

REV. D. THOMAS PORTER, PH.D.

3422 Fallview Court ♦ Land O' Lakes, FL 34639

DrTom@PorterHouse.info

813.962.5758^{Office} 813.728.5713^{Cell}

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 19-June 23, 2023



SPARKING INTEREST, KNOWLEDGE & TRUST  A STUDY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Rationale & Background

WHY STUDY WHILE & WHAT THE "KIDS" ARE LEARNING



Anyone who's been around kids knows *GOAT*'s. Yes, the *Greatest Of All Time* questions come from children, children who've yet to be edited by adult prejudices, assumptions, and knowledge. We're studying the "kids" curriculum, sort of, because it's what *they're* studying. We're also studying their curriculum because what they're studying is amazingly challenging—yet they don't know it, yet. We'll see over the next five days a wonderfully new, hopefully fresh perspective on what makes human beings more than biological creatures; specifically how we humans have changed, yes changed, the Lord Our God!

Now this may seem heretical to you—that humans change God—but the Scriptures are replete with God changing His mind and behavior about people. Eve & Adam's behavior changed how the Lord God viewed Eden. Abraham teaching God about his faithfulness. Moses changing God's mind about whether to destroy all the Israelites and start over. David's murderous and adulterous indiscretions allowed the Christ to come to earth, from the very lineage of David. Thomas was allowed to doubt—without being cast away as an infidel. And Peter, oh Peter: the Lord God showed mercy when justice was poised to strike. We'll study all these instances—when people changed the Lord Our God.

Let there be no doubt—we are **not** even suggesting the nature of the Lord God is created by humans. God is God, period, end of sentence. But, together, we are going to learn about the marvelous and challenging relationship between people and the Lord God. Let us learn from the ah-dom' & the wo'-adom, Abraham, Moses, David, Thomas, and Peter. They changed God.

Here are some evidence patterns to stimulate your thought and fortify your background:

1. Why were the man and the woman he called Eve "expelled from the garden?" Genesis 3:22
2. What did Abraham teach the Lord Our God about Isaac? Genesis 22:12
3. What rationale did Moses use to change the mind of the Lord regarding destroying Israel and starting over? Deuteronomy 9:13-14; 25-29

4. What did the Lord Our God learn about David from his motivation for going after Goliath, his affair with Bathsheba, and his murder of Uriah? 1 Chronicles 17:1-14; 1 Chronicles 22:8
5. Why are we better than Thomas who doubted the very reality of Jesus as God? John 20:24-29
6. The Christ once said those who deny Me, I will deny (Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 12:9). Why did the Christ change His mind regarding Peter? John 21:15-19

LET'S GET YOUR THINKING WARMED UP—HOW CULTURE EFFECTS & AFFECTS INQUIRY

As humans, we eat, defecate, reproduce, fight for territory. And so do animals. But, how do we account for a common, almost universal belief that humans are superior to animals? Three questions begin our quest:

1. Why is it useful to believe that humans are superior to animals?

2. Why are humans superior to animals?

3. In what ways are animals superior to humans?

As adult male humans, we eat, defecate, reproduce, fight for territory. And so do female humans. But, how do we account for a common, almost universal belief that male adult humans are superior to female humans? Two questions begin our quest:

1. Why is it useful to believe that men are superior to women?

2. Why are men superior to women? Why are women superior to men?

As adult humans, we eat, defecate, reproduce, fight for territory. And so do children. But, how do we account for a common, almost universal belief that adult humans are superior to children?¹ Three questions begin our quest:

1. Why is it useful to believe that adults are superior to children?

2. Why are adults superior to children?

3. In what ways are children superior to adults? Deut 1:39

EVIDENCE OF CHILD SUPERIORITY:
HEY, MOMMY...

- WHERE DID GOD COME FROM?
- WHO MADE GOD?
- IS GOD REALLY REAL?



¹Is it not fascinating that some of our biggest cultural/ethical quarrels arise from our legal, operational, or physical definition of “children?”

- Some would argue children do not reproduce, yet unwanted pregnancies among “children” are common.
- Before Vietnam, “children” were determined to be people less than 21. Except for renting cars (20), drinking/purchasing alcohol, adopting a child, buying pot, gambling at casinos, concealed weapons permit...
- Children used to be considered property of the husband in a marriage; now their residence is a source of major dispute in divorce cases.
- Some children must get parental approval for a tattoo, but not a contraceptive prescription.
- If you were to strike my child, I could have you charged with assault & battery; if I were to do so, I would be considered, possibly, a “good” parent (Proverbs 13:24).
- And curiously, why is it more acceptable to strike a younger child than an older child in our culture?

For the record, the legal precedent for charging parent and other adults for child abuse by means of hitting was based on previous laws in New York against **animal** abuse. The argument: if the law protects animals against abuse, why not children?