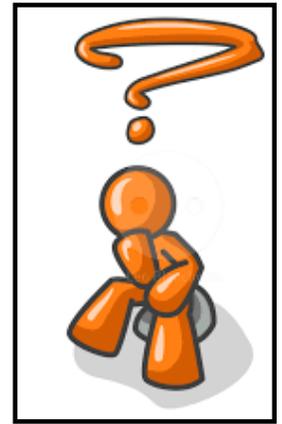


# What About ...

## God and the Individual

By Dave DeWitt



I can find nothing in the Bible that says God is interested in populating heaven, bringing social justice to the world, influencing politics, filling large assemblies, or finding leaders who can accomplish such things. Here is what I have found.

### Genesis 5:24

*Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*

~ Among the genealogy of the antediluvian world, one man is noted as having walked with God.

### Genesis 6:5, 8; 7:1

*Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually ... But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD ... Then the LORD said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time."*

~ When every intent of the thoughts of men were only evil continually, God noted the one man who was righteous.

### Genesis 18:26-32; 2 Peter 2:7

*So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account ... I will not destroy it if I find forty-five ... thirty ... twenty ... ten."... [then] He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men [before he destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah].*

~ Abraham began with the proposal for God. If there were 50 righteous men in Sodom, would He spare the city? Even when he renegotiated it down to 10, God agreed. But only Lot was who Peter called a *righteous* man. So the angels pulled him out and destroyed Sodom.

### Job 1:8

*The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."*

### 1 Kings 8:39

When Solomon consecrated the temple, he prayed, "...render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know, for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men."

### 2 Chronicles 16:9

*For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.*

### Jeremiah 5:1

*Roam to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and look now and take note. And seek in her open squares, if you can find a man, if there is one who does justice, who seeks truth, then I will pardon her.*

~ Before destroying Jerusalem, God suggested the people search the city and see *if you can find a man if there is one* [just one man, any man], *who does justice* [exercises judgment according to the character of God], *who seeks truth* [the way things actually are].

### 2 Kings 19:34-5

Isaiah told King Hezekiah what God said about the Assyrian campaign against Jerusalem: "*For I will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.*" *Then it happened that night that the angel of the LORD went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men rose early in the morning, behold, all of them were dead.*

~ God has some interesting math. One man, David, who had been dead for over four hundred years was worth more than 185,000 Assyrians.

### **Isaiah 66:1-2**

*Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word."*

~ What gets the attention of the Almighty Creator of the Universe? One man or woman *who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.*

### **Esther 4:14**

Mordechai told Esther, *"And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"*

~ Mordechai was making the point that Esther had been specifically personally chosen by God for this occasion.

### **Luke 1:28-30**

*And coming in, he [the angel Gabriel] said to her [the virgin Mary], "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you ... you have found favor [grace] with God."*

~ Mary was singled out as one, among all the women of Judah, who found favor of with God.

### **Matthew 7:13-14, 22-23**

*"Enter through the narrow gate ... Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"*

~ The general public, the masses, even the masses of those who think they are believers, and do miraculous works, will not find the small and narrow way that leads to eternal life. That is only for the one who does not *practice lawlessness*. Of course, that narrow way is provided by the cross of Christ, but most never find it.

### **Matthew 16:18**

*"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."*

~ *This rock*, the church was built on, may refer to Peter's statement about Jesus being the Christ. But it is also true that Peter was chosen to be the first apostle to lead the church (in Acts 1–12).

### **John 1:47**

*Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"*

~ Nathanael was the fifth disciple chosen by Jesus, who already knew him as an honest man.

### **Acts 13:36**

While speaking in a synagogue in Pisidian Antioch, Paul included the comment: *"For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay..."*

~ Paul mentioned David specifically because he *served the purpose of God in his own generation.*

### **2 Timothy 2:2**

*"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*

~ Timothy's assignment was not to pastor an assembly, fix the world, or influence politics. His assignment was to find and build into *faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

### **Conclusion**

God, through His omniscience, searches the world to find a believer *who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at His Word.* We are saved by faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.