

Lovingkindness

What is the context, from God's perspective, of the apostle John's statement about God's agapē love?

For God so loved (**agapē**) the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. (John 3:16-17, NASB)

1. The Bible is a historical recording of God's interaction with man, and it revolves around God's divine covenants (promises). Examine Genesis 17:7 – who does God choose to be God to?

I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. (Gen 17:7, NASB)

2. What do you observe about lovingkindness?

Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His **lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face. Therefore, you shall keep the commandment and the statutes and the judgments which I am commanding you today, to do them. Then it shall come about, because you listen to these judgments and keep and do them, that the Lord your God will keep with you His covenant and His **lovingkindness** which He swore to your forefathers. (Deut 7:9-12, NASB)

3. When the house of Israel, which includes the northern kingdom Israel and southern kingdom Judah, irretrievably breaks the Mosaic Law, they are expelled and exiled from the Promised Land. God is no longer bound to the Mosaic Covenant. But God doesn't leave the house of Israel – what do you observe about God's New Covenant?

"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Lord God says: "It is not for your sake, house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. And I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord," declares the Lord God, "when I show Myself holy among you in their sight. For I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the lands; and I will bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.'" (Ezek 36:22-26, NASB)

4. What is the Hebrew meaning behind the Greek name Jesus?

5. What is your understanding of John 3:16-17?

For God so loved (**agapē**) the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. (John 3:16-17, NASB)

Lovingkindness Teacher Notes

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1. The Bible is a historical recording of God's interaction with man, and it revolves around God's divine covenants (promises). Examine Genesis 17:7 – who does God choose to be God to?

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Remind the student to read a few verses before and after a passage that is being cited. In so doing, the student will see that this verse is in reference to God's covenant with Abraham and His promise to be God to Abraham and His descendants.

2. What do you observe about lovingkindness?

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Encourage the student to share his observations – “what do you see?” precedes “what does it mean?”

God's lovingkindness is associated with His covenant commitment.

God's lovingkindness is a type of love that is committed over multiple generations.

Those who keep God's commandments are beneficiaries of God's lovingkindness.

3. When the house of Israel, which includes the northern kingdom Israel and southern kingdom Judah, irretrievably breaks the Mosaic Law, they are expelled and exiled from the Promised Land. God is no longer bound to the Mosaic Covenant. But God doesn't leave the house of Israel – what do you observe about God's New Covenant?

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If the student is unaware, explain that the nation of Israel united under King David subsequently was divided into two kingdoms: the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. In a few hundred years, the kings of both kingdoms became less and less faithful to God. God uses, as His instrument of judgment, the neo-Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar who destroys Jerusalem and deports most Jews out of the Promised Land.

This passage is about the New Covenant. Here are some observations that the student may make.

Despite their failure to keep their covenant commitments, God's lovingkindness does not forsake the house of Israel.

But the New Covenant was not made to give the house of Israel a second chance.

Profane means to make common. Despite the house of Israel misrepresenting God as just another god indistinguishable from pagan gods, God provides the New Covenant specifically to exalt His name and show the world that He is the living and holy Lord God.

The New Covenant will provide a new heart and spirit and, in making one holy, brings God's people back to the Promised Land.

4. What is the Hebrew meaning behind the Greek name Jesus?

Show the student how they can use Bible resources to help their study.

1. Example: Go to Blueletterbible.org and type in "Jesus" in their search bar.
2. Click "tools" of any passage that contains "Jesus."
3. Locate "Jesus" and click the Strong's Number "G2424."
4. Locate "Root Word (Etymology)" and click "Of Hebrew origin H3091."

The Hebrew meaning of "Jesus" is "Jehovah is salvation" which is also "God is salvation."

5. What is your understanding of John 3:16-17?

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This question provides a discussion that sums up the findings of the previous questions.