God Introduces Himself

Exodus 3:13-15; 34:6-7

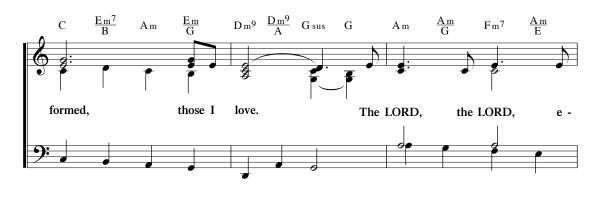


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TOPICS: God's Love; Holiness; Praise & Worship; Transcendent God

LEAD-IN: Then the Lord passed by in front of [Moses] and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in faithfulness and truth; who keeps faithfulness for thousands, who forgives wrongdoing, violation of His Law, and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, inflicting the punishment of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." (Exodus 34:6-7, NASB)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

God Introduces Himself

Exodus 33:12 – 34:7

God has given Moses a huge responsibility:

to share in leading His people through a vast wilderness and forming them into a nation,

indeed, into the people of God.

At a particularly stressful point in their journey,

Moses feels the deep need

to know God better and

to be assured of His continuing presence.

So Moses prays:

"Let me know Your ways that I may know You" and

"Show me Your glory!" (Exodus 33:13, 18, NASB)

God responds:

"You cannot see My face, for mankind shall not 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. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen." (Exodus 33:20-23, NASB)

God does as He promised, and

as He does,

He describes Himself in a few words.

So how does God summarize Himself?

What does He most want His people to understand about Him?

- He is the eternal God, the Source of all existence.
- He is unfailing love and

absolute dependability.

- He freely, eagerly forgives sin,
- But He will never ignore sin.

A loving Father cannot ignore

what threatens His children.

Sin and all its fruits must be

pursued and

destroyed.

This is the God

we fear and love and serve.

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