



GOD
UNBOXED

The Generous God



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Unprecedented data trove maps China's growing global reach and self-interest of its aid

China and U.S. 'neck and neck' in foreign assistance spending

By Nahlah Ayed, William Wolfe-Wylie | Posted: Oct 11, 2017 12:00 AM ET | Last Updated: Oct 11, 2017 8:32 AM ET



South Africa's Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and China's President Xi Jinping pose as Xi meets officials from the BRICS countries, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, in Beijing on June 19. Over 15 years, China's foreign aid

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Other Interest Aid

- The group estimates the U.S. spent \$394.5 billion on foreign assistance between 2000 and 2014, while China spent about \$354.3 billion. (All figures are in U.S. dollars.)
- The U.S., like most Western donors, including Canada, puts most of its contribution into foreign aid in the strictest sense — called Official Development Assistance (ODA) — which is aimed at developing nations and includes at least a quarter in grants.
- This type of foreign data, AidData finds, spur more economic growth.

Self Interest 'Aid'

- China has spent less than one quarter of its funds on projects that meet that strict definition.
- The data suggest most of its contributions have instead been focused on projects that are more commercially oriented and involve loans at market prices — ultimately, to make money. That has effectively made China the world's largest individual country creditor, says Parks.

Have we put God in a Box?

- **Is God self centred?**
- **Gives only to get?**
- **Gives with conditions?**

Have we put God in a Box?

- With our heads we will say He is generous!
- But how do we live?

Have we put God in a Box?

- Fear of Him rejecting me?
- If I don't do enough He will punish and take away?
- This hardship is because God is angry - not happy with me?
- God is blessing them because they did ...?

Have we put God in a Box?

Since the Christian life is about being transformed into the image of Christ – the restoration of the image of God – am I becoming increasingly more generous like God?



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Genesis 12:1-20

The Generous God

- The Good God, The Trustworthy God

Genesis 1:28 (NIV84)

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

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Genesis 3:6 (NIV84)

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

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Genesis 6:5 (NIV84)

⁵ The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

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Genesis 9:1 (NIV84)

1 Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.

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Genesis 11:4 (NIV84)

4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

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Genesis 12:1 (NIV84)

1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."

The Generous God

**Gen 12 God is generous, He initiates,
reveals, speaks, offers, gives**

The Generous God

7 Promises v 2-3

1. I will make you a great nation
2. I will bless you
3. I will make your name great (cf. 11:4)
4. You will be a blessing
5. I will bless those who bless you
6. Curse those who curse you
7. In you all nations will be blessed

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Tell the person beside you - How has God been generous with you?

The Generous God

All our physical blessings

John 10:9 (NIV84)

9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture

The Generous God

All our physical blessings

John 10:11 (NIV84)

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

The Generous God

All our physical blessings

John 10:27–28 (NIV84)

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

The Requirement

V 1 Go!

Leave country, relatives, father's house....



believe me, have faith, receive my gifts

The Requirement

Believe Follow

John 10:27 (NIV84)

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Abram's Life

V 4 Goes

V 7 Worships

V 8 Worships

V 10 Fails

V 11-13 Fails

V14-16 Fails

V 18-20 Fails

V13:1 Starts again!

Abram's life

Believes

Receives

Worships

Fails

Our life

Believe

Believe

Believe

Believe

Receive

Receive

Receive

Receive

Worship

Worship

Worship

Worship

Fail

Fail

Fail

Fail

Our life

- ✓ **Thankfulness**
- ✓ **Peace**
- ✓ **Contentment**
- ✓ **Generosity**
 - ✓ **With Time**
 - ✓ **With my resources and finances**



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