



God Repented

What does it mean when the Word says God repented? Most people associate repenting to changing from doing wrong to doing that which is right. So, when they read that God repented, they think God changed from doing wrong to doing right. Nothing can be further from the truth.

Because God does not sin, His repentance—regret, and sorrow (as used in the OT) and repentance—change of mind (as used in the NT) is not because He has sinned. God cannot sin. He does not repent because of His sins—He has none (Isaiah 53:9; Hebrews 7:26; John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22; and 1 John 3:5). God regrets, and He is sorry for people's sins.

Since God cannot sin and the bible says He repented, it is evident enough there is more to repentance than what we have been taught.

Note: The word repentance in the new testament is defined as changing your mind or the way you think which leads to a change of actions.

1. Scriptures that say God repented of what He has done:

- a) Genesis 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.
- b) Exodus 32:12, 14 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

- i) The Hebrew word “naw-kham” that was translated “repent” here means “to be sorry” (Strong’s Concordance)

2. Scriptures that say God repented from what He was going to do in the future:

- God was sorrowful or regretted doing somethings not because He was wrong, but because He saw the pain that man brought to himself and was not happy about.
 - God’s foreknowledge is one reason He is sorry for something that is going to occur.
- a) 1 Samuel 15:11 *“It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.”*
 - b) 1 Samuel 15:35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.
 - c) 2 Samuel 24:16 And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing place of Araunah the Jebusite.
 - d) 1 Chronicles 21:15 And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the LORD beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.
 - e) Psalms 106:45 And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies.
 - f) Jeremiah 18:8-10 If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And *at what* instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant *it*; If it do evil in my

sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.

- g) Jeremiah 26:19 Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him at all to death? did he not fear the LORD, and besought the LORD, and the LORD repented him of the evil which he had pronounced against them? Thus might we procure great evil against our souls.
- h) Hosea 11:8 How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.

3. God will not repent

- a) All the above scriptures say that God repented but, Numbers 23:19 and 1 Samuel 15:29 say *God will not lie nor repent*. Which is which?
 - i) Psalm 110:4 *The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.*
- b) The answer is both. Although the word “repent” in the Old Covenant means “to be sorry, grieve or regret”, the word “repentance” as used and defined in the New Covenant (to change the mind) indicates that God can and has changed His plan based on things like the intercession of others. Nonetheless, God will not change all things or in some things.