

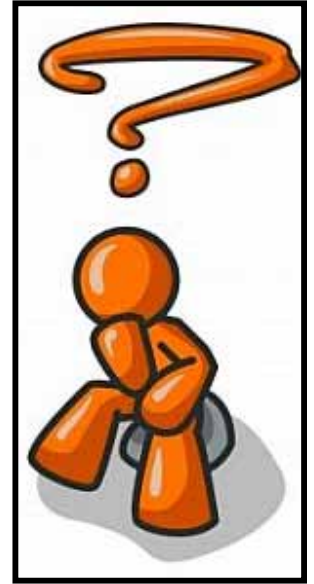
What About... A God Who Needs Our Help?

BY DR. DAVID A. DEWITT

I recently asked a friend from Knoxville, Tennessee what he thought about all the recent Muslim aggression. He said, “Hey, let me tell you something. I don’t want anything to do with a god that needs my help.” He went on to talk about the idols of the Old Testament who needed to be carried around and set up when they fell over. They needed help. The god of Islam is like that, he needs help exterminating the Jews, conquering all the infidels of the world, and ultimately forcing everyone into a global caliphate under sharia law. He can’t get it done unless his followers recruit enough people to get it done for him. If they don’t do it, it won’t get done.

I got to thinking about that. In Christianity, we have a thing called “Dominion Theology.” It’s the idea that we should fix the world (dominate it). We should make it into a Christian world socially, economically, morally, and politically. Rather than focus on a preparation for eternity and the Coming of Christ, we should build God’s kingdom for Him on earth, then Jesus will come back.

But isn’t that exactly what Islam is doing? Doesn’t that assume we have a God who needs our help?



For example, in a recent promotion for his new book, “Vanishing Grace,” Philip Yancey said this:

Jesus taught us to pray that God’s will be done ‘on earth as it is in heaven.’ A skeptic may scoff at such a mirage, yet imagine for a moment a world with no homelessness or poverty, no divorces or unwanted children, no discrimination...a world in which governments rule with justice and financial institutions operate with integrity and politicians work together for the common good. That is what Jesus’ followers should strive for. Christians are not mere wayfarers en route to the next life, but rather, pioneer settlers of God’s kingdom in advance.

Dominionist pastor Earl Paulk said this:

Some of the strongest fundamental churches still preach that Christ will return to gather national Israel unto Himself, and I say that is deception and will keep the Kingdom of God from coming to pass! Likewise, those who are waiting for Christ to catch a few people away so God can judge the world are waiting in vain! Jesus Christ has now done all He can do, and He waits at the right hand of His Father, until you and I as sons of God become manifest and make this world His footstool. He is waiting for us to say, ‘Jesus, we have made the kingdoms of this world the Kingdom of our God.’

It seems that Philip Yancey, Earl Paulk and a multitude of other evangelicals today are pushing for the same thing the Muslims are—a world dominated by their religion. But it is also a world they need to build for God. God needs their help. But biblically, service is about worship (praise, adoration, and thanksgiving—Matthew 6:9), obedience (John 14:15), and responsibility (Matthew 25:22-28), not helping God out. The question is, “Would this earthly project I have in mind get done if I didn’t do it, or motivate people to help?” If not, then it is possible that we are trying to help God rather than serve God. For example, would my organization happen if I didn’t build it? No. Would the Jews be preserved as a people if I didn’t do it? Yes (Romans 11:1). Would a particular church building be built if we don’t build it? No. Will the church Jesus is building be built if I don’t build it? Yes (Matthew 16:18). Serving sees ministry as obeying God, not helping God. Jesus never asked us to build His church or His kingdom. His command to the apostles was to go, make disciples, baptize them, and teach them (Matthew 28:19-20).

The statement, *Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven* (Matthew 6:10), is a prayer for God to bring about His Millennial Kingdom at the Second Coming of Christ, not a command for us to build it for Him. We are constantly confusing what God told us He would do with the commands He gave us to do.