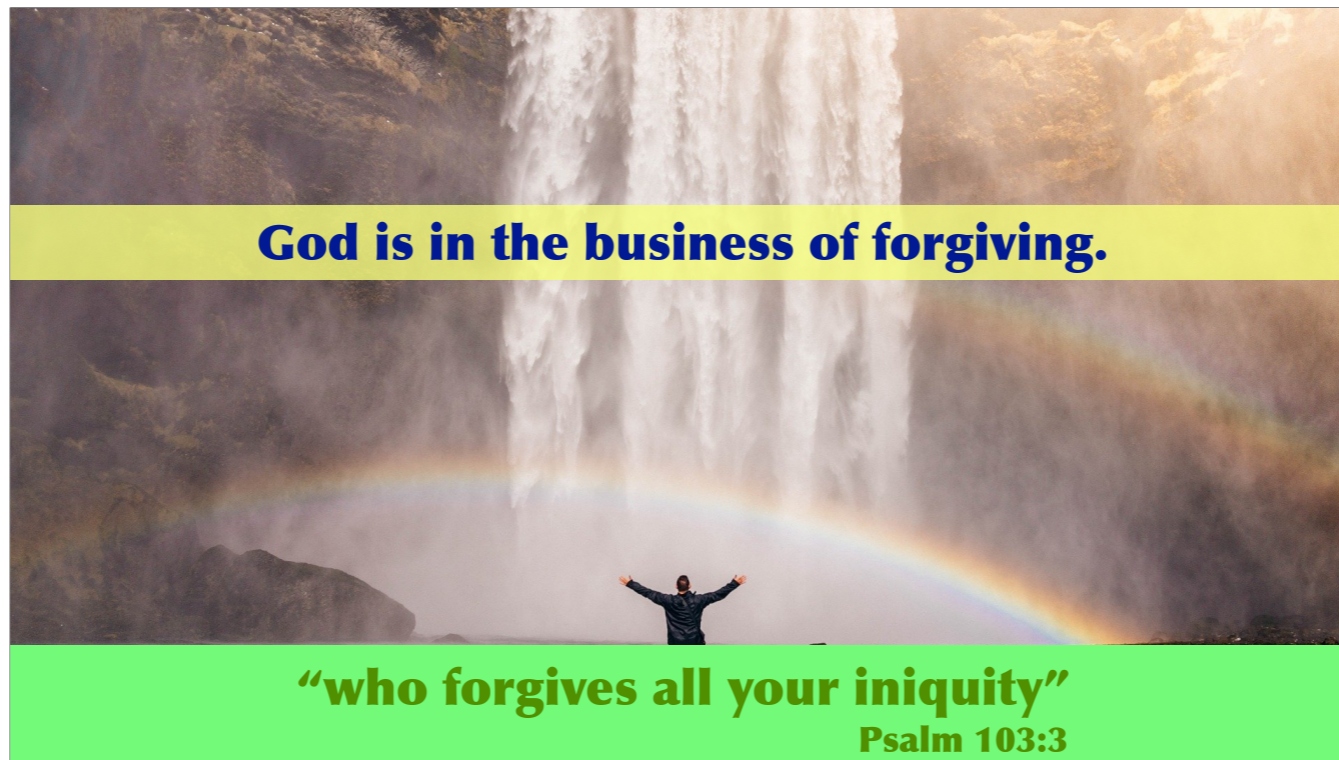




- Scripture Reading: Romans 2:3-11
- Lamentations 3:37-51
  - 42 “We have transgressed and rebelled, and you have not forgiven.
- Were they shocked?



- Jehovah had always forgiven before... time and again
  - Wilderness
  - Judges: cycle of unfaithfulness
  - Idolatry of Solomon:
    - all the kings of Israel — captivity to Assyrians
    - most of the kings of Judah — captivity to Babylonians
- For hundreds of years Jehovah had forgiven their sins.



- Previous lessons: God is in the business of forgiveness.
  - Psalms 103:1-5 (ESV) 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.



- Previous lessons: God is in the business of forgiveness.
  - 1 Timothy 2:3-4 (ESV) 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 **who desires all people to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.



- 2 Peter 3:9 (ESV) 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.**



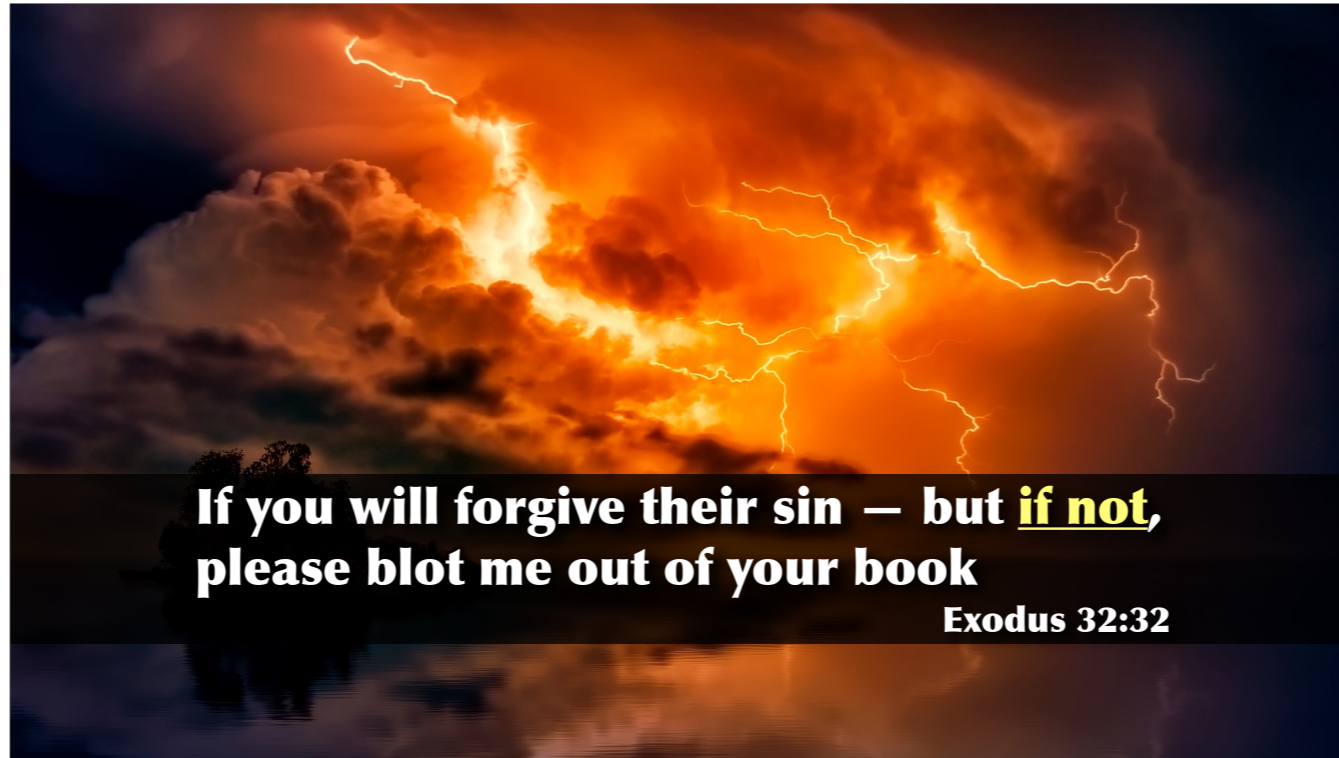
- If that is true, why would God NOT forgive?
- Why didn't God just forgive Adam and Eve when they ate the fruit?
  - Let them stay in garden? (first offense, after all).
- Why didn't God just forgive the world before the flood?



**God is in the business of forgiving.**

**Why would God **NOT** forgive?**

- Why did God forgive?
  - Abraham and Sarah when they laughed?
  - David when he committed adultery and murdered?
- Is God capricious?
- Is God partial?
  - Only forgives the one's he likes.
  - Hard hearted to others?

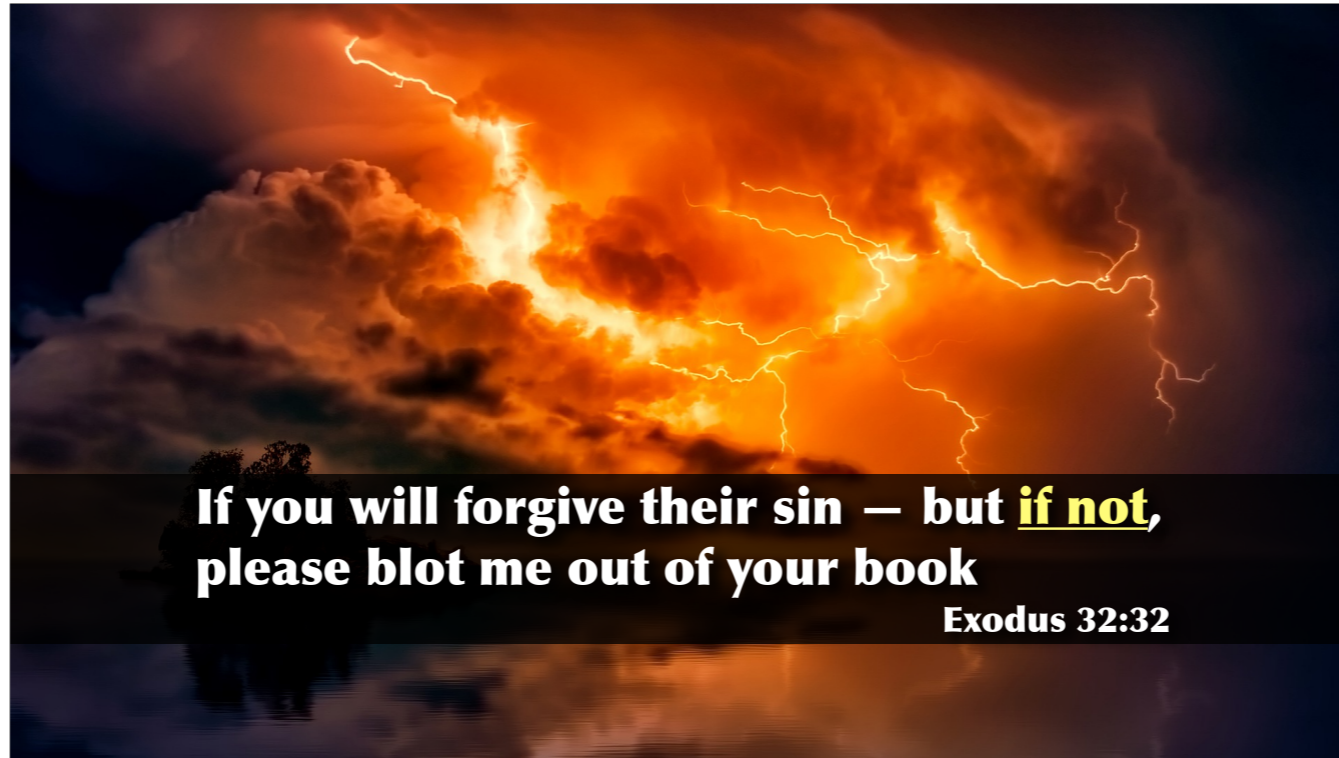


**If you will forgive their sin – but if not,  
please blot me out of your book**

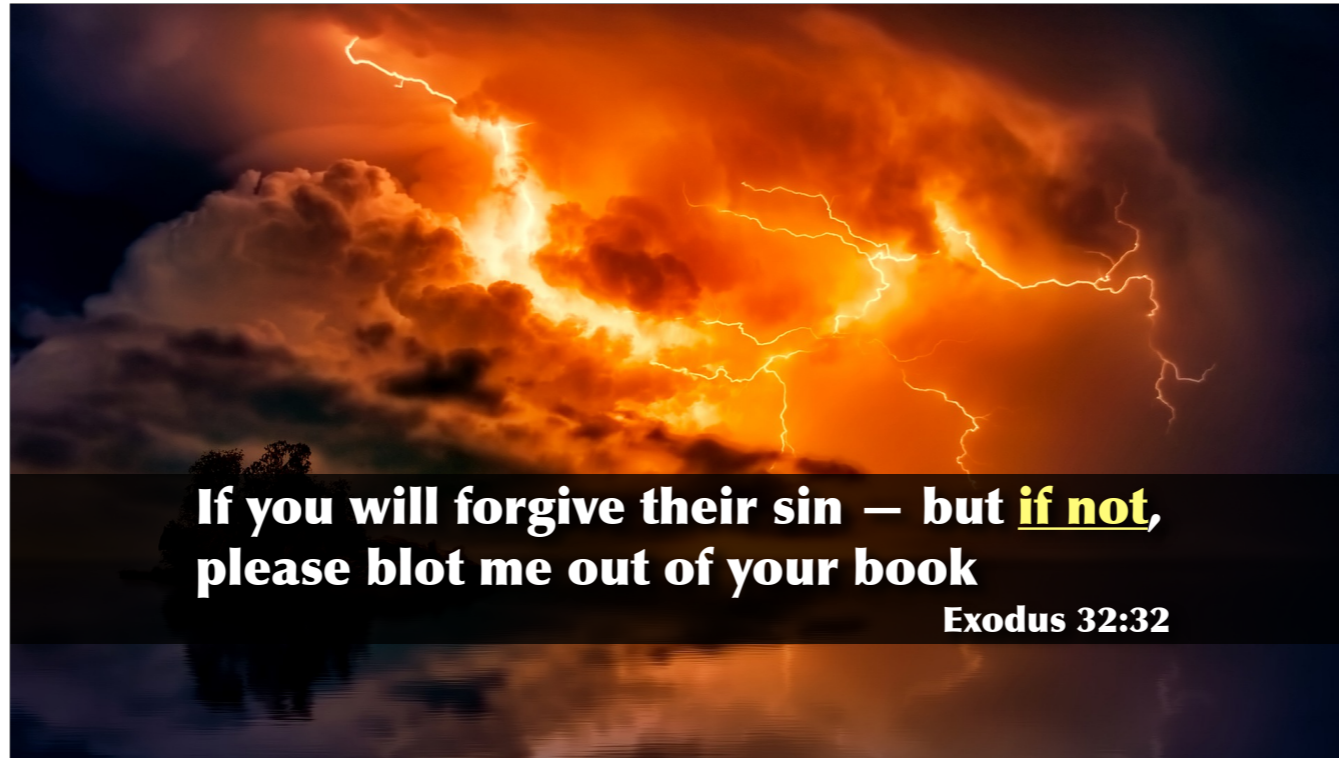
**Exodus 32:32**

- Moses recognized that Jehovah might not forgive Israel's sin of worshiping golden calf
- Exodus 32:30-35
  - 30 The next day Moses said to the people, "**You have sinned a great sin.**
  - And now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can **make atonement** for your sin."
  - 31 So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Alas, this people has **sinned a great sin.** They have made for themselves gods of gold.





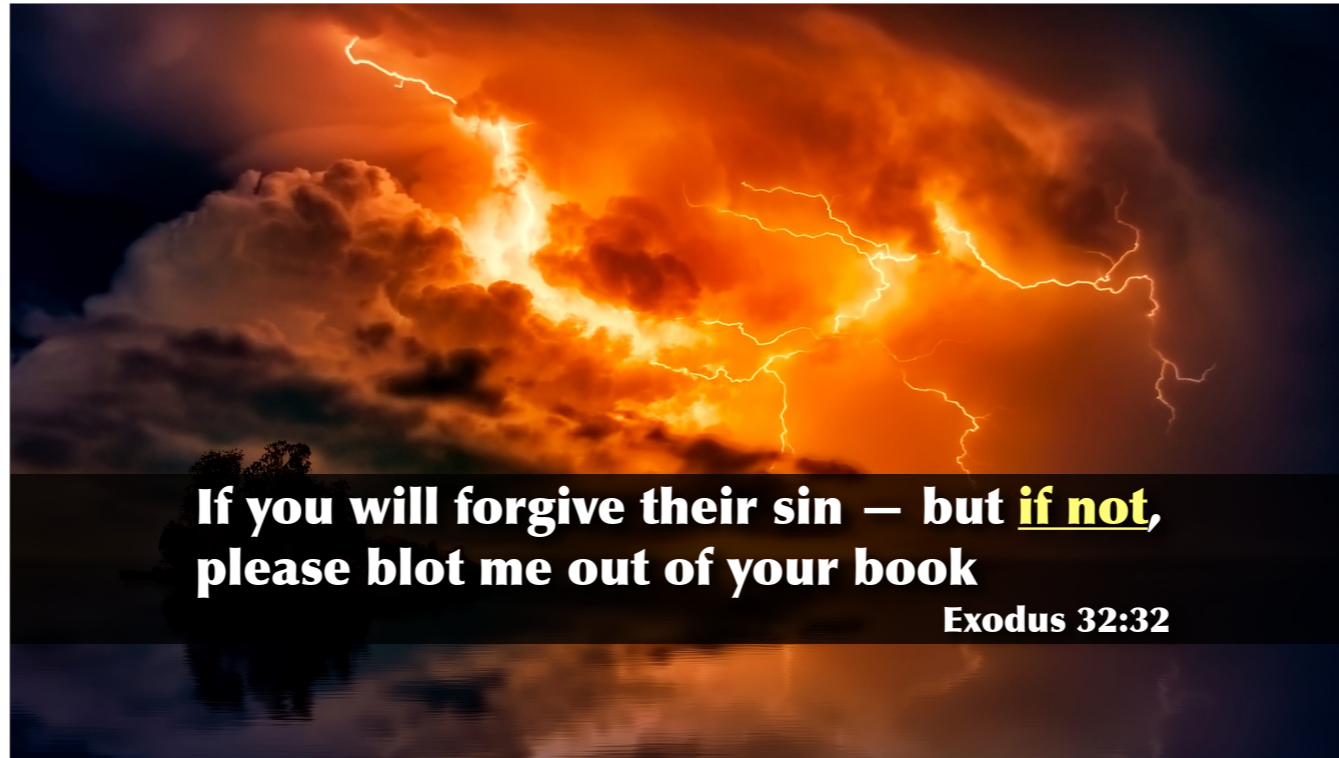
- 32 But now, if you will forgive their sin—**but if not**, please blot me out of your book that you have written.”
- 33 But the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.
  - 34 But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you.
  - Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them.”
  - 35 Then the LORD sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf, the one that Aaron made.



**If you will forgive their sin – but if not,  
please blot me out of your book**

**Exodus 32:32**

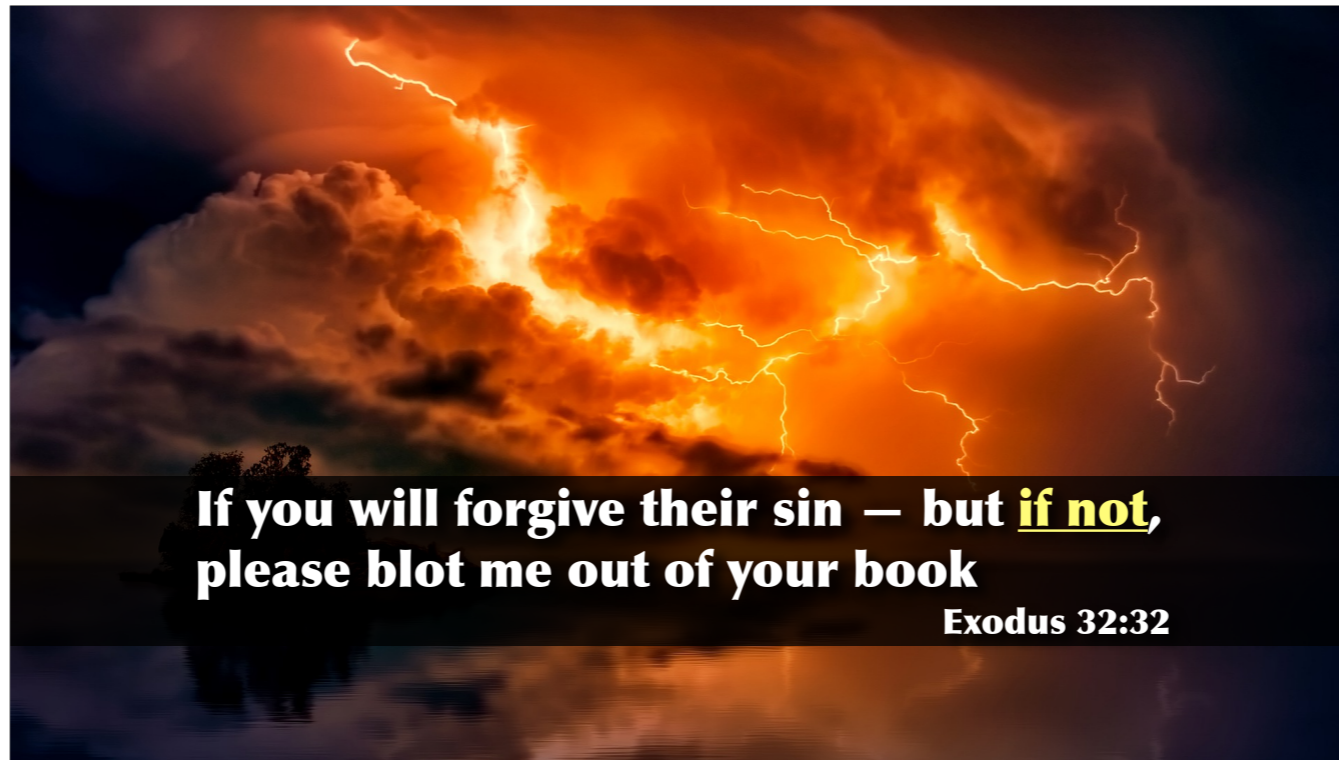
- Why did Moses think that God might not forgive the sins of the people?
- Deuteronomy 9:13-14 (ESV) 13 “Furthermore, the LORD said to me,
  - ‘I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stubborn people.
  - 14 Let me alone, that I may **destroy** them and **blot out their name** from under heaven.
  - And **I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they.**’
- God was willing to change his plans (to some extent) because of this sin.
  - He’d start over from Moses.



**If you will forgive their sin – but if not,  
please blot me out of your book**

**Exodus 32:32**

- Deuteronomy 9:18-20 (ESV)
- 18 Then I lay prostrate before the LORD as before, forty days and forty nights.
- I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all the sin that you had committed, in doing what was evil in the sight of the LORD to provoke him to anger.
- 19 **For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure that the LORD bore against you, so that he was ready to destroy you.**
- But the LORD listened to me that time also.
- 20 And the LORD was so angry with Aaron that he was ready to destroy him.
- And I prayed for Aaron also at the same time.



**If you will forgive their sin – but if not,  
please blot me out of your book**

**Exodus 32:32**

- God deals with man's sins...
  - Exodus 34:5-7 (ESV) 5 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, **but who will by no means clear the guilty**, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."



**Jehovah will **not** be willing to forgive him**  
**Deuteronomy 29:20**

- Moses warns Israel before they enter Canaan that Jehovah might not be willing to forgive them if they turn away from Jehovah
- Deuteronomy 29:16-21
  - 18 Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose **heart is turning away today from the LORD** our God to **go and serve the gods** of those nations.



- Beware lest there be among you **a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit,**
- 19 one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, **blesses himself in his heart,** saying,
  - ‘I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.’
    - Listen carefully to this attitude.
      - This did happen eventually!
      - It still happens to us: bless ourselves, refuse to listen to God, assume we are safe.
      - Does such a one either not care about forgiveness? Or are they presuming that Jehovah will always forgive?



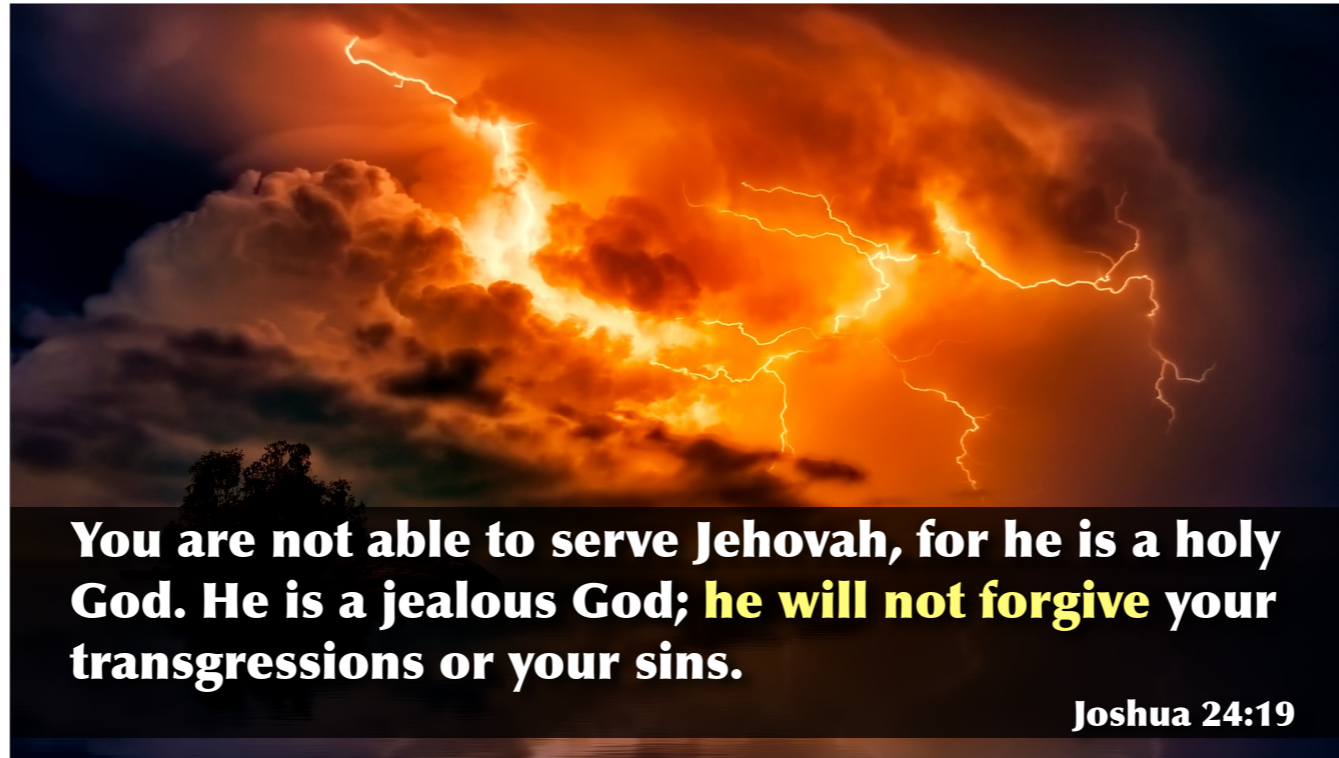
**Jehovah will **not** be willing to forgive him**  
**Deuteronomy 29:20**

- This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike.
  - ! Destruction will not be just against the unrighteous. Even the innocent will suffer.



- 20 **The LORD will not be willing to forgive him,**
  - but rather the anger of the LORD and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.
- 21 And the LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for calamity, in accordance with all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.

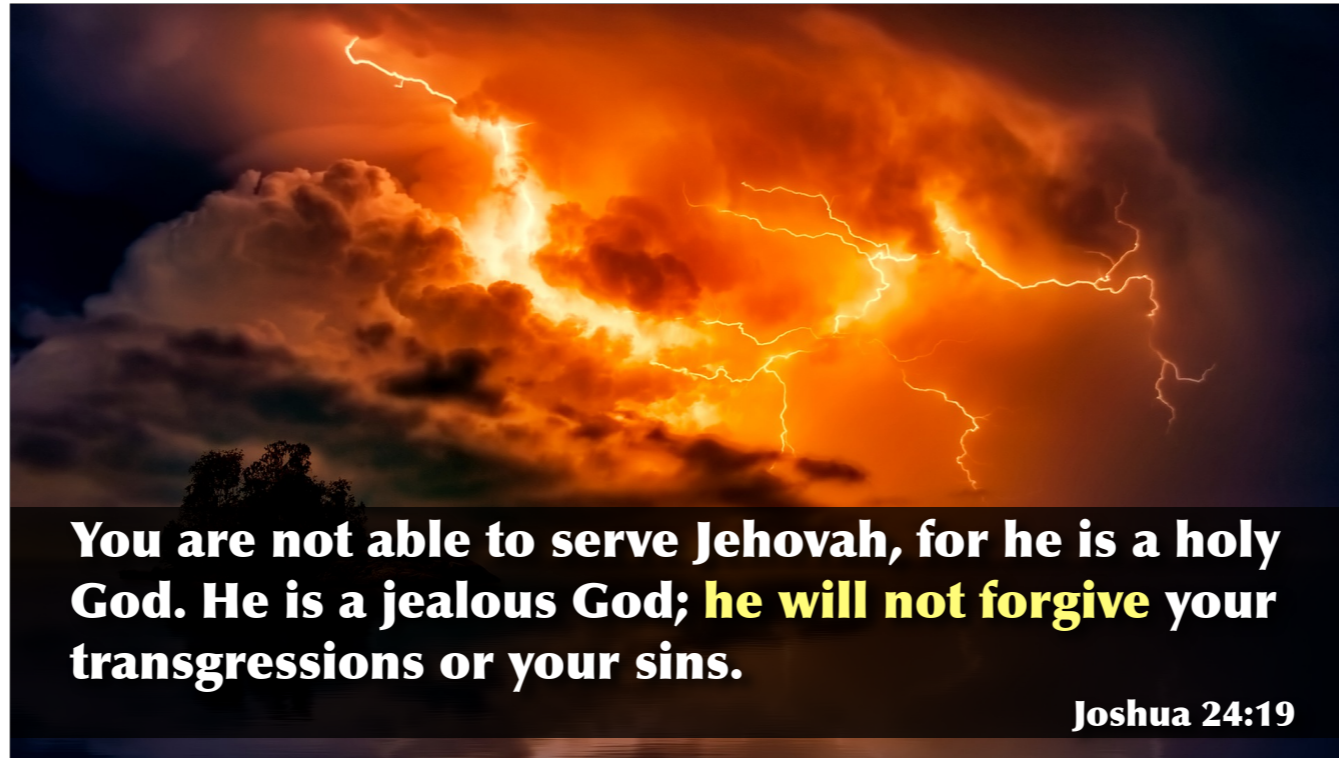




**You are not able to serve Jehovah, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.**

**Joshua 24:19**

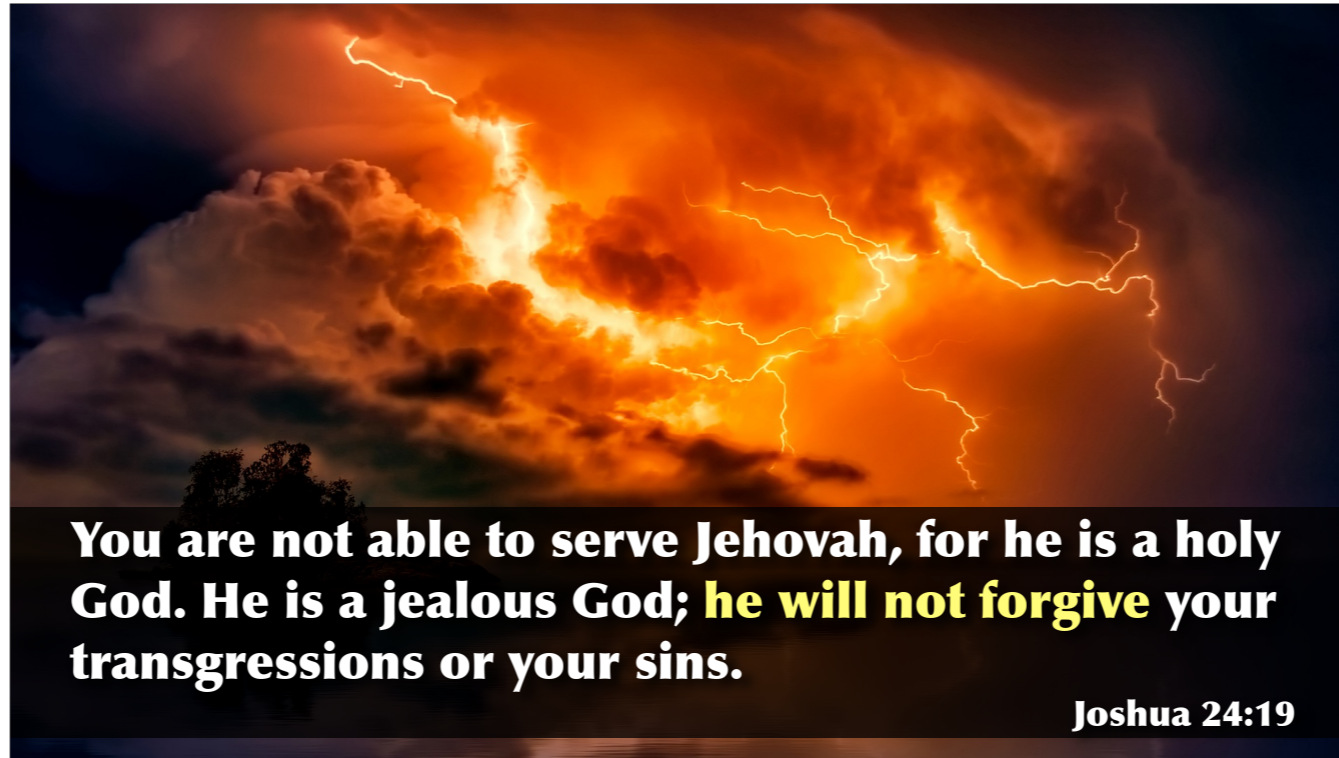
- Joshua told Israel that Jehovah would not forgive their sins if they forsake him and serve other gods
- Joshua 24:14-21
  - 14 “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”



**You are not able to serve Jehovah, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.**

**Joshua 24:19**

- 16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, 17 for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. 18 And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”



**You are not able to serve Jehovah, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.**

**Joshua 24:19**

- 19 But Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD, for he is a **holy** God. He is a **jealous** God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.
  - 20 If you **forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods**, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.”
  - 21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the LORD.”
    - (How easily do we convince ourselves that we will serve God?)



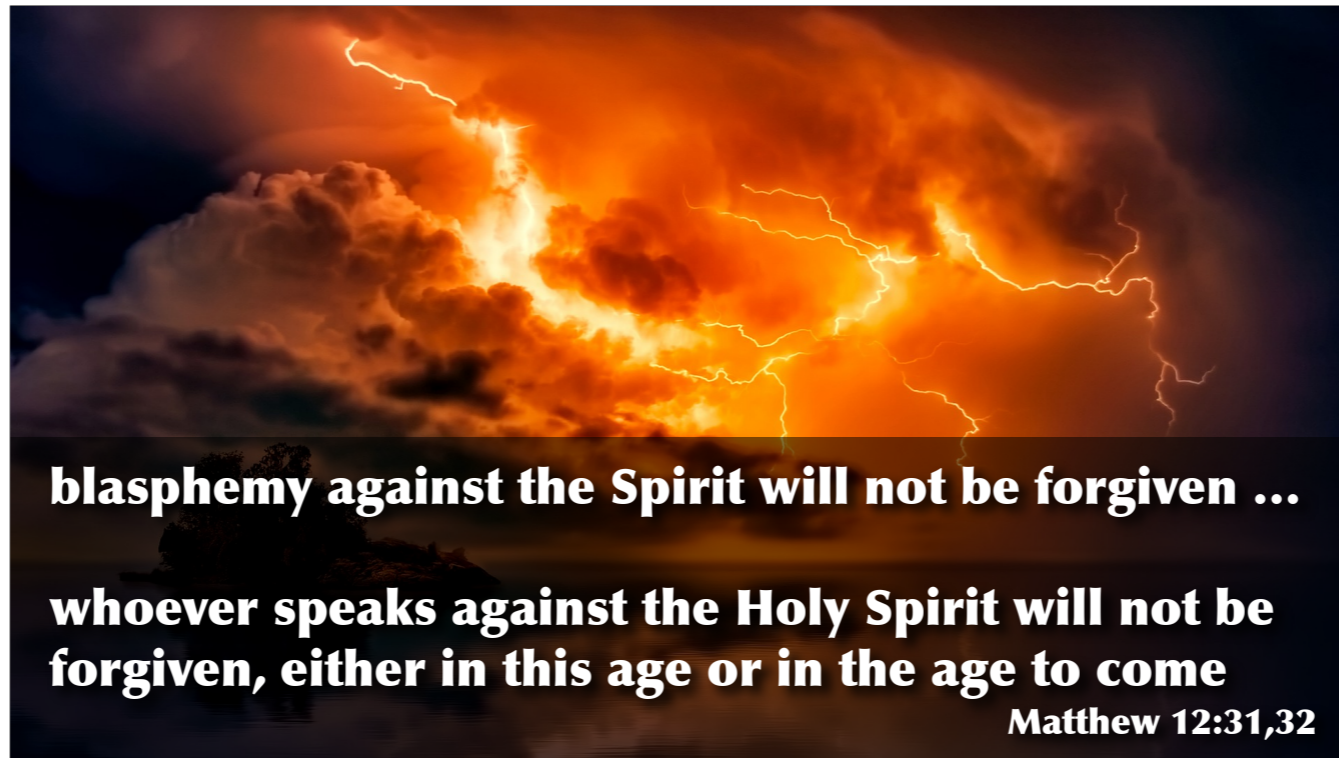
- Jeremiah indicates that Jehovah had not forgiven the sins of Judah (idolatry) after the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians
- Lamentations 3:37-42
  - 37 Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?
  - 38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?
  - 39 Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins?
- Job 2:9-10 (ESV) 9 Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.” 10 But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.



- 40 Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD!
- 41 Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven:
- 42 “We have transgressed and rebelled, **and you have not forgiven.**
- Interesting that they recognized their sin, and God’s punishment (deserved)



- Still had hope that Jehovah would forgive (?)
  - examine and test our ways
  - return to Jehovah
  - lift up our hearts and hands to God



**blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven ...**

**whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come**

**Matthew 12:31,32**

- Seems to look forward to what is more clearly enunciated by Jesus: Matthew 12:31-32; Luke 12:10
- Matthew 12:31-32 (ESV) 31 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.
- Luke 12:10 (ESV) 10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

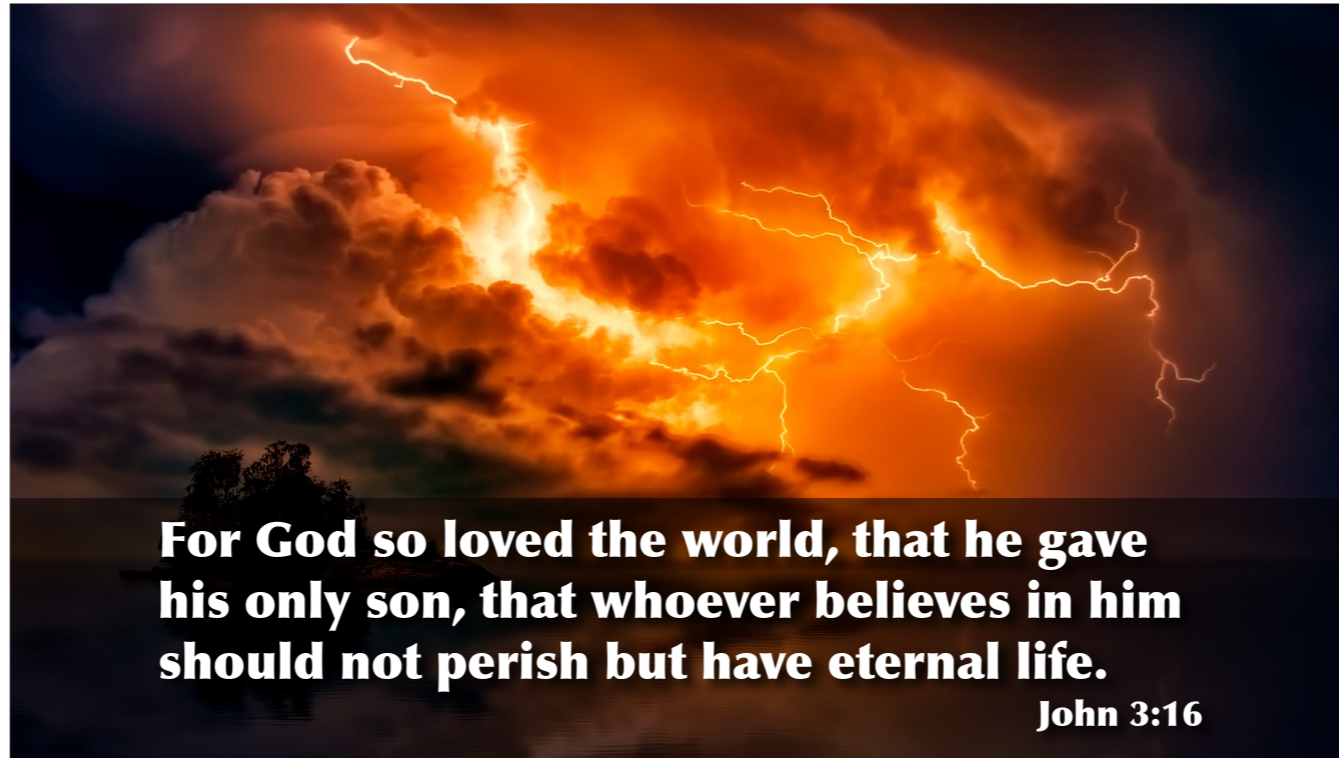


- Vital reminder that we must not take God's forgiveness for granted.
- When we sin, especially a great sin like forsaking God and serving idols,
  - Jehovah is angry
  - Jehovah will punish sin

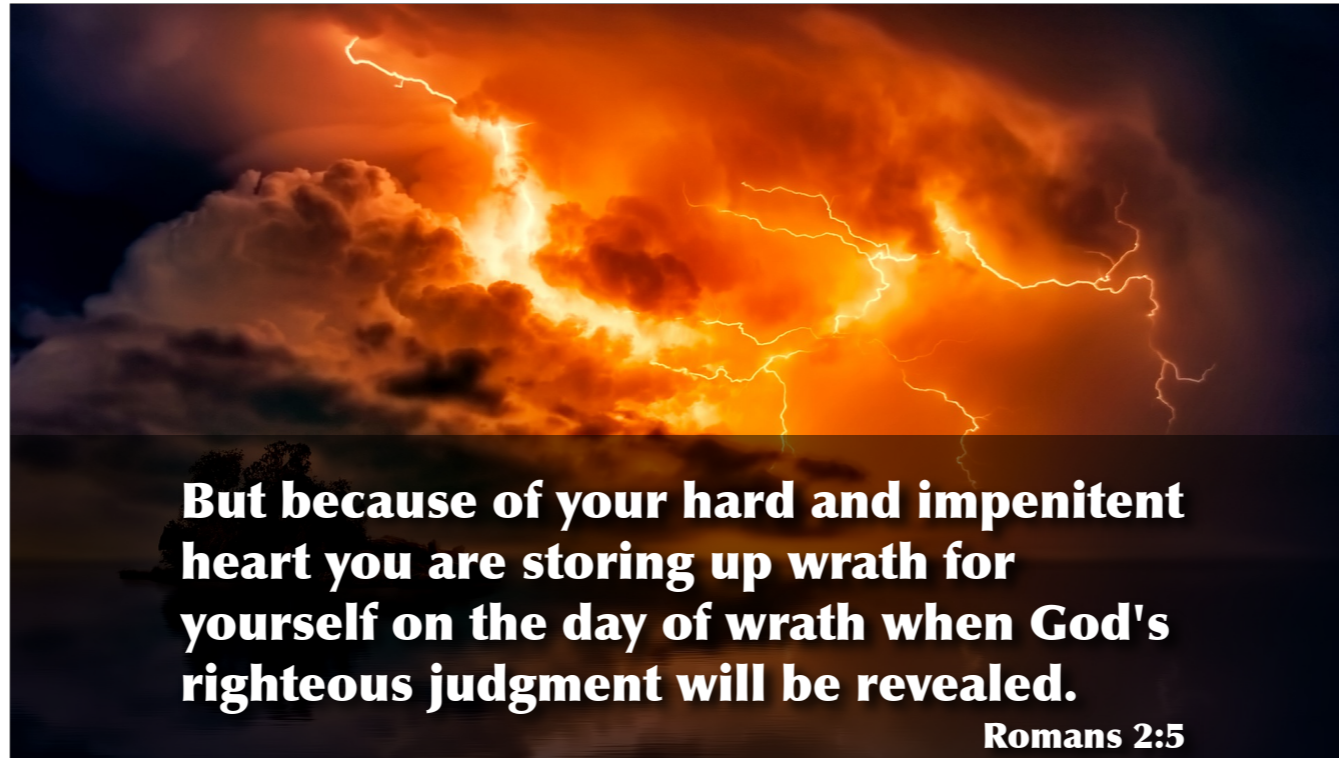




- Forgiveness is not “automatic” or easy (even for Jehovah)
  - There is no “universal” salvation, that eventually all will be forgiven.
  - Those who turn from God will face consequences of their decision. And others may suffer too.



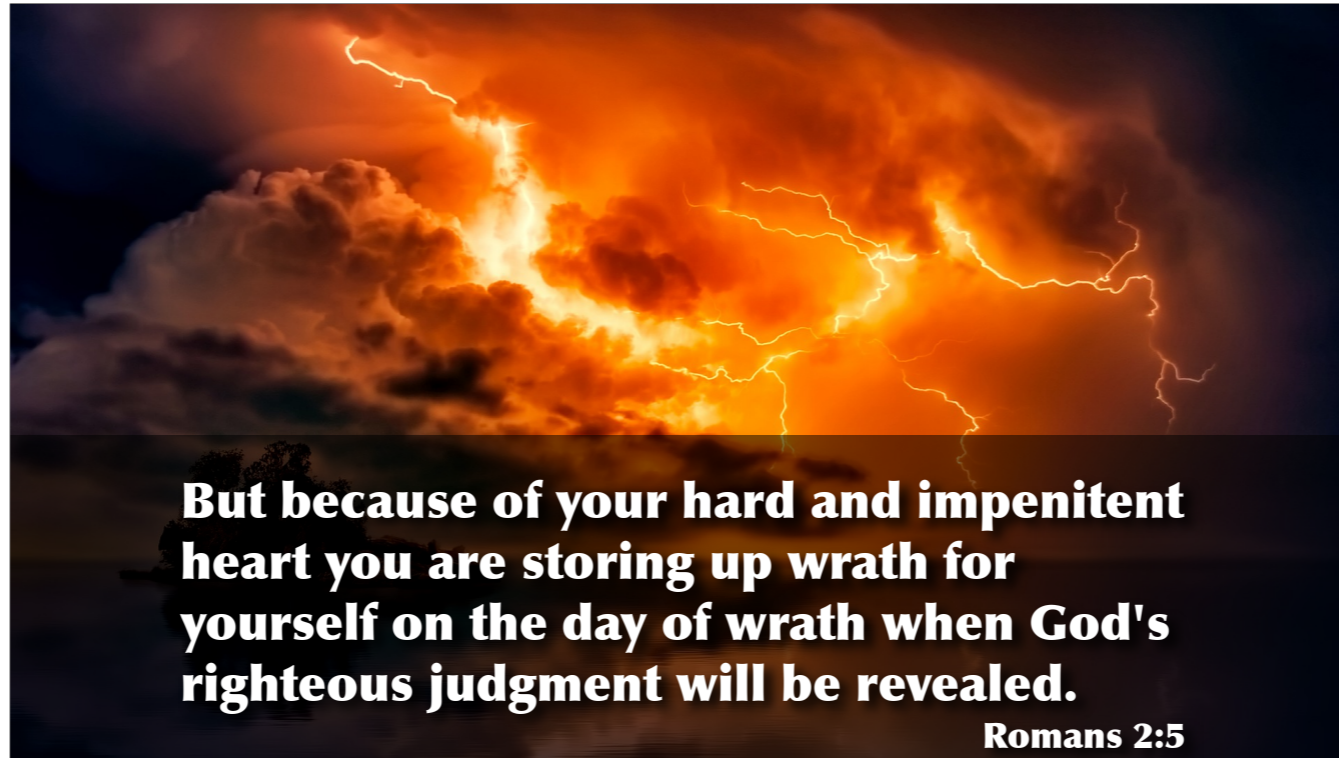
- John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



**But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.**

**Romans 2:5**

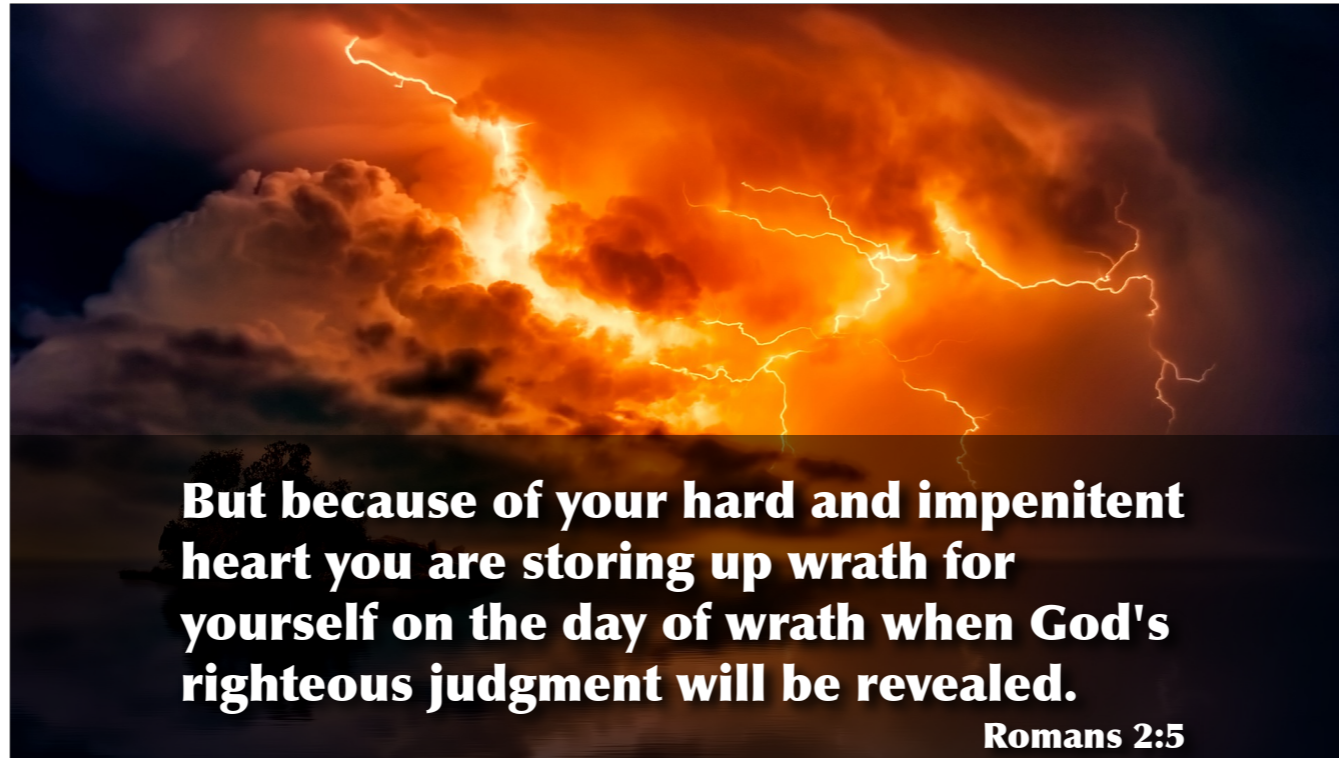
- Romans 2:3-11 (ESV) 3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?
- 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?



**But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.**

**Romans 2:5**

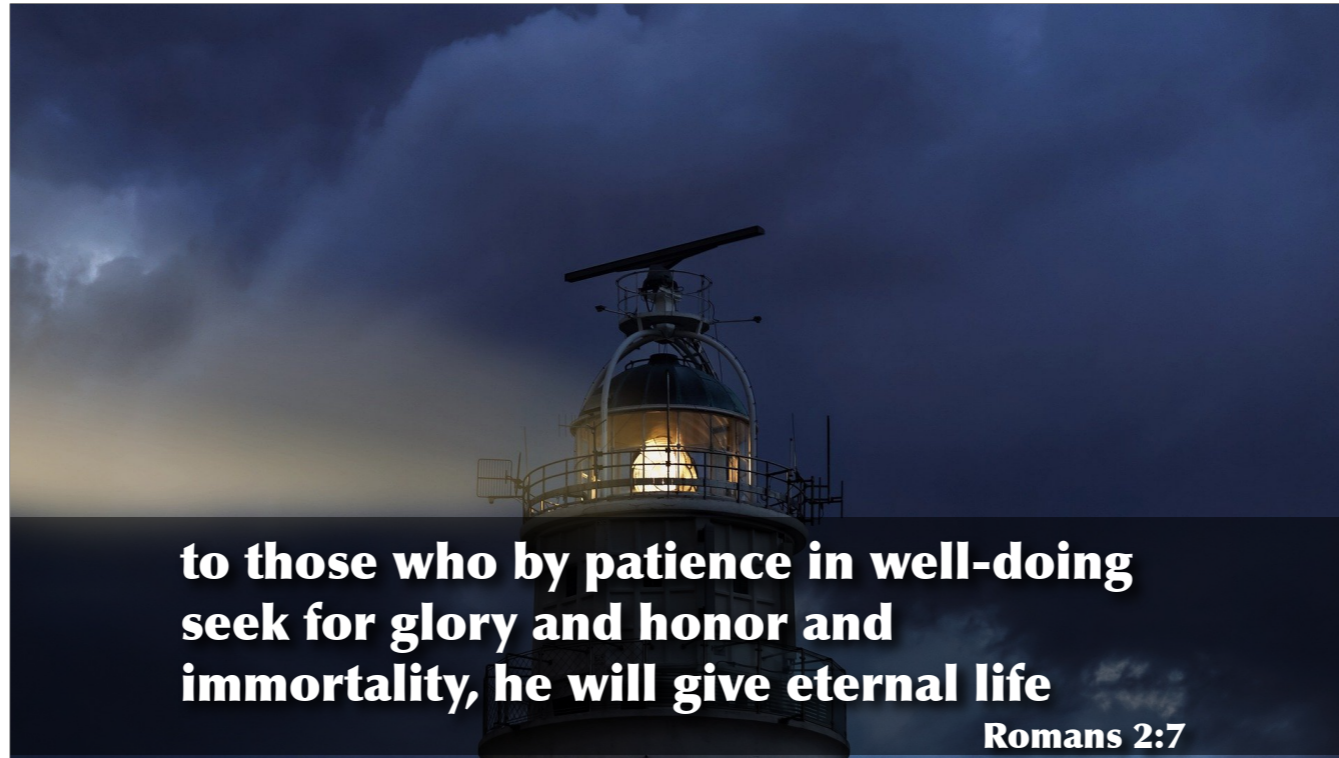
- 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.
- 6 He will render to each one according to his works:



**But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.**

**Romans 2:5**

- 8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.
- 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.
- 11 For God shows no partiality.



- 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?
- 7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;
- 10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.
- 11 For God shows no partiality.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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## He Will Not Forgive

Joshua 24:19

Synopsis: Although our Father wants to forgive us, there are circumstances when he will not. In this lesson we look at warnings from Moses, Joshua, and Jeremiah. We need to understand these circumstances so that we don't fall into the delusion that are safe from His righteous wrath.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**