

The Attributes of God ~ His Patience

Intro: The Patience of God is His Forbearance toward sinners. He endures the ways of the wicked.

Exodus 34:6

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

1 Peter 3:20

who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What the LORD God is. Exodus 34:6
- What God did during the construction of the ark. 1 Peter 3:20

Interpretation:

Exodus 34:6 What is significant about how God describes Himself in light

of the context of this verse? _____

1 Peter 3:20 How long did God wait while Noah built the ark (Genesis 6:3)?

What message did the emerging ark present? _____

Why did so few people take advantage of God's patience and heed God's

warning? _____

Note:

The context of Exodus 34:6 is the reconfirmation of the Covenant after Israel incurred God's wrath by building an idol in Moses' initial absence. God's Patience is relevant only in the context of our sinfulness, for it is the withholding of His justified wrath that defines His patience.

Note:

Many scholars believe the 120 years mentioned in Genesis 6:3 refers to the number of years God allowed mankind to repent before sending the flood. Besides the generous time allowed by God, there was the emerging ark that gave witness of the impending judgment. This, coupled with the testimony of Noah as God's righteous prophet, gave the sinning population ample warning. That only 8 people were saved is an indication of the sinful state of mankind at that time.

The Attributes of God ~ His Patience (cont)

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise,
as some count slowness,
but is patient toward you,
not wishing for any to perish
but for all to come to repentance.

Romans 2:4

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness
and tolerance and patience,
not knowing that the kindness of God
leads you to repentance?

Revelation 2:21

'I gave her time to repent,
and she does not want to repent of her immorality.'

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What the Lord is toward 'you'. 2 Peter 3:9
- What leads you to repentance. Romans 2:4
- What (God's Son) gave her. Revelation 2:21

Interpretation:

2 Peter 3:9 What 'promise' is this verse speaking about (see context)? _____

How is the situation Peter is writing about still relevant today? (verses 3-4)

Romans 2:4 From 2 Peter 3:9 and this verse, why is God being patient? _____

Revelation 2:21 Why doesn't 'she' repent? _____

Note:

2 Peter 3:9 speaks of the promised return of Christ and the subsequent judgment of all people. Peter was responding to the 'scoffers' who were ridiculing those who held to the promise of God, explaining that the delay was an indication of God's patience, not His non-existence.

The theory of evolution has become the mantra of scoffers today who deceive themselves into thinking that science has disproved God's existence.

Note:

The apostles Paul and Peter both acknowledge that God is being patient to allow time for people to repent. The two millennia since Christ's first coming simply underscores the long-suffering of God toward creatures who do not repent because they don't want to.

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Patience?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Patience of God is best demonstrated by the withholding of His wrath toward those deserving of it. For the sole reason of allowing them time is to respond to His Mercy and offer of Grace in the gift of His Son for the forgiveness of their sins. However, God's patience, though 'long-suffering', is not *forever* suffering. There will be an end to His Mercy and a time of reckoning for all who refuse His gift and scorn His patience.

God is Patient

He tolerates sinners and endures their wicked ways!