

Changed into His likeness - Truth

So we come to the fifth facet of God's Name, His Character, His essential nature as proclaimed to Moses in Exodus 34v6-7.

That is Truth. The Hebrew word is AMTH or EMETH or EMET.

As with all the other facets, as well as being a being word Truth is also a doing word and a speaking word. And as with the name JHWH or Jehovah that we translate as The Lord, the meaning is complex like an entire landscape.

Someone has done a computer search of the bible for words related to truth and there are 2,674. God is continually revealing Himself as Truth throughout the Bible story, and is constantly planning to restore man to the original image of truth.

From Hebrew 4 Christians.com I found the following:-

The Hebrew mind, on the other hand, seemed more focused on the dynamic, the changing, and the idea that truth involved the formation of the character of the person -- and the restoration of the world. Especially in relation to God, to Whom the Jew must give account, the nature of truth becomes grounded in the moments of decision encountered in one's life. Shall I steal? Shall I turn a blind eye to social injustice? etc. And:-

It is rather a matter of being true in the sense that you are living it, you are being with it, you are part of it. You exist inside this truth as a passion and this truth informs all of the decisions you make in life. You therefore embody the truth and follow it in all your endeavors. In this sense Jesus the Messiah is the Truth, since in Him there was no mismatch between who He is and what He said. He is utterly trustworthy. His actions and speech are one and are entirely reliable.

Looking at a few OT passages using emet:-

1 Kings 2v1-4

2 Kings 20v1-3

Psalms 26v1-3

Psalms 86v10-12

Isaiah 42v3

In the New Testament it is John who brings the clearest message about the Truth.

The word used is Aletheia

Aletheia (ἀλήθεια) is a [Greek](#) word variously translated as "unclosedness", "unconcealedness", "[disclosure](#)" or "[truth](#)". The literal meaning of the word [ἀ-λήθεια](#) is "the state of not being hidden; the state of being [evident](#)" and it also implies sincerity, as well as factuality or reality.

FF Bruce in the Message of the New Testament said:-

"In the events that reveal God and bring His salvation near to mankind, fixed as they are in time and place, eternal truth is uniquely unfolded" and "To express the concept of eternal truth John uses the Greek term LOGOS" alongside the Truth (Aletheia)

From the web-site of Aletheia College:-

"all too often it has been assumed that because we know and believe true propositions about the Gospel, therefore we are somehow automatically 'of the truth'. "the truth" refers not so much to intellectual purity of understanding as to a righteous way of life.

John 1v14-18

John 4v23-34

John 8v32

John 14v6

John 17v17

John 18v17

The truth of the Gospel - the manifestation of His name.

Aletheia College again:-

"English does not have a verb "to truth," but Paul uses such a Greek verb when he urges the Ephesians that " 'truthing' in love" they should grow in Christ in all things (Eph 4:15). We might understand this as "speaking the truth in love," but more probably we should see truth as a quality of action as well as of speech. Paul wants his converts to live the truth as well as to speak it. Real spiritual growth is only possible by a way of life that 'truths it'."

Ephesians 4v14-16

Ephesians 4v25

Ephesians 5v(

Ephesians 6v14

Aletheia College:-

We obey the truth in unfeigned love of our brethren (1 Pet. 1:22), not just by intellectual assent at a baptismal interview; we 'do the truth' in loving our brother (1 Jn. 1:6); if truth is in us then we walk in it (3 Jn. 3). We are to walk uprightly according to the truth of the Gospel (Gal. 2:14); the truth is an upright walk. The truthfulness of the doctrines we believe is intended to issue in a truthful way of life.

2 Corinthians 4v1-2

Ministry - Manifestations of the truth (Or walking in the Truth)

To finish 1 Corinthians 3v17-18.

Next time I want to look at Exodus 34v7 when we will be thinking about moving from a guilty state into being forgiven so that we can begin the transformation into the likeness of Christ.