





END-OF-YEAR

Giving



**Revealing the Rescuer
Seeing Jesus in Isaiah**

Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live...

Isaiah 55:1-9

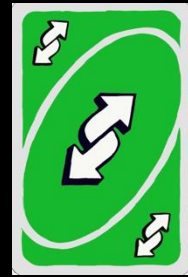
...and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶ "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:1-9

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The passage in Reverse Order

1. You and I are not God.
2. How so? It's not what you think.
3. How will you respond?



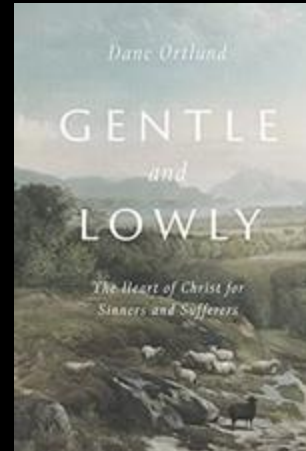
You and I are not God.

Isaiah 55:8-9

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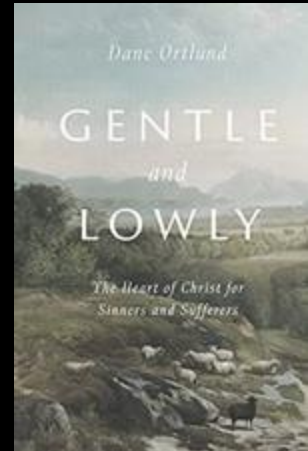
It's as if God is saying in verse eight that he and we think very differently, whereas in verse nine he is saying precisely how, namely, his “thoughts” (which means “plans,” “devices,” “intentions,” “purposes”) are higher, grander, enveloped in a compassion for which we fallen sinners have no natural category.

Dane Ortlund
*Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ
for Sinners and Sufferers*, 158.



It is a statement not of the surprise of God's mysterious Providence, but of the surprise of God's compassionate Heart...The natural flow of the fallen human heart is toward reciprocity, tit-for-tat payback, equanimity, balancing of the scales. We are far more intractably law-ish than we realize.

Dane Ortlund
*Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ
for Sinners and Sufferers*, 156–157.



The furniture my grandparents left me



The furniture my grandparents left me vs the furniture I'm leaving my grandkids



The **SALVATION GOD ACTUALLY OFFERS** vs the
SALVATION WE THINK HE OFFERS



How so? How does God show himself different?

A witness, leader, and commander?

Isaiah 55:3b-4

...and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.



How so? How does God show himself different?

A witness, leader, and commander?

Matthew 26:52-54

⁵² “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”



We worship a dead lamb in a world that esteems killer lions.



THAT WAY

SOMEWHERE ELSE

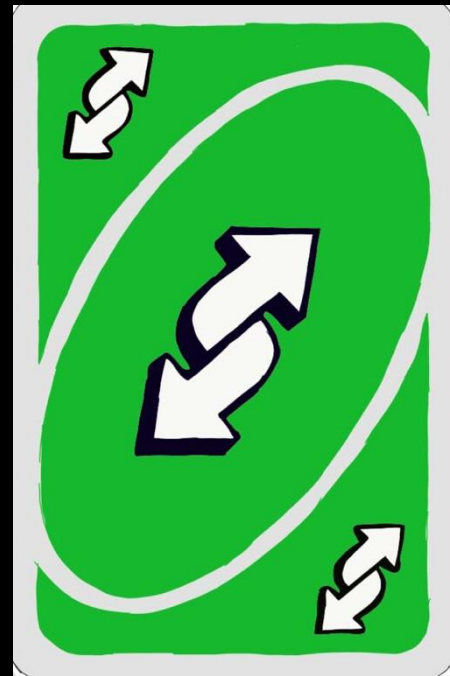
THIS WAY

How so? How does God show himself different?

So, God will let anyone in?

Isaiah 55:5

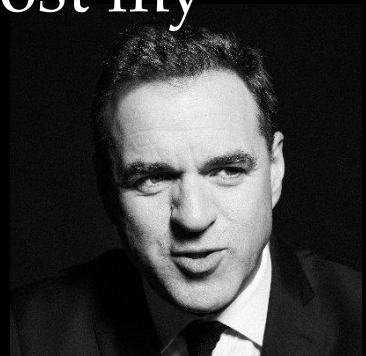
Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.



“I have embraced Christianity... We were all baptised, Ayaan and our two sons, together in September ... It was the culmination of a quite protracted process. My journey was from atheism. My parents had left the Church of Scotland, I think even before I was born. I grew up in a household of science-minded religious sceptics. I didn't go to church and felt quite sure of the wisdom of that when I was young. However, in two phases, I lost my faith in atheism.”

Sir Niall Ferguson

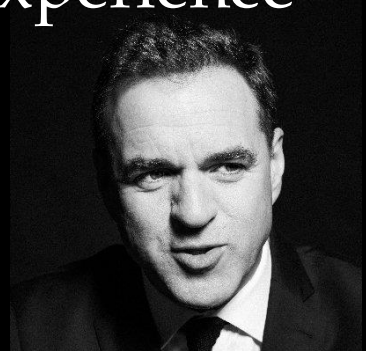
British-American conservative historian, Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Senior fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University



“The first phase was that as a historian I realised no society had been successfully organised on the basis of atheism. All attempts to do that have been catastrophic. That was an insight that came from studying 18th, 19th and 20th-century history... But then the next stage was realising that no individual can in fact be fully formed or ethically secure without religious faith. That insight has come more recently and has been born of our experience as a family.”

Sir Niall Ferguson

British-American conservative historian, Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Senior fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University



“I've spent 60 years on this planet and I'm convinced that we can't be spiritually naked, we can't be spiritually void, it's too miserable.”

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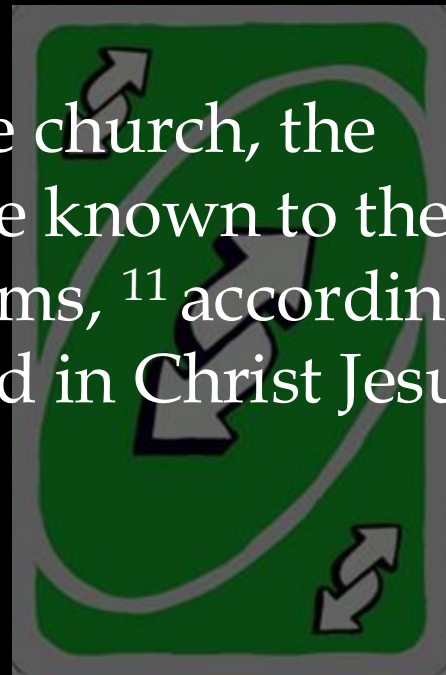


How so? How does God show himself different?

So, God will let anyone in?

Ephesians 3:10-11

¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.





How so? How does God show himself different?

Inclusion of the wicked /unrighteous?

Isaiah 55:6-7

⁶ “Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the
wicked forsake his way, and the
unrighteous man his thoughts; let him
return to the LORD, that he may have
compassion on him, and to our God, for
he will abundantly pardon.”





These cities were designated as places where someone who had unintentionally killed another person could flee to find protection from an avenger of blood until a fair trial could be held. The roads to the Cities of Refuge were to be maintained for easy access. These roads should be:

- **Clearly marked** with signs stating "Refuge."
- **Kept free of obstacles** like stones, debris, or overgrowth.
- **Wider than ordinary roads** to allow quick and unobstructed travel.

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God's plans aren't our plans and God's ways aren't the ways of the world. God doesn't abandon you when you've done something wrong, when you've failed, when you've been made to feel ashamed. God does not pack up and go off to the greener pastures of the elite, or successful, or impressive. God's office isn't at the top of the ladder but the end of your rope. God's ways are ways of love, and grace, and mercy, and forgiveness, and peace, and hope. God's way is the way of The Cross — where Christ loved an underserving world, including you and me, to the end.

Will Ryan

Where Do You Go From Here? A Letter To Those Graduating

Date: _____

New Year's Resolutions

1. Save money.
2. Exercise and get fit.
3. Find a better job.
4. Help others.
5. Travel.
6. Stop procrastinating.
7. Enjoy life.



How will you respond? Do you want to come?

Isaiah 55:1-3

¹ “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.