

God's Self Portrait and Resume

Text: Exodus 33:18-23 And he (MOSES) said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory. 19 And he (GOD) said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. 20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. 21 And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: 22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: 23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

Exodus 34:5-8 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him (MOSES) there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, **The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping 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.** 8 And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

Introduction:

(1) We serve a Great and Mighty God! Psalms 145:3-6 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness.

(2) We also serve a Mysterious God! Exodus 20:17-19 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And **mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.** And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

Isaiah 45:15 Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour.

I. WHO IS THIS GREAT AND MYSTERIOUS GOD? HOW CAN WE KNOW HIM?

In Matthew 16:13-17 Jesus asked his disciples two important questions: ⁽¹⁾ **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?** and ⁽²⁾ **whom say ye that I am?**

○ The answer to the 1st question was based upon the OPINIONS of MEN: Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

○ The answer to the 2nd question was based upon the PERSONAL PERCEPTION of the DISCIPLES: Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!

○ Modern Man's Warped Perception of God is found in the various world religions such as: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, or even in "No Religion" – Atheism (they don't perceive of a God at all)

○ Theology Warped Perception of God is found in an hodgepodge of confusing perceptions -- **Some say** that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; **and others**, Jeremias, **or** one of the prophets.

○ Peter answered the question correctly because his perception was a TRUE REVELATION from the Father in heaven: **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**

II. EXODUS 34 (our text) REVEALS A SELF PORTRAIT OF OUR GREAT & MYSTERIOUS GOD, and PROVIDES A PERSONAL RESUME THAT SHOWS GOD TO BE THE TRUE GOD OF ETERNITY!

Exodus 34:6-7 is widely regarded as the most cross-referenced and repeated passage in Scripture, appearing in more than 100 references across the Old and New Testaments (Ref. Bing AI).

Why Exodus 34:6–7 Stands Out

*Because it encapsulates so many attributes of God, it became a go-to reference for authors when describing God's nature. Its broad *thematic (*DEFN. having to do with the theme) scope—mercy, patience, forgiveness, and justice—makes it relevant in countless contexts. (Ref. Bing AI).*

Bible Cross-Reference Examples: *The TEXT verses are cited in:*

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 7:9, 10; 1 Kings 8:23; 1 Kings 18:24; 2 Chronicles 6:14; Isaiah 40:26; Jeremiah 17:5; Ezekiel 33:11; Hosea 11:8; Jonah 4:2; **(10 OT examples)**

New Testament: Luke 15:7; John 3:16; Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Hebrews 12:5–11; 1 John 4:8; 1 John 4:18; 1 John 4:20; 1 John 5:1; 1 John 5:20 **(10 NT examples)** (ref.: Bing AI)

III. God's Proclamation in our text is a SELF-PORTRAIT & RESUME of the HIMSELF as the CREATOR of MAN, the GREAT JUDGE of all the EARTH, and the KING OF ETERNITY:

What is a Resume? The Definition of a Resume:

- *A RESUME IS A FAITHFUL RECORD OF PAST WORK HISTORY!*
- A resume catalogs the skills, experience, and credentials that makes one qualified for a position.
- *A resume records how faithful and trustworthy a person should be in the future!*
- A resume must be accurate and truthful and presented in a persuasive and easy-to-read manner.

The SELF PORTRAIT AND RESUME of God as revealed in our TEXT:

Exodus 34:6-7 *And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping 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.*

The Difference between PORTRAIT and PICTURE:

- *A picture is an image captured by a camera – A portrait is an artistic representation or expression*
- *A picture shows everything in front of the lens – A portrait emphasizes a specific subject*
- *A picture captures what you look like – A portrait captures who you are*

(1) First, GOD'S SELF PORTRAIT OF HIMSELF - The LORD, The LORD God - THE GREAT "I AM THAT I AM" (Exodus 3:14)!

What does God's Double Reference of Himself (The LORD, The LORD God) mean? There is much debate concerning God's Double reference of Himself (this is the only place in the Bible where God repeats his own name). No one knows for sure but two explanations that may be accurate are:

- **Divine Emphasis:** It serves as a majestic declaration: **"I am absolutely who I say I am."**
- **Two Similar but Distinct Names (not a repetition of the same name):** ⁽¹⁾ **the LORD** of His Redeemed People ⁽²⁾ **the LORD GOD** – Creator and Lord of every Person and All of Creation!
- Another Example** - the name **"Jesus Christ"** which has two distinct meanings: **Jesus** (God Saves) **Christ** (the anointed one)
- Are either of these answers correct? **We simply do not know for sure!**

A True Self Portrait of God in His Glory:

Exodus 33:20-23 **And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.**

Acts 26:13 (PAUL) **At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me...**

I Timothy 6:16 (God) ...dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen

This is WHO HE REALLY IS! This is A TRUE PICTURE OF GOD – ANY & ALL OTHER THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS OF HIM ARE INACCURATE & FALSE!

(2) Second, GOD’S RESUME OF HIMSELF – HIS HISTORY (OR RECORD) OF DEALING WITH MAN in the PAST, the PRESENT, and His promises for the FUTURE!

****Again, What is a resume? A resume is a document that an applicant creates to catalog the skills, experience and qualifications acquired that makes one qualified for a position. A resume must be accurate and truthful and presented in a persuasive and easy-to-read manner.***

Psalms 103:7-13, 17 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The LORD is **merciful and gracious**, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger forever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. **But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;**

(1). God is MERCIFUL – DEFN.: showing kindness, pity, choosing not to harm - Psalms 103:7-8, 17

(2). God is GRACIOUS - DEFN.: warm & courteous, good mannered, kind, polite - Psalms 103:7-8

(3). God is LONGSUFFERING - DEFN.: patient, quietly enduring insults & bad treatment - Psalms 103:7-8

(4). God is ABUNDANT IN GOODNESS - DEFN.: quality of being morally good, virtuous, kind - Psalms 103:7-13

(5). God is ABUNDANT IN TRUTH - DEFN.: how things really are, unchangeable facts - John 14:6
Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(6). God KEEPS MERCY FOR THOUSANDS – Psalms 103:17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, **and his righteousness unto children's children;**

(7). God FORGIVES SIN – What is SIN? Sin is MISSING THE MARK - a transgression of God’s Law; going against God’s revealed will; Sin is not just breaking rules; it is a condition of the Heart including pride, selfishness, and harmful intentions, Omission and Commission: Sin can be actively doing what is wrong or failing to do what is right (James 4:17). (ref. <https://www.shepherdthoughts.com/baptistchurchny/biblical-definition-of-sin>).

Psalms 103:10-12 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

(8). God FORGIVES TRANSGRESSIONS – Psalms 103:10-12

What are Transgressions? Transgressions are a particular type of SIN which denotes acts of intentional or willful disobedience, such as knowingly violating a commandment (Ref. Bing AI).

Psalms 32:1-2 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

(9). God FORGIVES INIQUITY – Psalms 103:10-12

What are Iniquities? Iniquity in the Bible refers to moral crookedness, deliberate sin, or a deep-rooted condition of the heart that bends away from God’s righteousness. Biblically, **iniquity is more than a single sinful act; it represents a persistent, premeditated, and escalating pattern of sin that reflects the inner corruption of the heart.** Unlike general sin, which is missing the mark or failing to

do what is right, **iniquity implies intentional wrongdoing and moral distortion**. It is often associated with lawlessness, guilt, and a hardened heart that resists repentance (*Romans 1:28–32*) (*ref. Bing AI*).

Psalms 32:2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

(10). God BY NO MEANS CLEARS THE GUILTY –*Despite His Profound Mercy, God does not leave the guilty unpunished! He is compassionate and forgiving but also a RIGHTEOUS JUDGE!*

Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Ezekiel 18:20-21 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

(11). God *VISITS THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN – (*ref. Ezekiel 18*)

(12). God *VISITS THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON CHILDREN’S CHILDREN

(13). God *VISITS THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN UNTO THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION – (*ref. Ezekiel 18*)

*the word “VISIT” is translated from the HEBREW word “**paqad**”. It means “calling to account” or “reckoning”. Rather than God arbitrarily punishing innocent children, it means God actively holds succeeding generations accountable for following the sins of their parents (*Ref. Bing AI*).

If our PERCEPTION of GOD is wrong, THEN, the God we are FOLLOWING is WRONG!

Today, Opinions and Perception of God are all over the place:

A Pew Research Center entitled “When Americans Say They Believe in God, What Do They Mean” dated Dec. 4 to 18, 2017 survey found:

- 10% do not believe in any higher power or spiritual force.
- 33% say they do *not* believe in the God of the Bible, but believe there is other higher powers or forces
- 56% say they believe in God “as described in the Bible.

Another Survey

A Pew Research Center entitled “Views of the Afterlife” dated Nov. 2021 survey found:

- 27% do not believe in heaven or do not have an opinion on the subject
- 38% do not believe in hell or do not have an opinion on the subject
- only 23 to 32% believe that hell is a literal fiery torment (*ref.: Google AI*)

The Bible is the place where REALITY and FAITH CONQUERS PERCEPTIONS AND OPINIONS!

IV. CLOSING: WHENEVER A MAN HAS A TRUE AND CLEAR PICTURE OF GOD, THE REACTION IS ALWAYS THE SAME: RESPECT – REVERENCE - WORSHIP

Exodus 34:8 And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

Ezekiel 1:28 ...This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face.

Revelation 1:17 And when I (John) saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.

Philippians 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him (*JESUS*), and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.