

THE SEVERITY & GOODNESS OF GOD

The Lord Is...

- I. God used this language (gracious, merciful, longsuffering, good) multiple times in scripture to reveal Himself because He wanted us to know these things about Him and be rooted in them-*Ex34:5*-The Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord.⁶And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, ⁷Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation-*Nm14:8, Ps103:8, 86:5, 15, 145:8, Ne9:17, 31, Jo2:13, Jon4:2, 2Ch30:9*
- A. These are His words out of His mouth about Himself-Whatever He says He is He is, independent of what people/their experiences say about Him
- B. He is merciful-W18-Merciful-Not cruel; Inclined to pity offenders and forgive offensives; Unwilling to punish; Tender (gentle, mild)-*Ps103:8*-The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy
- C. He is gracious-W18-Friendly, kind, inclined to forgiven offenses and bestow blessings, to do good, to help-*Ex22:26*-If you at all take thy neighbor's raiment to pledge you shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goes down: For that is his covering only...wherein shall he sleep...when he cries unto me that I will hear; for I am gracious-*2Ch30:9*-If ye turn again unto the Lord...find compassion...for the Lord your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you if ye return unto him
- D. He is longsuffering-Slow to anger, not easily provoked, patient-*Nm14:18*-The Lord is longsuffering and of great mercy forgiving iniquity and transgression and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third...forth generation
- E. He is abundant in goodness-ST-Kind [W18-Delight in contributing to the happiness of others, exercised in satisfying desires-*Mk11:24*, supplying wants-*Ph4:19*, alleviating distresses-*Ps34:19*; Benevolent (W18 -Promote happiness/welfare)-*Ps59:10*-God of mercy-*Mic7:18*-He delights in mercy
- F. He is abundant in truth-Faithful, trustworthy, reliable, sure-*Ps31:5*-Into your hand I commit my spirit: you have redeemed me O Lord God of truth
- G. He won't clear the guilty-Not those who make a mistake, but those who won't repent and get forgiven-*Ex34:7-AM*-Leave the guilty unpunished
1. He is this too-Many pretend He's not this way now; He never changes
 2. If future generations are judged it's because they did the same stuff their fathers did-*Ez18:20*-The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself
- II. If you follow God (repent when you need to) you'll never see His severity