

The Perfection of Patience

Exodus 34:1-10

Series: Patience
**Title: The Perfection of
Patience**

Text: Exodus 34:1-7
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Exodus 34:1-10:

1. Yahweh's movement towards covenant _____ (v.1-3).

Exodus 34:1–3 Now Yahweh said to Moses, “Carve out for yourself two stone tablets like the former ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablets which you shattered. “So be prepared by morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to Me on the top of the mountain. “And no man is to come up with you, nor let any man be seen anywhere on the mountain; even the flocks and the herds may not graze in front of that mountain.”

2. Moses _____ (v.4).

Exodus 34:4 So he carved out two stone tablets like the former ones, and Moses rose up early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai, as Yahweh had commanded him, and he took two stone tablets in his hand.

3. Yahweh _____ His glory and _____ His glory (v.5-7).

Exodus 34:5–7 Then Yahweh descended in the cloud and stood there with him, and He called upon the name of Yahweh. Then Yahweh passed by in front of him and called out, “Yahweh, Yahweh God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”

- “compassionate” – concerned with and caring towards those in need or distress to help.
- “gracious” – shows favor to the unfavorable and does good to the unworthy.
- “abounding in lovingkindness” – the great and rich faithful treatment of God according to His covenantal love.
- “and truth” – trustworthiness, faithfulness
- “forgives” – to take away; to lift off; remove guilt/penalty.
- “unpunished” – clear the guilty, remove the blame
- “visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations” – this phrase describes God’s generational justice.

Point: God _____ His glory when He deals with sinners according to His perfections.

4. The _____ of Moses (v.8-9).

Exodus 34:8 And Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.

Application: the glory of God evident in the perfections of God should move us to _____.

Exodus 34:9 And he said, “If now I have found favor in Your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go along in our midst, even though they are a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your own inheritance.”

**5. Yahweh’s initiative to restore the broken _____
(v.10-28).**

Exodus 34:10 Then God said, “Behold, I am going to cut a covenant. Before all your people I will do wondrous deeds which have not been created in all the earth nor among any of the nations; and all the people among whom you live will see the working of Yahweh, for it is a fearful thing that I am going to do with you.

Application: remember that the _____ of God are the reason behind the preservation or salvation of sinners and the hero of the story.

The Perfection of Patience:

Psalm 7:11 God is a righteous judge, and a God who has indignation every day.

Psalm 5:4–6 For You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil does not sojourn with You. The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all workers of iniquity. You destroy those who speak falsehood; Yahweh abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

“slow to anger” - lit. to be long in face or nose

Slow to anger (patience): the perfection which describes God's choice to _____ offence and _____ from inflicting His fullness of wrath against sin, all in perfect tranquility.

God's patience is not:

- His lack of care towards sin.
- His overlooking of sin.
- His endless bearing with sin.
- His avoidance or dismissal of justice.

Example: Nineveh - Jonah 3:4-10, 4:2b; Nahum 1:2-3, 8

Point: God's free _____ paves the way for forgiveness to be granted to sinners, but it never prevents justice from being carried out.

Justice on Unbelievers: Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sits upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. Then I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*. And the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them, and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Justice on Believers: Romans 3:23–26 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith, for a demonstration of His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Why does God choose to be slow to anger towards sin?

- A. God slowness to wrath demonstrates His justice cannot be questioned because the sinful hearts of men are demonstrated, thus, self-condemning.
- B. God's slowness to anger glorifies Him because it demonstrates His goodness and love despite offence to His holiness.
- C. God's slowness to judge sin in holy fury paves the way for His sovereign purposes to be accomplished despite constant disobedience to His will.

Conclusion:

- 1. God's patience is the invitation and opportunity for the _____ to repent because He freely holds back His wrath temporarily.**

Romans 2:3–5 But do you presume this, O man—who passes judgment on those who practice such things and does the same—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to

repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

“think lightly” – despise, look down upon, disregard.

“kindness of God” – one word reference to three preceding displays of God’s goodness.

Point: the goodness of God shown to not good people intends for the sinner to turn from sin to God for salvation, but to those who disregard it, it _____ to their judgment.

2. God’s patience is the reason the _____ has eternal life through the death of Christ because our sin was no less offensive or demanding of wrath than the rest.

1 Timothy 1:15–16 It is a trustworthy saying and deserving full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost. Yet for this reason I was shown mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Christ Jesus might demonstrate all His patience as an example for those who are going to believe upon Him for eternal life.

“example” - a prototype, pattern

1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Point: the _____ of God displayed in His patience is worthy of all our worship and the reason we can be saved through Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Go through the list of God's perfections in Exodus 34:6-7, define what each one means, how God shows it, and how He is glorified by it.
2. Why is it significant that God declares these perfections about Himself in the context of His people's sin and the theme of displaying His glory?
3. What is the difference between God's patience towards those who will never believe in the gospel versus those who will? Explain the two different reference points (Revelation 20:11-15; Romans 3:23-26).
4. How does God's patience relate to the unbeliever? What does Paul warn against in Romans 2:1-5 (read)?
5. How does God's patience relate to the believer? What does Paul emphasize for believers to know in 1 Timothy 1:15-16 (read)?
6. A big focus from Exodus 34:1-10 is the glory of God displayed for us to know. What is the response we see modeled for us in Exodus 34:8? How do we grow in responding to God's glory with worship? What would that look like?

Blanks: renewal, obeys, shows, declares, displays, response, worship, covenant, perfections, endure, refrain, patience, unbeliever, contributes, believer, goodness.