



Our Mission:

“Love, inspire, equip and empower people to encounter God personally and live out His plans and purposes”

Sunday 14th June Home Church Worship

Welcome to Colin Symes – The Character of God

Let's read together Psalm 103: 1 - 5

Song: 10,000 Reasons

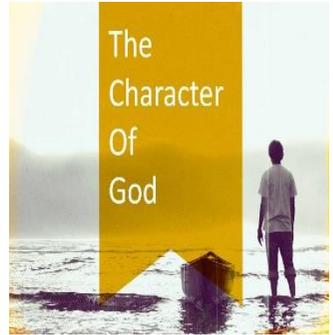
*Bless the Lord O my soul
O my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name*

You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing

Song: Friend of God

Who am I that You are mindful of me
That You hear me when I call
Is it true that You are thinking of me
How You love me it's amazing

*I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
He calls me friend*



God Reveals His Character

Colin Symes

In Exodus 34.6-7, when God allows Moses to see His back as He passes by, He reveals to Moses the depths of who He is, in words which are echoed again and again through Scripture. The Jews

know these as **‘the thirteen attributes of mercy’**, though it is disputed how exactly they are divided! What we can say is that God wants us to know His love and dependability, and this is why He lets Moses know these are the key elements of who He is. This exploration is in two parts – one for Sunday 14th, and followed up on Wednesday 17th.

יהוה

Part 1 – Ex.34.6 - God is Lord - Adonai

The Lord introduces Himself originally to Moses as ‘the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob’, but here He gives His own, personal name as YHVH, which we are uncertain how to pronounce. Hebrew speakers say ‘Adonai’, (my Lord) when they come to this word in Scripture. The name has something of breath and being within it and is akin to the Hebrew word ‘to be’. It is repeated, a convention in Scripture which gives special attention to it. There is no one else by this name.

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

אל

God is El

This is a shortened form of the word Elohim which signifies God; it qualifies the nature of who the Lord is; He is the Lord, God, but then goes on to say how He is different from all others who might claim divinity.

רחום

God is Rachum – Compassionate

When God uses this word of Himself, it is a really deep compassion. The root of the word in Hebrew can mean ‘womb’ in a woman, or ‘intestines’ in general. A good way of understanding this is by using the English word ‘visceral’, something that touches the depths of us. It’s of note that the New Testament, written in Greek, has a similar expression in the word ‘splanchna’ meaning compassion, also

coming from the same word as intestines. So, when Jesus has compassion, something in Him reacts deeply to people's situations.

חנון

God is Chanun – Favouring

When God says this of His character, it reflects His being well-disposed, kind to all His creation. It comes from the root cheyn, where the girl's name 'Ann' comes from. Some translators use the word 'grace' for this expression, but I would not, for reasons which will become clear shortly. In Scripture, this is an expression often used of receiving undeserved or even undue loving attention, such as Ruth 'found favour' in the eyes of Boaz.

ארך אפים

God is Slow to Anger - Erekh Apayim

This literally means God is 'long of nose' – from the idea that anger is indicated by sound in the nose, snorting or flared nostrils. Thus, being short of nose would mean to be quick to get flared up. But the character of God is to take a long time to come to anger, which is part of His loving ways. It doesn't mean He never will be, but He delays more than any. Proverbs 16.32 commends this conduct in humans also.

ב חסד

God has Great Grace – Rabh Chesed

Chesed is a word meaning self-sacrificial covenant obligation; it is the modern Hebrew word for grace because it is the same, self-giving love God has always shown, given to us in Jesus the Messiah. And the Lord declares Himself as being great in grace. The word rabh is the word from which the word Rabbi comes and can mean teacher or master. God is the master of chesed.

אמת

God is truth – Emet

This word is from the same root as the word Amen – it means that which is dependable, assured, right and faithful. It often accompanies the word chesed, as it does here.

The Jewish gospel writer John surely has this expression of God with Moses in mind when he describes Jesus in John 1.14 as full of grace and truth – echoing the character of His Father revealed here for all time.

Join us for Home Church Worship
Sun 10.15, Tue 11.am Missions Prayer, Wed 7.30pm
Heart to Heart on Sundays at 9.45am and 5pm

AGM Wed 24th June
@ 7.30pm on Zoom

AGM
 Annual General Meeting

Your giving is building the Vision

- Cash, Cheque - please use our offering envelopes
- Cheques made payable to: The Gate Church
- Online banking, Standing Order
- Barclays Bank: sort code: 20 40 09 acc: 30946486
- Try another way of giving. The Givt **app** allows you to participate in the collection anytime and anywhere. Install your **Givt app**



Givt

You're ready to give.
 Scan this QR code with the Givt app.

giftaid it

