

Who ARE You, God?

As we read our One Year Bibles and read through the "Torah", Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, we see a harsh God, who though He loves His people Israel, He imposes death penalties for seemingly minor infractions, at least by modern standards.

You almost seem like an angry old man running Your family with an iron fist, making them do this and that, just because.

As we read the New Testament portion,

You come through quite differently, as a much softer, gentler, and kinder God, smiling more, open-armed.

Which God ARE You?

Are You angry, judgmental, strict, forbidding, unapproachable?

Or are you kind, loving, approachable, soft?

In the Old Testament, you seemed to deal with Israel as a nation.

You created rules and rituals that they were required to follow.

Maybe Moses made up these rules and rituals.

Why? Why was Israel subjected to such strict procedures?

Why was it necessary to please You with the blood of innocent creatures?

Was the aroma of burning flesh really "pleasing to the Lord"?

Was the handling of guts and fat and blood and meat really holy?

And now what?

We moderns seem to count on a sweet old grandfather type,

Half out of it, somewhat uninvolved, patting us on the back,

"There, there, now, don't worry, you're ok.

"Just be nice, be kind, do good things, and you're fine."

Really??

What DO You want of us, Father?

(Yes, I call You Father. I love You like a Father. Is that okay?)

In Isaiah, You said,

"What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; . . .

"When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts?

Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. . . .

Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates;

they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen;

your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;

remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;

cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice; correct oppression;

bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. (Isaiah 1:11-17, portions)



You seem to reject what was set up through Moses.

Then through the Apostle John, You said,

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24)

To Nicodemus, You said that a person must be born again,

First of water, and then of the Spirit.



What, or Who is the Spirit?

How do we recognize Him?

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.

So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8)

So we can't see Him, but we can feel Him and see evidence of His presence.

Why do You make it so hard, Father? Why do we have to speculate and wonder if we're doing what You want of us?

Which God ARE You? Angry, judgmental? Forgiving, compassionate?

I don't know the answers. I DO know the Spirit in some mysterious way.

He's in my head, in my heart, on my shoulder, talking to me always.

He gives us eyes to see, ears to hear, A fire in our hearts to represent You in this rotten world.

To stand for Your Right, Truth, Justice.

May we shout it from the rooftops, according to Your will!

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

Linda Gommel



Saturday, May 3

Desert Crossroads

Garden Club Annual Sale

8am til 3pm

Herbs, Trees, Annuals, Vegetables, and more!

Here at Lucerne Valley Market & Hardware on the north side under the pine tree.

Lucerne Valley's **MEGA SWAP MEET!**

Sat., June 7, 8am to 3pm

Sponsored by L.V. Chamber of Commerce

Call today to reserve your space to sell!



Jack-O-Landia -- 760-646-3666

HIS Closet -- 760-412-0431

Crossroads Chapel -- 760-995-6653

247 Market -- 760-590-3145

LV Senior Center -- 760-248-2248

Humanity -- 760-704-2932

Lucerne Valley Mkt & Hdw

-- SOLD OUT

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

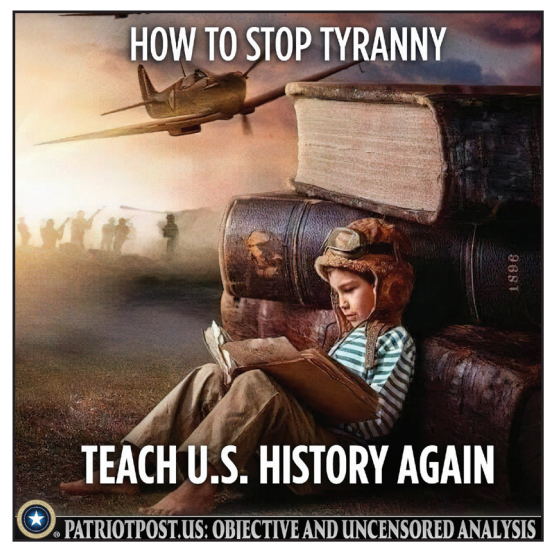
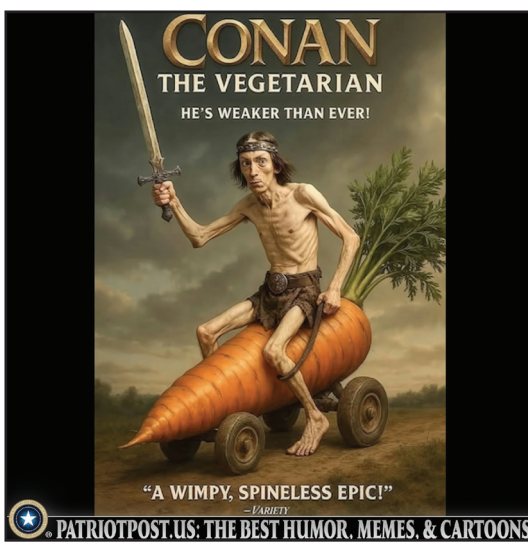
Monday, April 28th

5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

- ✓ Reports from our **County, State and Federal representatives.**
- ✓ Progress reports from **County Sheriff's Department, CHP and Code Enforcement.**
- ✓ Information on 4-way stop intersection potholes and Caltrans.
- ✓ Status of Lunch Box Cafe, New Gas Station, and other developments.
- ✓ Chamber of Commerce news and events.

Is something bugging you? COME TO THE NEXT MEETING TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web



The fact that there is a highway to hell and a stairway to heaven tells you a lot about anticipated traffic.

