

CULTURAL EVANGELISM

APPENDIX B- IMPORTANT CULTURAL VERSES IN THE BIBLE

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Thirty representative verses for guilt/innocence, shame/honor, and fear/power are listed below. There are many more than these that illustrate these cultural realities.

GUILT AND INNOCENCE

Genesis 15: 6- Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Leviticus 5:6- As a penalty for the sin they have committed, they must bring to the Lord a female lamb or goat from the flock as a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for them for their sin (there are more than 30 references in Leviticus to sin or guilt offerings, and additional ones in Numbers).

Deuteronomy 21:8- Accept this atonement for your people Israel, whom you have redeemed, Lord, and do not hold your people guilty of the blood of an innocent person.” Then the bloodshed will be atoned for.

1 Samuel 26:9- But David said to Abishai, “Don’t destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord’s anointed and be guiltless?”

2 Chronicles 28:13- “You must not bring those prisoners here,” they said, “or we will be guilty before the Lord. Do you intend to add to our sin and guilt? For our guilt is already great, and his fierce anger rests on Israel.”

Ezra 9:7- From the days of our ancestors until now, our guilt has been great. Because of our sins, we and our kings and our priests have been subjected to the sword and captivity, to pillage and humiliation at the hand of foreign kings, as it is today.

Job 10:14- If I sinned, you would be watching me and would not let my offense go unpunished.

Psalms 26:6- I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, Lord.

Psalms 97:6- The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.

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Isaiah 1:18- Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Isaiah 6:7- With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

Isaiah 57:12- I will expose your righteousness and your works, and they will not benefit you.

Isaiah 64:6- All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

Jeremiah 51:5- For Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the Lord Almighty, though their land is full of guilt before the Holy One of Israel.

Hosea 8:5- Samaria, throw out your calf-idol! My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of purity?

Amos 8:14- Those who swear by the sin of Samaria—who say, ‘As surely as your god lives, Dan,’ or, ‘As surely as the god[a] of Beersheba lives’—they will fall, never to rise again.”

Luke 13: 3- I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Acts 3: 19- Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Romans 3: 10- As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one.

Romans 3:23- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 5:8- But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23- For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 10:9- If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

2 Corinthians 5:21- God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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Ephesians 1:7- In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

Ephesians 2:5- ... made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:8-9- For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

1 Peter 2:24- “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

1 Peter 3:18- For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

1 John 1:9- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

SHAME AND HONOR

1 Samuel 2:6-8- The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.

1 Samuel 2:30- The Lord declares: ‘Far be it from me; for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be treated with contempt.’

2 Chronicles 32:21- And the Lord sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the commanders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons, his own flesh and blood, cut him down with the sword.

Ezra 9:7- From the days of our ancestors until now, our guilt has been great. Because of our sins, we and our kings and our priests have been subjected to the sword and captivity, to pillage and humiliation at the hand of foreign kings, as it is today.

Job 8:22- Your enemies will be clothed in shame, and the tents of the wicked will be no more.”

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Psalm 8: 4-5- What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

Psalm 44:13- You have made us a reproach to our neighbors, the scorn and derision of those around us.

Psalm 62:7- My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.
(NIV)

Psalm 75:7- It is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.

Psalm 96:3- Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Psalm 97:6- The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory.

Psalm 109:28- While they curse, may you bless; may those who attack me be put to shame, but may your servant rejoice.

Psalm 113:4- The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens.

Isaiah 54:4- Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; do not be discouraged, for you will not suffer disgrace; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the disgrace of your widowhood you will remember no more.

Ezekiel 36:32- I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign Lord. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, people of Israel!

Joel 2:26-27- And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

John 12:26- Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

John 12: 42-43- Nevertheless many, even of the authorities, believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human glory more than the glory that comes from God.

John 17:22- I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—Romans 10:11-12- The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to

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shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.

Romans 8:16-18- The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

1 Corinthians 1:27- But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

Ephesians 1:5- He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

Philippians 2:5-11- (Jesus) emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.

Philippians 3:19- Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

Colossians 3:4- When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14- But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 12:2- ...looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 2:9-10- But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

1 Peter 2:6-10- ...whoever believes in him (Jesus) will not be put to shame, but honor to those who believe; But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own

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people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people.

1 John 2:28- And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

There are many narrative examples of God exalting the lowly, such as with Abraham (Genesis 12: 1-3); Joseph (Genesis 37-41); Exodus 2-4 (Moses); Deuteronomy 6-7 (Israel); 1 Samuel 17 (David); Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9); Ruth (Ruth); Esther, Mordecai, and the Jews (Esther); Job (Job 1-2, 42); Daniel (Daniel 1-6); bleeding woman (Mark 5); the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32); Jesus (Acts 2:22-36; Philippians 2:4-10); Cornelius and Gentiles (Acts 10-11, 15).

FEAR AND POWER

Genesis 15:1- After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

Exodus 9:16- But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.

Exodus 15: 6- Your right hand, Lord, was majestic in power. Your right hand, Lord, shattered the enemy.

Numbers 14:9- Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

Deuteronomy 9:29- But they are your people, your inheritance that you brought out by your great power and your outstretched arm."

1 Kings 18: 38-39- Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!"

1 Chronicles 29:12- Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

Isaiah 41:10- So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

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Ezekiel 30:13- “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: “I will destroy the idols and put an end to the images in Memphis. No longer will there be a prince in Egypt, and I will spread fear throughout the land.

Zephaniah 3:15- The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

Matthew 22:29- Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.

Luke 4:5-7- The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

Acts 4:33- With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all.

Acts 10:38- How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Romans 9:22- What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction?

1 Corinthians 4:20- For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

1 Corinthians 15:24- Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

2 Corinthians 4:4- The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 12:9- But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

Ephesians 1:19-21- ... and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion ...

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Ephesians 6:10-11- Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:12- For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Philippians 3:21- Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Colossians 1:13- For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

Colossians 2:15- And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

2 Thessalonians 2:9- The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie.

Hebrews 2:14-15- Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

1 Peter 1:5- Who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 John 3:8- The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Revelation 4:11- "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."