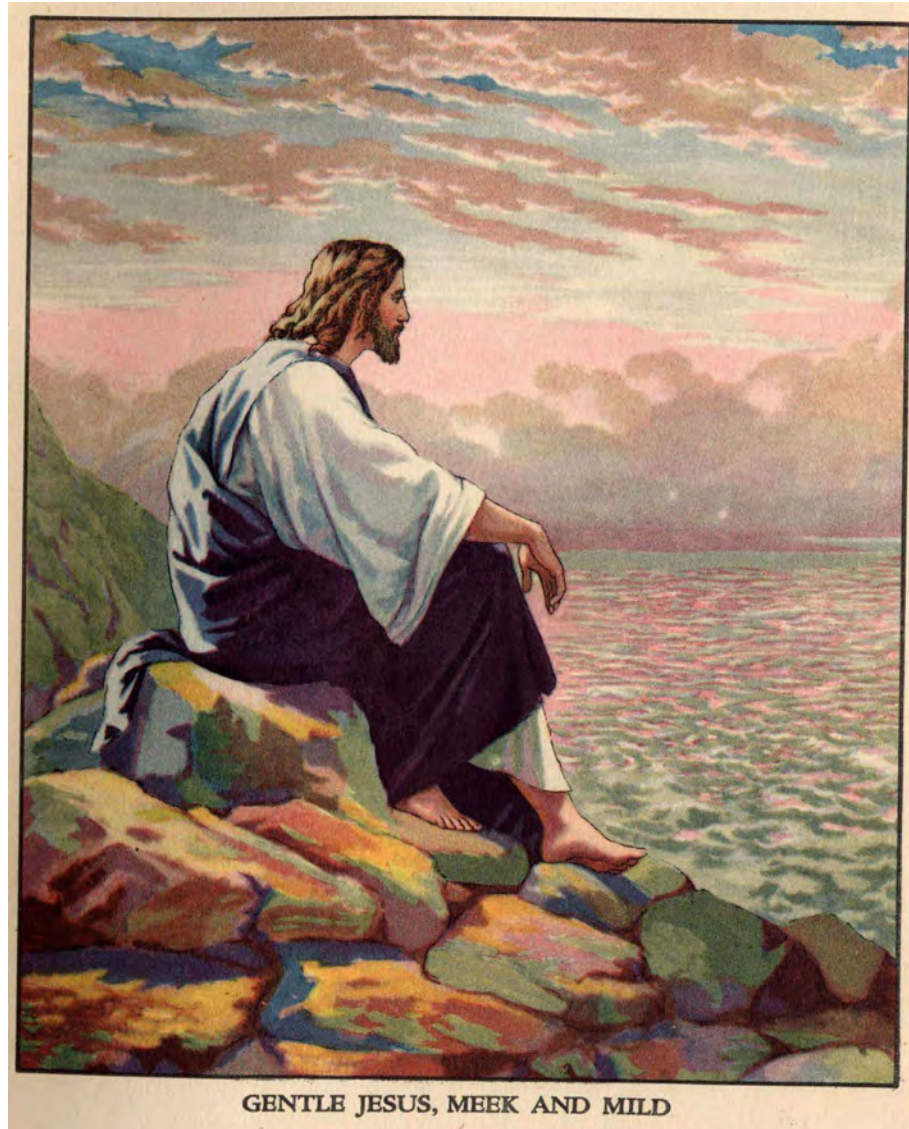


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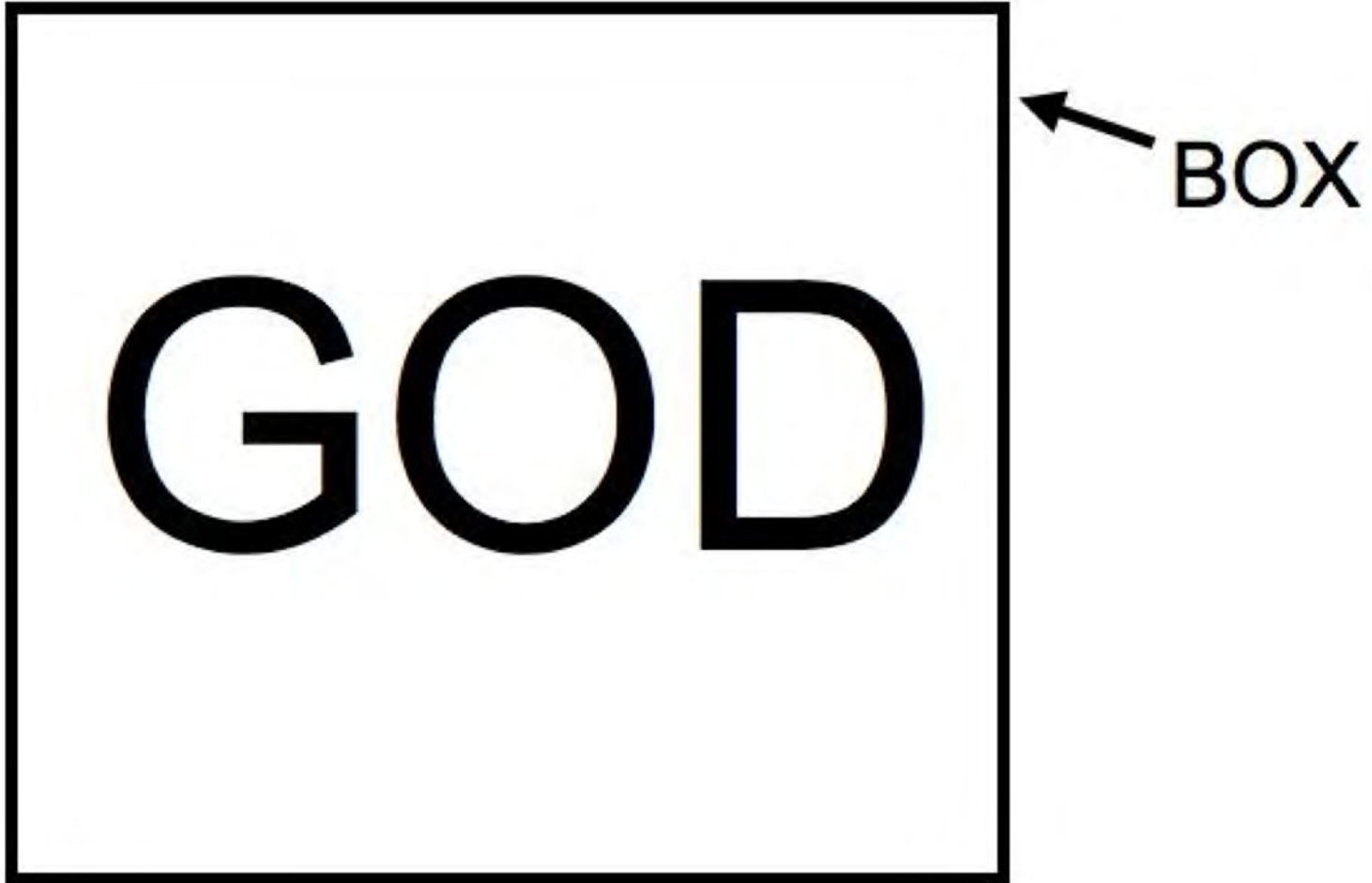


Wrong Pictures of God



GENTLE JESUS, MEEK AND MILD

Wrong Pictures of God



Wrong Pictures of God





**Does a vision of God like those really
make any difference at all?**

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Philippians 1:20-24

²⁰I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²²If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

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Hebrews 12:18-29

¹⁸You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.” ²¹The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

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You have NOT come to a mountain like that...

Look at the Mountain we have come to!

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Hebrews 12:18-29

²²But you have come to Mount Zion,
to the city of the living God.

You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels
in joyful assembly,

²³to the church of the firstborn,
whose names are written in heaven.

You have come to God,
the judge of all men,
to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,
²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood that speaks
a better word than the blood of Abel.

What does this vision of God do for us?

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Hebrews 12:18-29

²⁵See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks.

If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?

²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth,
but now he has promised,

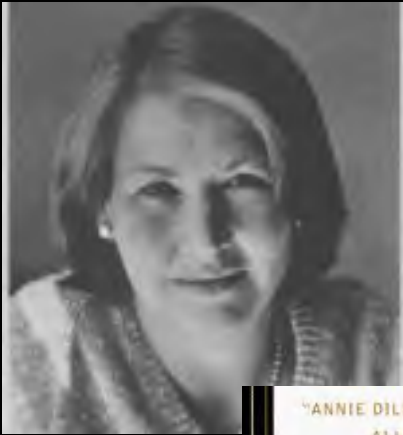
“Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”

²⁷The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken — that is, created things — so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

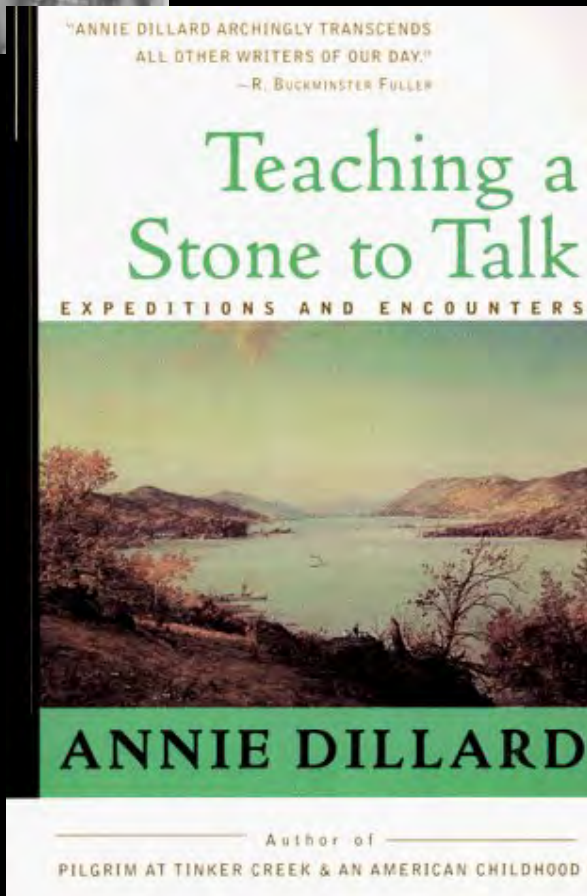
What does this vision of God do for us?

Hebrews 12:18-29

²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom
that cannot be shaken,
let us be thankful,
and so worship God acceptably
with reverence and awe,
²⁹for our “God is a consuming fire.”



On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the



floor with their chemistry sets, making up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies hats and straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offence, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return.

~ Annie Dillard, *Teaching a Stone to Talk*, p. 40.

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Philippians 3:7-11

⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.