

## Changed into His likeness - Forgiven or Guilty

We have completed my study of the 5 facets of God's character as proclaimed by Him to Moses in **Exodus 34v6-7**. Remember this is God's own description of His own essential nature.

The last 5 sessions were based on verse 6. Tonight I want to look at verse 7. Verse 7 gives a clear statement that God has to separate people into 2 groups. Those who are forgiven and those who are guilty. In Matthew 25 Jesus referred to Sheep & Goats. Those whose iniquity, transgressions & sin have been forgiven can expect to have the blessing of having God's face shine on them. His Presence, literally "the faces of Him", will surround them, come upon them, clothe them and dwell within.

The Hebrew word for forgiven is UNQE. The literal translation is "to hold innocent". So there are people who have sinned, but who the Lord holds as innocent. The Hebrew word for guilty is INQE which literally means "will not hold innocent".

If you are counted by God to be innocent or not guilty, then the fullness of God's presence is available for you. But if you remain guilty, the full benefit of His presence is not for you. You will miss out on the transforming, provisioning and protecting presence of God. You will still have what bible teachers call "Common grace" - God's general provision & care, but not His covenant grace.

God's desire is not to punish anyone, or even to be bossy about how we should live. His desire is to cherish and treasure each one. And to give all of His nature to us and through us to others.

Our reaction to "visiting iniquity on the children" in verse 7 is to say that it is not fair. Visiting is PHQD or PAQAD - pronounced

pawkad. The most likely meaning of this is that God lets the iniquity of fathers to settle on or clothe the children. (See Deuteronomy 24v16). Also we need to look at Deuteronomy 7v9-14 - Blessings placed on children for a thousand generations.

There must be something pretty big to stop God Almighty, El Shaddai, from being able to fulfil His desire to bless. For God who is full of Compassion, Grace, Slow to anger and abounding in Lovingkindness and truth to be unable to provide & protect - it must be pretty powerful.

Genesis 3v1-9. Without going into whether the passage is literal or figurative - we have an introduction to several ideas that follow through the bible:

1. The serpent - Satan (The Adversary or enemy)
2. Lies leading to rebellion.
3. Hidden (the occult)
4. God's presence
5. Where are you? Or God looking for the lost or seeking to save.

The result of these events is that instead of fellowship with God the experience of every man in varying amounts is Iniquity, transgression and sin.

Iniquity - OUN or AVON - literally "depravity or perversion"

Transgression - PhSho - Pasha - Rebellion.

Sin - ChTa or Chataah - Error or failure.

The depravity was such that God had to eject Adam & Eve from the Garden of Eden. He sent a flood in the days of Noah. The depravity of the Nations living in Canaan was so bad that He planned to use Israel to bring judgement to them.

But the Lord is always looking for ways to bless = Exodus 34v10-17.

There is no other God. All other gods are not gods. But the Asherah was the foremost deity of the Canaanites and the mother of 70 other gods including Baal.

Deuteronomy 32v15-21a

This is Moses prophecy for Israel's future. And right at the end of his life Moses said this in Deuteronomy 32v3-4.

So how is a man or woman moved from guilty to forgiven, from not innocent to fully innocent, from not protected to fully protected?

In both Old and New testament there is a God part and a man part to achieving this. Exodus 12v1-2. God told them to kill a lamb, put the blood on the doorposts and lintel and eat the parts of the lamb. Exodus 12v13. Man's part is repentance and faith.

Leviticus 1v1-9

Leviticus 17v11

Hebrews 9v11-14

In the New Covenant Jesus is both the lamb whose blood is shed and sprinkled and is the high priest who mediates between God and man.

Hebrews 9v15

Hebrews 9v19-26

Hebrews 10v10-14

Hebrews 10v19-23

I want to go back to Isaiah 56v1-8 to see how God's commitment to Covenant runs through the bible.

Jeremiah 31v31-34

John 3v16

Investing repentance and faith or trust in God changes the source of life.

Romans 6v4-8

Colossians 3v1-17

This completes my study of Exodus 34v6-7. I believe that we should spend the rest of our lives studying each of the 5 facets of God's name, because that is gazing into the face of Jesus.

Set your minds on the things above. (Colossians 3v2)

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ & make no provision for the flesh in regard to it's lusts. (Romans 13v14)

This is putting on a person & having a relationship with Him - not a set of rules.

2 Corinthians 3v18

Exodus 34v5-9