

Each of us makes each decision of each moment based on our understanding of the universe around us (including other people) and our own personal desires, and that understanding of the universe is our worldview. Our worldview is a collection of personal experiences, knowledge gained from experiences of others, and observations of all around us; hopefully this mix is controlled by a plan or direction that is integrated and coherent; the sum of all this is our worldview.

The best plan to direct this is God's plan, and He revealed it to us first by His Spirit and His Torah, and also through the Prophets and the Writings and the Apostolic Scriptures. God created a perfect universe - marred by our sin - and it still functions as He created it. However, when we try to operate our lives as though His laws (of the universe) are optional, then we run into problems BECAUSE we have not used the universe as He designed it; this applies to physical as well as moral creation. Using a knife instead of a screwdriver can lead to pain!

Directing our life by obedience to the Bible is no more mechanical than driving a car based on its instruction manual and on training from driver education. It makes a lot more sense than just depending on our personal feelings to decide our direction.

Love binds all this mix together - by understanding God's commands, we can implement love through obedience so that it produces uplifting results. Any other method is just wishful thinking, trial and error (with emphasis on error).

Don't doubt the love of God.

*Deuteronomy 23:6*

But YHVH your God refused to listen to Balaam, and YHVH your God turned the curse into a blessing for you because He loves you.

*Zephaniah 3:17*

YHVH your God is in your midst - a mighty Savior! He will delight over you with joy. He will quiet you with His love. He will dance for joy over you with singing.

*Ephesians 2:4*

But God was rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.

*Isaiah 54:10*

Though the mountains depart and the hills be shaken, My love will not depart from you, nor will My covenant of peace be shaken, says YHVH who has compassion on you.

*Jeremiah 31:2*

From afar YHVH appeared to me. "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love. Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness."

Love can be so close that we almost physically intermingle our bodies, yet the poignant reality is that we remain as separate individuals.

*Genesis 2:24*

This is why a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife; and they become one flesh.

C. S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

The most precious gift that marriage gave me was this constant impact of something very close and intimate yet all the time unmistakably other, resistant--in a word, real.

Just make sure you are pointed in the right direction according to Torah. When we misunderstand the direction to take, we must change course, and that can be painful (depending on how much of our life is connected to that direction). We know (from the lives of people in the Tanach) that God loves us, even when we do wrong and go through the times of correction, to get us back in the right direction.

C. S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

"But suppose that what you are up against is a surgeon whose intentions are wholly good. The kinder and more conscientious he is, the more inexorably he will go on cutting. If he yielded to your entreaties, if he stopped before the operation was complete, all the pain up to that point would have been useless. But is it credible that such extremities of torture should be necessary for us? Well, take your choice. The tortures occur. If they are unnecessary, then there is no God or a bad one. If there is a good God, then these tortures are necessary. For no even moderately good Being could possibly inflict or permit them if they weren't."

Speaking about the pain his wife endured as she suffered and died from cancer, he wrote:

"And then one babbles--'If only I could bear it, or the worst of it, or any of it, instead of her.' But one can't tell how serious that bid is, for nothing is staked on it. If it suddenly became a real possibility, then, for the first time, we should discover how seriously we had meant it. But is it ever allowed?

It was allowed to One, we are told, and I find I can now believe again, that He has done vicariously whatever can be so done. He replies to our babble, 'You cannot and you dare not. I could and dared.'"

*1 John 4:10*

This is love - not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atonement for our sins.

*Romans 5:8*

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Messiah died for us.

Let's go through the lyrics of the music video *Sapphire Skies* that we just watched, and explore the scripture underlying these phrases.

Can you see the sapphire skies, where the glory lies

*Exodus 24:10*

These men saw the God of Israel. He was standing on something that looked like blue sapphires, as clear as the sky!

*Ezekiel 1:26*

Above the expanse over their heads was something like a throne, resembling a sapphire stone. Above the shape of the throne was a figure of human appearance.

*Ezekiel 10:1*

Then I looked, and behold, above the expanse over the heads of the cherubim, there appeared above them something like a sapphire stone, resembling a throne.

it's time to draw near, leaving behind all the fear

*Isaiah 48:16*

Draw near to Me, hear this: Since the beginning, I have not spoken in secret. From the time it existed, I was there. So now Adonai YHVH has sent Me, and His Ruach.

*Psalms 118:6*

YHVH is for me - I will not fear! What can man do to me?

the very fragrance of the presence of Yahweh

*Genesis 3:8-21*

[YHVH walks and talks with man and woman. YHVH sacrifices animals to cover sins.]

*2 Corinthians 2:14*

But thanks be to God! He always leads us triumphantly by the Messiah and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of knowing Him

just enter in through the presence of Yahweh

*Genesis 16:6-13*

[Angel of YHVH comes up to Hagar and talks with her. She calls the name of YHVH that talked with her "the God who sees me," because "Have I really seen the One who sees me [and stayed alive]?"

*Genesis 18:1-3*

[YHVH appeared to Abraham as a man, with 2 angels also as men.]

*Genesis 32:25-31*

[YHVH appeared to Jacob as a man and wrestled with him.]

*Psalms 88:2*

Let my prayer enter into Your presence. Turn Your ear to my cry.

All the angels around - it's really nothing profound - to see them bowing in the presence of Yahweh.

*Job 1:6*

One day the angels came to present themselves before YHVH.

*2 Chronicles 18:18*

Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of YHVH. I saw YHVH sitting on His throne with the whole host of heaven standing on His right and on His left."

*Isaiah 6:1-4*

I saw YHVH sitting on a throne, high and lifted up; and His train filled the temple. Above Him stood fiery beings (seraphim). Each one had six wings. With two he covered his face. With two he covered his feet. With two he flew. One called to another (many calling out), and said, "Holy, holy, holy, is YHVH of Armies! The whole earth is full of His glory!"

*Revelation 5:11*

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders - their number was myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands.

*Revelation 7:11*

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.

I've heard stories told, but now the mysteries unfold before my eyes in the presence of Yahweh.

*Romans 16:25-26*

...the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages but now is revealed, and through the Writings of the Prophets [previously only known through the Spirit and the Word, now seen face to face]

I can see Him reading through the names He'd written with His bloodstained hands,

*Romans 6:23*

The payment for sin is death.

*Deuteronomy 24:16*

Each shall be put to death for his own sin.

*Isaiah 53:6*

We have all strayed like sheep. Each one of us has turned to go his own way, and YHVH has laid all our sins on Him.

*Leviticus 17:11*

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul.

*Psalms 32:5*

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover up my guilt. I said, "I will confess my rebellion to YHVH," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

*Ephesians 1:7*

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

*Romans 10:9*

If you declare that Yeshua is Lord, and believe that God brought Him back to life, you will be saved.

*Hebrews 9:12*

Yeshua entered into the Holies once for all - not by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

*Hebrews 9:19-22*

For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Torah, he took the blood of the calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and he sprinkled both the book itself and all the people. He said, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you." And in the same way, he sprinkled the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. And nearly everything is purified in blood according to the Torah, and apart from the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

*Malachi 3:16*

Then those who feared YHVH spoke with one another. YHVH paid attention and heard them, and a Book of Remembrance was written before Him of those who feared YHVH and esteemed His name.

*Daniel 12:1*

At that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the Book.

*Luke 10:20*

Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

*Revelation 3:5*

The one who overcomes thus will be dressed in white clothes; I will never blot his name out of the Book of Life, and will confess his name before My Father and His angels.

and satisfied, He looked up to the Father with a fire burning in His eyes,

*Revelation 1:14*

His head and His hair were white like wool, white like snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire.

*Revelation 2:18*

Thus says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire and feet like polished bronze

*Revelation 19:12*

His eyes are like a flame of fire, and many royal crowns are on His head. He has a name written that no one knows except Himself.

hearing Israel's desperate cries*Revelation 6:9-10*

When the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those slaughtered for the sake of the word of God and for the witness they had. And they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "O Sovereign Master, holy and true, how long before You judge those who dwell on the earth and avenge our blood?"

knowing all had heard what He had offered*Mark 13:10*

The Good News must first be proclaimed to all the nations.

*Matthew 28:19-20*

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Ruach ha-Kodesh, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you.

*Matthew 24:14*

This Good News of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

the time had come to take away His children's sadness*Isaiah 25:8*

He will swallow up death forever. Adonai YHVH will wipe away tears from every face. He will remove His people's reproach from all the earth. For YHVH has spoken.

*Revelation 21:4*

He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Nor shall there be mourning or crying or pain any longer, for the former things have passed away.

bring us home to the place that He had always promised*John 14:2-3*

In My Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to Myself, so that where I am you may also be.

the angels took their place, and touched the trumpets to their mouths

Once the trumpets blow, you no longer have an opportunity to accept His offer.

*Leviticus 23:24*

Speak to Bnei-Israel, saying: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you are to have a Shabbat rest, a memorial of blowing (shofarot), a holy convocation.

*Numbers 29:1*

On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a sacred assembly. You are to do no laborious work. It is for you a day for sounding the shofar.

*Joel 2:1*

Blow the shofar in Zion! Sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all living in the land tremble - for the day of YHVH is coming - surely it is near!

*Isaiah 13:9-11*

Behold, the day of YHVH comes, cruel, full of wrath and fierce fury, to make the earth a desolation, and destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light. The rising sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light. I will punish the world for evil, and the wicked for their iniquity. I will put an end to the arrogance of the proud, and abase the insolence of tyrants.

*Matthew 24:30-31*

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the land will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory. He will send out His angels with a great shofar, and they will gather together His chosen from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

*Zephaniah 1:7*

Be silent before Adonai YHVH. For the day of YHVH is at hand! YHVH has prepared a sacrifice, He has consecrated his guests.

*Zephaniah 1:17-18*

I will bring such distress upon mankind that they will walk like the blind - for they have sinned against YHVH. Their blood will be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to rescue them on the day of wrath of YHVH. With the fire of His passion the entire earth will be consumed. For He will make a total, dreadful annihilation of all the inhabitants of the earth.

*1 Corinthians 15:52*

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last shofar - for the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*

For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the blast of God's shofar, and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left behind, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air - and so we shall always be with the Lord.

*Ezekiel 33:4-5*

Then whoever hears the sound of the shofar but ignores the warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head. He heard the sound of the shofar and ignored the warning; his blood will be on himself. However, if he had taken warning, he would have saved his soul.

*Revelation 20:15*

Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life [which belongs to the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world] was thrown into the lake of fire.

*Revelation 21:27*

Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Just let me touch You,

*Genesis 32:31*

So Jacob named the place Peniel, "for I've seen God face to face, and my life has been spared."

*Numbers 12:8*

I speak with him face to face, plainly and not in riddles. He even looks at the form of YHVH! Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?

*Judges 6:22*

When Gideon realized that He was the angel of YHVH, Gideon said, "Alas, my Adonai YHVH! For I have seen the angel of YHVH face to face!"

*John 13:25*

Then he who leaned on Yeshua's chest says to Him, "Master, who is it?"

Just let me breathe Your name, and bow with the angels

*Revelation 5:8*

When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense - which are the prayers of the kedoshim.

*Revelation 5:14*

And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

*Revelation 11:16*

And the twenty-four elders seated on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God.

*Revelation 19:4*

Then the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who is seated on the throne, saying, "Amen! Hallelu-Yah!"

I want to be so much closer than the angels ever dreamed

Now worship is face to face! AND we have the joy of redemption, which no angel has.

*Exodus 33:11*

So YHVH spoke with Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp ...

*Exodus 33:18-23*

Then Moses said, "Please, show me Your glory!" So He said, "I will cause all My goodness to pass before you, and call out the name of YHVH before you. I will be gracious toward whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy on whom I will be merciful." But He also said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live." Then YHVH said, "See, a place near Me - you will stand on the rock. While My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and cover you with My hand, until I have passed by. Then I will take away My hand, and you will see My back, but My face will not be seen."

*Exodus 34:6-8*

Then YHVH passed before him, and proclaimed, "YHVH, YHVH, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth, showing mercy to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means leaving the guilty unpunished, but bringing the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, to the third and fourth generation." Then Moses quickly bowed his head down to the earth and worshipped.

'Cause You call them servants, but You call us friends*Psalms 104:4*

YHVH is making His angels spirits, His servants a flaming fire.

*Hebrews 1:7*

And regarding the angels He says, "He makes His angels winds, and His servants a flame of fire."

*John 15:15*

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I heard from my Father.

You call us Your beautiful bride*Hosea 2:21-22*

Then I will betroth you to Me forever - yes, I will betroth you to Me with righteousness, justice, covenant loyalty and compassion. I will betroth you to Me with faithfulness, and you will know YHVH.

for us You bled and died*John 15:13*

Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

*Ephesians 1:7*

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

The origin of the music, from the author. It was the winter of 1998 and I had just finished classes for the day in college. My music teacher had given us a homework assignment to write a song. As I remember it, it had been a particularly amazing week of classes. I had this one professor who had an uncanny way of describing the Kingdom of God and the spiritual world where angels and other beings - and God Himself - existed in full form. He had spent days going on and on about different visions from the Bible prophets, describing them as if he had peeked in on the original events and was just coming out to tell us about it. Class would end, and my friends and I would just sit there looking at each other, sensing the awe of God.

I came home, heart still full, and sat down at the piano. Once I played the chords, the song wrote itself. I could barely jot the words down fast enough to capture the lyrics that spilled out. When I finished I looked down to read what I had actually written. It read as if I had been given my own opportunity to take a peek.

I played my song for that music class. I've played it countless times since. Now I'm hoping to share it with the world. It's a journey. And I hope it captures your heart like it did mine and leaves you in awe of God's beauty!

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