

CHAPTER 1 – GOD’S CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. (Psalm 103:8, NIV)

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

Exodus 34:1–14

“What comes into your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you.” — A.W. Tozer

A lot came into Moses’ mind when he thought about God. From the first encounter at the burning bush, Moses—the agent of God’s plagues of judgment, the receiver of the Torah, the national leader through the desert to the Promised Land—walked with God as few ever have. Read Exodus 34:1–14.

1. Holy is one of the essential words to describe the God of the Bible. Although the word is not used in this text, the holiness of God is woven through every verse. What do you glean about the holiness of God as you read this passage?

2. What insights about God's holy character come to mind from the stipulations that (a) access to Mount Sinai be restricted (vv. 2–3) and (b) the people are not to mix with the other nations (vv. 11–14)?

3. What can you do to cultivate and encourage an awareness of the holiness of God?

4. God reveals key aspects of his character in verses 4–7. How does his grace, compassion, patience, love and faithfulness show up in the life of Christ on earth? What do the chiseled stone tablets contribute to our knowledge of God?

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5. While clouds, the heavens, and all of nature declare the glory of God, they are limited as means of spiritual insight because they don’t declare his “name.” However, God does declare his name as he stands with Moses (vv. 5–6). What does God declaring his name reveal about his character?

6. Considering how God chose to describe himself (vv. 5–9), what do you find comforting? What do you find challenging?

7. How do you think Moses understood and acted on his understanding of God’s character based on his prayer (vv.8-9)? How do you act upon God’s description of himself?

8. What is comforting and challenging about being in a relationship with a God who makes and keeps a covenant (v. 10)?

9. In contrast to the gods of the Egyptians, Canaanites, Babylonians, Romans, and Greeks who didn't seem to mind sharing the limelight, God describes himself as jealous (vv. 11–14)! What would it say about God's character if he didn't care whether the people to whom he committed himself were committed to him?

10. Considering this passage as a whole, it is fair to say that a relationship with a holy, covenant-making God is a solemn and awesome responsibility. Why is it also a wonder-full, awe-some, and thrilling privilege?
