

Chapter 8

Old Testament Scriptures which Support the Doctrine of Universal Reconciliation

Genesis 22:18: “and through your offspring ALL nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” (See also Genesis 12:3; 18:17-18; 26:4 and 28:14)

2 Samuel 14:14: “Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him.” Those who are “banished” to Hell will not remain there.

Job 5:17-18: “Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal.”

Psalms 13:5: “But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.” God’s love is unfailing.

Psalms 16:10: “because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.”

Psalms 30:5: “For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” God’s anger is not eternal. It is only temporary.

Psalms 68:18a: “When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train;” This prophecy refers to Jesus leading captives out of Sheol.

Psalms 72:17-20: “May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed. Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen. This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse.” The nation of Israel was chosen, or elected, for the purpose of being used by God to bless all nations.

Psalms 86:9: “All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name.” In the Old Testament, when the term “all nations” is used, the reference is really to “all people.”

Psalms 102:19-20: “The LORD looked down from his sanctuary on high, from heaven he viewed the earth, to hear the groans of the prisoners and release those condemned to death.”

Psalms 119:75: “I know, O LORD, that your laws are righteous, and in faithfulness you have afflicted me.” God has a redemptive purpose in everything He does. God’s punishments are not punitive, but remedial in nature.

Psalms 139:8: “If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.” God is omnipresent. He even resides in the depths of Sheol. The main reason those in Hell remain “separated” from God is that they are unaware of His presence or are unwilling to submit to Him. One day that will all change.

Psalm 145:3-17: “Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to ALL; he has compassion on ALL he has made. ALL you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you. They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that ALL men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward ALL he has made. The LORD upholds ALL those who fall and lifts up ALL who are bowed down. The eyes of ALL look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of EVERY living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward ALL he has made.” Wow! This passage says it ALL! God has compassion on ALL he has made. He is loving toward ALL He has made. He upholds ALL who fall.

Isaiah 14:24, 27: “The LORD Almighty has sworn, ‘Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand.’... For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?” God accomplishes all He purposes to do. No one can thwart Him. If it is His desire that all be saved, nothing can prevent that from happening.

Isaiah 26:9: “My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness.” The purpose of God’s judgments is to teach righteousness. God’s judgments are remedial, not punitive, in nature.

Isaiah 46:9-10: “Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.” Again, all that God wants, He gets. What could be plainer than that. If God desires everyone to be saved, He will accomplish just that.

Isaiah 48:10: “See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.” Again, the purpose of God’s judgments is to refine and perfect us.

Isaiah 45:22-24: “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me, ‘In the LORD alone are righteousness and strength.’ ALL who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame.” You just can’t get any plainer than this. This is the passage Paul was quoting in Philippians 2:10-11. This passage makes it very clear that those who were bowing down to Jesus and confessing Him as Lord included ALL who have raged against Him.

Isaiah 54:7-8: “For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you, says the LORD your Redeemer.” God abandons sinners only for a brief moment, in the scheme of things, but his kindness and compassion are everlasting.

Jeremiah 30:23-24: “See, the storm of the LORD will burst out in wrath, a driving wind swirling down on the heads of the wicked. The fierce anger of the LORD will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his heart. In days to come you will understand this.” One day the Lord will be finished with His anger and achieve His heart’s desire. His heart’s desire is that ALL would come to repentance and be saved.

Lamentations 3:31-33: “For men are not cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men.” The meaning of this passage is so plain it needs no further commentary.

Ezekiel 18:23: “Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?”

Ezekiel 33:11: “Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?’”

Joel 2:28, 3:21: “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions...Their bloodguilt, which I have not pardoned, I will pardon. The LORD dwells in Zion!”

Zephaniah 3:8-9: “Therefore wait for me,’ declares the LORD, ‘for the day I will stand up to testify. I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them—all my fierce anger. The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger. Then will I purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him shoulder to shoulder.”