

June 8/9, 2024

“God Is Slow to Anger”

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SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

June: Read Psalms to see how situations and events point to Jesus

Day 1 [Exodus 33:18-20](#) | God is Slow to Anger

And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”
Exodus 33:19

Moses meets with God on Mt. Sinai and asks God to reveal himself in all his glory, but God refuses. If anyone were to look upon his face, they would surely die. Instead, God tells Moses who he is and how he should be understood. God loves people *and* punishes sin. He is both compassionate and wrathful. He is both gracious and just. Moses can trust the character of God because he is unchanging. What angers God does not change. He is both a loving father and a perfect judge.

How we perceive the character of God has a significant impact on how we interact with him. So, it is imperative to pay attention to what God says about himself. Life will test how we feel about God’s character. But we can’t rely on our feelings when trying to understand God. Feelings are fickle and fleeting, but God is unchanging. He tells us he is compassionate, gracious and slow to anger. The God of Moses is the same God of today. What he said about himself then is true now and will be forever.

TODAY: Read [Psalm 103:7-10](#). Look for similarities with how God describes himself in Exodus. Does this description of God’s character match your understanding of him? Why or why not? Pray: “God, open my eyes to who you are and help me believe your words today. Amen.”

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: [Read Psalm 103](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how his death on the cross fulfilled this Psalm.

Day 2 [Exodus 34:6-7](#) | Compassionate and Gracious

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God...” Exodus 34:6

God tells Moses his name and then defines himself by compassion and grace. This is who he has always been and the first characteristics he wants Moses to know about him. He overflows with love for his people and his world. The word compassionate is related to motherhood. God cares for his children in the most helpless and powerless places. He knows his people are vulnerable and dependent upon him. His love exists before time begins and inspires creation. His compassion pursues his people in a world torn apart by sin and brokenness. His graciousness offers undeserved salvation. To love is his very nature, and he proves repeatedly that his love is without fail.

For some, it is easy to believe that God is loving. Yet, it can be hard to believe that God loves us. This is particularly true when we experience hardship or suffering. The consequences of sin and brokenness separate us from God. A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” Do we see God, primarily, as a loving God who has proven to be gracious and compassionate despite our rebellion? Our perspective changes when we begin to see God as a loving parent. We see his persistent, compassionate presence throughout our

lives. He stands with us in our suffering. He walks alongside us in our pain. He reaches across the chasm created by sin because his love for us never ceases.

TODAY: Do you think of God as loving? Take a moment to journal about an example of God's love in your life. Thank him for his faithful love even when you don't see it.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: [Read Psalm 2.](#) Highlight anything that points to Jesus.

Day 3 [Exodus 34:5-7](#) | Longsuffering

...slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness..." Exodus 34:6

God continues describing himself to Moses. "...slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness..." ([Exodus 34:6](#)). The King James Version of the Bible translates the original Hebrew with the word longsuffering in the place of slow to anger. In Hebrew, longsuffering (slow to anger) literally meant "long of nose." The word for anger in ancient Hebrew is "hot nose" or "red nose." This immediately suggests the image of a red face, nostrils steaming. However, God is "long of nose," meaning it takes a long time for his anger to find expression. His longsuffering nature leaves a lot of time for repentance. It gives people an opportunity to turn to him to ask for forgiveness before they experience the justice of God. Even in anger, he abounds with love. God is faithful and longs for his people to be reconciled to him.

Our experiences with human anger can easily distort our understanding of God's anger. Human anger is often characterized by losing control. Feelings take over, and people become unpredictable. We can all remember a time when anger damaged our relationships or self-image. Anger often results in a loss of trust in others or ourselves. But God's anger is not like human anger. It doesn't explode or lose control. It is not unpredictable or inconsistent. We can trust God to be compassionate and gracious before we experience his wrath. His ultimate desire is to reconcile us to him. He is faithful and repeatedly extends mercy before we suffer the consequences of our sins. As we'll learn tomorrow, his anger is directly tied to his compassion and the need for justice.

TODAY: Listen to the Ada Bible Worship Team sing "[I Believe.](#)" Thank God for his faithfulness and longsuffering nature. Worship him for his abounding love that created a path for our reconciliation and redemption.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Psalm 45.](#) Highlight anything that points to Jesus.

Day 4 [Romans 1:18-27](#) | Justice

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness. Romans 1:18

God's justice brings order to chaos. His justice is essential to his character, and he does not turn a blind eye to evil. God's justice also demands punishment. There are natural consequences that God allows for the unrepentant. The Apostle Paul makes it clear in Romans 1 that people who chase after their desires will experience God's justice, whether in this life or the next. These truths may be hard, but they reveal something amazing about God: he understands wrongdoings from a higher perspective. He knows the impact unrepentance will have throughout time and history.

God hates sin because it separates us from him. We often do not understand the seriousness of our wrongdoing. We can't predict or control the consequences of blindness to sin. A difficult truth is that our sinful ways directly impact those we love most. Sin can be generational. It passes from one person to the next. Sin has a way of wounding and repeating. We are helpless to overcome the wages of sin on our own. Thankfully, God is compassionate. The Apostle John reminds us that "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" ([1 John 1:9](#)). God is the perfect judge, but he is also merciful. He knows our weaknesses and provides a way back to righteousness.

TODAY: Take a moment to identify a sin you do not take seriously. Then pray: “God, I confess that I struggle with _____ . Please forgive me. Show me the consequences of this sin in my life and help me to turn away from it. Amen.”

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Psalm 72](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how this psalm about the king points to Jesus as King.

Day 5 [John 3:36](#) | Grace

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them. John 3:36

What can Moses conclude about God's character from their conversation? Is he loving or just? Compassionate or angry? Gracious or wrathful? He is the perfect fulfillment of all these traits. He desires to be in perfect union with his creation. God longs for his people to turn away from wickedness and choose his righteousness. “...maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin” ([Exodus 34:7](#)). God demonstrates perfect justice and love through his son. Jesus’s death on the cross paid the debt of sin. Though he was perfect, he took on the punishment of sin to reconcile all to God. The character of God is demonstrated through the life and death of Jesus Christ.

This incredible gift requires a response. As the Apostle John taught, we either believe in Jesus and receive eternal life or we reject him and live under his wrath ([John 3:36](#)). God’s ultimate desire is to forgive us, but because he is perfectly just, the debt of sin must be paid. He can’t overlook sin because it separates us from him. All we must do is take hold of the grace he extended to us, accept his sacrifice, and follow him. We can trust him because he already sacrificed himself on our behalf.

TODAY: If you haven’t accepted the sacrifice of Jesus on your behalf, you can do so today and receive salvation. Pray: “Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice on the cross. I confess that I have sinned against you, and I ask for forgiveness. I give my life to you and trust that you will direct my paths.” If you have already received salvation, thank Jesus for his grace and recommit yourself to following his example.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Psalm 110](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how the author of Hebrews points to Jesus as our high priest ([Hebrews 5:5-10](#)).