

God's Character: Righteous

1. What do you observe in Deuteronomy 31:16-19? Who thought up the Song of Moses? At what point of life is this for Moses? What is the song for?

And the Lord said to Moses: "Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them. Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, 'Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?' And I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done, in that they have turned to other gods. Now therefore, write down this song for yourselves, and teach it to the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel." (Deut 31:16-19, NKJV)

2. When God describes Himself as "righteous and upright", what other characteristics or behaviors are associated with this?

He is the Rock, His work is perfect;
For all His ways are justice,
A God of truth and without injustice;
Righteous and upright is He. (Deut 32:4, NKJV)

3. Observe carefully Deuteronomy 6:17-19. What do you learn about righteousness? Who determines if one is righteous?

You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the Lord swore to your fathers, to cast out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has spoken. (Deut 6:17-19, NKJV)

4. Discuss how all of the above observations help you understand God's character of righteous.

God's Character: Righteous Teacher Notes

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Encourage the student to be Sherlock Holmes and ask questions to help him carefully observe the text with a magnifying glass.

God is the composer of the Song of Moses.

God foresees Israel's future infidelity and breaking of their covenant commitment.

The Song of Moses is intended to testify of the reality of God, and warn Israel that when they break the covenant and worship pagan gods, He will spurn them. By singing the song, the nation of Israel acknowledges their obligation to obey God and recognizes the righteousness of His judgement when disobedient.

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Here are some questions to consider:

What is God saying when He describes Himself as "the Rock?"

What does God mean "His work is perfect for all His ways are justice?"

What does God mean He's the "God of truth?" What is the definition of "without injustice?"

3. Observe carefully Deuteronomy 6:17-19. What do you learn about righteousness? Who determines if one is righteous?

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This question will challenge the observation skills of the student. Help the student by asking how Moses defines doing what is right and good in the sight of the Lord.

It is obeying the commandments, testimonies, and the statutes of the Lord your God. It is learning, knowing, and obeying God's word.

Righteousness is determined by God who sees who is doing what is right and good in His sight.

4. Discuss how all of the above observations help you understand God's character of righteous.

This open ended question allows the student to muse about his findings.

God's righteousness is like a rock - firm, steadfast, and faithful to His covenant promises. God does not behave impulsively or irrationally.

God's righteousness, based on His perfect work and words, is without error and the truth.

God's righteousness is the moral standard and authority of moral goodness and administers justice for evil. God's righteousness also means His judgments are righteous.

God makes this statement about Himself to warn and encourage the nation of Israel to be faithful to their covenant promise. By singing the Song of Moses, the nation of Israel verbalizes the righteous character of God including His judgment.