

Character of God - Forgiveness

Jer 31:18-22 – I have heard Israel saying, ‘You disciplined me severely, like a calf that needs training for the yoke. Turn me again to you and restore me, for you alone are the Lord my God. I turned away from God, but then I was sorry. I kicked myself for my stupidity! I was thoroughly ashamed of all I did in my younger days.

Is not Israel still my son, my darling child? says the Lord. I often have to punish him, but I still love him. That’s why I long for him and surely will have mercy on him. Set up road signs; put up guideposts. Mark well the path by which you came.

Come back again, my virgin Israel; return to your towns here. How long will you wander, my wayward daughter? For the Lord will cause something new to happen – Israel will embrace her God.’

Our God is not just God of the universe, but he is also a forgiving Father. He does not delight in seeing us perish in our sins. He is not a mean unloving God who only wants to punish people for their sin, nor does he leave us in our sinful state. He wants us to turn from evil, to repent of our sins and to receive his forgiveness.

Eph 1: 4,5 - Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. That is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Eph 1:17 – He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

Col 1:12-14 – Always thank the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Num14:19 – In keeping with your magnificent, unfailing love, please pardon the sins of this people, just as you have forgiven them ever since they left Egypt.

When we rebel against God, he teaches and disciplines us, and when we repent and turn to him, he delights in forgiving us and he gives us right standing with him.

Mic 7:7 – As for me, I look to the Lord for help. I wait confidently for God to save me, and my God will certainly hear me. Do not gloat over me, my enemies! For though I fall, I will rise again. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light. I will be patient as the Lord punishes me, for I have sinned against him. But after that, he will take up my case and give me justice for all I have suffered from my enemies. The Lord will bring me into the light, and I will see his righteousness. Then my enemies will see that the Lord is on my side. They will be ashamed that they taunted me, saying, ‘So, where is the Lord – that God of yours?’

He searches the heart of each person.

Joel 2:12-14 – That is why the Lord says, turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Don't tear your clothing in your grief but tear your hearts instead. Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.

He blots out our sins for his name's sake.

Isa 43: 24-26 - you have not brought me fragrant calamus or please me with the fat from sacrifices. Instead, you have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your faults. I, yes, I alone will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again. Let us review the situation together, and you can present your case to prove your innocence.

In Jonah, we see that Jonah already knew that God, was a God who wants to forgive people. He is a God who is eager to forgive and not punish.

Jonah 4:2 – So he complained to the Lord about it: ‘Didn’t I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people.

He hears us in our despair when we turn to him for help.

Job 33:26-28 - When he prays to God, he will be accepted. And God will receive him with joy and restore him to good standing. He will declare to his friends, I sinned and twisted the truth, but it was not worth it. God rescued me from the grave and now my life is filled with light.

Ps 25:18 – Feel my pain and see my trouble, forgive all my sins.

Ps 86:5 – O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help.

Ps 103:3 – He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.

Ps31:1-2 – Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!

Isa 33:24 – The people of Israel will no longer say, ‘We are sick and helpless,’ for the Lord will forgive their sins.

Before God created this world, he knew we would sin, and he already had a plan to redeem us. It was through **BLOOD** that we would be redeemed!!

Heb 9:22 – In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

Father God made provision for us, not just with the blood of animals. He gave us his innocent perfect Lamb - **JESUS!** It cost him dearly - the very blood of his beloved Son.

Heb 10: 4 – For it was not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Heb 9:12 – With his own blood – not the blood of goats or calves – he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.

Act 26:18 – To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Mark 2:10a – So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.

1 Joh 1:9 – But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

Acts 5:31 - Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as Prince and Savior. He did this so the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be forgiven.

Col 2:13 – You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.

1 Joh 2:12 – I am writing to you who are God's children because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus.