

CHAPTER 19

POTTER: THE GOD WHO SHAPES



ISAIAH 29:16; 45:9

IN THE STREETS OF ancient Jerusalem, people often heard the steady sound of a potter at work. A lump of clay would spin on a wheel while the potter shaped it with careful hands. With gentle pressure, he formed bowls, jars, and lamps. The clay did not choose its shape. It did not tell the potter what to do. It rested in the hands of the one who made it.

But in Isaiah's time, God's people had forgotten this picture. They began to question God's wisdom. They doubted His plans. Some acted as if they knew better than the One who created them. It was as if the clay were arguing with the potter.

So God spoke through the prophet Isaiah. He reminded the people that the potter is greater than the clay. The one who makes something understands its purpose far better than the thing that is made.

God wanted His people to remember who He is. He is the Creator. He forms. He shapes. He designs with purpose.

When clay is spinning on the wheel, it may feel pressure from the potter's hands. It may not understand what it is becoming. But the potter sees the final design from beginning to end.

In the same way, God had formed Israel as a nation. He had guided their history and shaped their story. Even when they did not understand His plans, He was still wise and good.

The Potter never works carelessly. He shapes with skill. He designs with purpose. And even when the process feels confusing, the safest place for the clay is in the hands of the One who made it.

What does *this name* reveal about God's character?

In the first chapter, we learned that God is eternal, powerful, and good. Here we see something more about our Creator: He is free to do what He pleases (Psalm 135:6). Just as a potter has the right to shape clay into whatever he designs, God has the authority to shape His creation according to His wise purposes.

The Bible teaches that God is the One who makes each person, even those who are born with physical challenges such as blindness or deafness (Exodus 4:11). When someone is born with a disability, the world may see weakness. But God sees someone He has carefully formed—someone with value and purpose. Jesus once explained to His disciples that being born blind is not necessarily because of sin (John 9:1–3). Sometimes such disabilities are opportunities for God to display His glory.

We may not understand God's ways, but we can trust His character. Clay cannot see what it is becoming while it spins on the wheel. It may not understand why the potter presses and shapes it. But the Potter already sees the finished design. In the same way, God sees the whole story of our lives. His purposes are wise. And even when we do not understand what He is doing, we can trust that He knows exactly what He is doing.

How can knowing God's name change the way we live?

Were you born with a physical disability? Or do you know someone who has one? Maybe you've compared yourself to others and wondered why you are not like everyone else. Maybe you have even questioned why God made you the way He did. This is why knowing God as the Potter is so important. It changes how we see ourselves, and how we see others.

God does not make mistakes. A person born with a disability is not an accident. The Bible says we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). Like a skilled

potter, God formed you in your mother’s womb (Psalm 139:15). He carefully shaped every part of you, even the parts you sometimes struggle to understand or accept.

The Bible also says that God crowned human beings with “glory and honour” (Psalm 8:5). That means you have value. Your worth does not depend on whether you have a disability or not. Your value comes from being made in God’s image. God not only made you—He also sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue you. If you know Him as your Lord and Saviour, you belong to Him in two beautiful ways: He created and redeemed you.

Knowing this should fill your heart with humility and thankfulness. Instead of wishing you were someone else, you can learn to trust the Potter who shaped you. He is still at work, and He has prepared good works for you to do (Ephesians 2:10). So thank Him for how He made you.

Memory Verse

“You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, “You did not make me”? Can the pot say to the potter, “You know nothing?”—Isaiah 29:16