



Allow Me to Introduce Myself: The Merciful, Gracious, & Patient Forgiver | Exodus 34:5-9

Exodus 34:5-9

⁵ The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” ⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. ⁹ And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.”

Exodus 34:6b-7a

“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...”

Who God Is

Merciful

“God’s mercy means God’s goodness toward those in misery and distress.”—Wayne Grudem

Psalm 103:13-14

¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

¹⁴ For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.

“Holy Father, Thy wisdom excites our admiration, Thy power fills us with fear, Thy omnipresence turns every spot of earth into holy ground; but how shall we thank Thee enough for Thy mercy which comes down to the lowest part of our need to give us

beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and for the spirit of heaviness a garment of praise?” -A.W. Tozer

Gracious

“God’s grace means God’s goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.”—
Wayne Grudem

Nehemiah 9:29-31

²⁹ And you warned them in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your rules, which if a person does them, he shall live by them, and they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck and would not obey. ³⁰ Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. ³¹ Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

Constable: “Monsignor, we have your silver. We caught this man red-handed. He had the nerve to say you gave him this. [*the Constable gestures toward the silver*]”
Bishop: [*to Police Officer*] “That is right.” [*to Jean Valjean*] “But my friend you left so early, surely something slipped your mind. [*The bishop gives Valjean two candlesticks*] You forgot I gave these also. Would you leave the best behind?”
—Les Misérables

Slow to Anger

Romans 2:4

⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

What God Does

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Colossians 2:13-14

¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.