

How Jesus Completes Biblical Judaism

Season 1: What is the Nature of God?



Scripture

- Psalm 86:15

But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

- Exodus 33:18-22; Exodus 34:6-8

Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion. But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!" Then the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by.

34:6-8

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 loving-kindness and truth; who keeps loving-kindness 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." Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.

Other Scriptures

- Isaiah 6:1-3
- Revelation 4:1-8
- Isaiah 45:7
- I Samuel 13:14
- Psalm 18:35
- Exodus 3

Main Points

- The most exalted attribute of God in the Hebrew Bible is His holiness.
- The word Holy in Hebrew is Kadosh.
- The New Testament in Hebrew is Brit Chadashah.
- 'Holy' is the only threefold repetition of God's attributes in the Old and New Testaments.
- Holiness has to do with being completely unique.
- The primary meaning of 'holy' is to be completely unique and separate.
- God has always been a God of grace.
- The nature of God is compassionate and gracious.
- The Old and New Testaments are consistent in what they teach us concerning who God is.

Discussion Questions

1. Which attribute of God is repeated three times both in the Old and New Testament? What is holiness? If God desires us to be holy as He is, how does this define what our relationship with God is to be? As sinful, broken people, how do we achieve this?
2. Rabbi spoke of the split thinking of many, when reading in the Old Testament and New Testament. That the God of the Old Testament is harsh and punishing and the God of the New Testament is a God of grace and love. Have you experienced this split in thinking about the nature of God? What was Rabbi's conclusion on the matter?
3. How does Exodus 33-34 demonstrate God's true nature? How can you apply this revelation to your own life? Ask God to help you fully realize God's compassion and love within and around His holiness, like a hand in a glove.
4. What stood out to you in today's lesson? Write about it.