

WORD

⁶... “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.” EXODUS 34:6,7
(READ EXODUS 32-34 FOR CONTEXT.)

WHAT

After receiving the law and coming down from Mount Sinai, Moses was so shocked and angered by the Israelites’ idolatrous partying that he smashed the tablets on which God had carved the Ten Commandments. As God commanded Moses to chisel a new set of stone tablets, how did He reveal Himself to Moses and his people?

1 God is compassionate and gracious.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹ JOHN 1:9

The people rebelled against God and broke the covenant by creating a golden calf idol. However, God wasn’t going to change His commands nor lower His standards but He was willing to forgive and extend His grace. How is God portrayed in Exodus 34? How was God’s merciful nature reflected in how He dealt with the Israelites?

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2 God is slow to anger.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. PSALM 103:8

God is patient and He does not want anyone to die in his or her sins. People who have a short fuse will be agitated at the slightest offense, but God is longsuffering. Why can a holy and powerful God be patient with us?

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3 God abounds in love and faithfulness.

⁹*He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; ¹⁰he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him . . .* PSALM 103:9-11

God is abundant in love, faithfulness, kindness, goodness, and truth. His constant love is not merely sufficient, but overflowing. We must not take for granted the riches of God’s kindness, tolerance, and patience, but realize that His kindness leads people toward repentance (Romans 2:4). How has God showed His abundant love for us (Romans 5:8-11)?

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