

God's Love Through the Ages

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Genesis 1. Many picture the Old Testament as a record of law and judgment, but from the very beginning, God's heartbeat has always been love. His mercy, patience, and compassion run through every generation. Some believe the God of the Old Testament differs from the God of the New. People have changed, yet God's nature has never changed. In the Old Testament, that love appeared through covenant, and by deliverance and promise. In the New Testament, God's nature was fully revealed through His Son, Jesus Christ, who carried out His Father's will and fulfilled His plan of redemption.

God's love did not begin with Christ's birth, nor will it end throughout eternity. It has always been and always will be. The Kingdom of God is present now and we get to enjoy what God has made available. Its fullness will be revealed to us when Christ gathers us together, and then shall we know as we are known.

GENESIS 1:27 So God created man in his own image... and then... **Vs.31** And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

From the very beginning, and throughout the Old Testament, God revealed Himself as a God of love. His actions toward mankind were not driven by anger but by mercy and compassion. He placed Adam and Eve in the most beautiful spot in the universe: EDEN! It was paradise, and from there, God could communicate with them, and they with Him. Even when they disobeyed and sin entered the world, God not only took care of their needs but also promised a Messiah who would restore what had been lost which was spirit.

Even when wickedness filled the earth in the days of Noah, God's love still made provision for salvation.

Genesis 6:8: But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Though judgment came upon a corrupted earth, God's love preserved life. The ark was a picture of deliverance, mercy and love, showing that God always provides a way of escape for those who believe Him. Noah believed so much so that **he spent 120 years building the ark!** God provided what he needed and he acted on it. Then, when it was all over with, God showed His love, mercy and grace once again.

Genesis 9:13–16: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth... And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

The rainbow became a visible reminder of God's love. The judgment of God took a back seat to God's grace, mercy and love. Many years later, a man named Moses was tasked with bringing the children of Israel out of Egypt, and back into the Promised Land of Caanan. God proclaimed His mercy and grace once again.

Exodus 34:6–7: And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.

When God revealed Himself to Moses, He didn't describe Himself as wrathful, but as merciful and gracious. Even under the law, His love never wavered. God's love toward Israel was not based on their greatness but on His choice to love and care for them, and to redeem them.

Deuteronomy 7:7–9: The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people... But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers.

His love was a *choosing love*—based not on merit but on faithfulness. He remembered His promise and delivered His people with a mighty hand.

Psalms 103:8: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy... Like as a father

pitieth [shows compassion] his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear [reverence] him.



Vs. 14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we *are* dust.

This is not the portrait of an angry God but of a merciful and gracious God once again. He understands the frailty of mankind and loves us unceasingly as His children. Let's continue in **Psalm 103**.

Verse 17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; **18** To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. **19** The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. **20** Bless the LORD, ye his angels [means messengers, ambassadors], that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. **21** Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts [organized for war]; ye ministers [worshippers & servants] of his, that do his pleasure. **22** Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.

This closing section of **Psalm 103** is so uplifting to our hearts, showing the vastness and endurance of God's love. His mercy, His steadfast and constant love — stretches "from everlasting to everlasting." It reaches beyond generations, extending to the children's children of those who remember His covenant and walk in obedience to His Word. God's kingdom is established above all creation, ruling with righteousness and faithfulness.

Even the angels—His mighty messengers—In **Ps 104:4** it calls angels his ministers. "Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire." They stand ready to perform His commands, listening attentively to the voice of His Word. The hosts of heaven, organized and ordered for His purposes, serve with joy and strength. Every creature is called to join in the same anthem: *Bless the LORD, O my soul*. In this we see the unbroken chain of God's love and authority—His mercy covering His people, His righteousness extending through the generations, and His rule standing firm forever. IN **II KINGS 6**, is a wonderful example of God's the hosts of heaven guarding His children from harm. In this case Elisha sees the love of God in action.

II Kings 6:15: And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? **16** And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. **17** And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

This moment shows **God's invisible protection made visible** — the *hosts of heaven* surrounding His prophet. These were His hosts, His **spiritual armies**, described as "horses and chariots of fire," a direct manifestation of God's power and His love for His people. They guard; they protect. It's a perfect illustration of **Psalm 103:21**. Look at **Isaiah 54**. God's love, grace and mercy surround His children.

Isaiah 54:10: For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

His love outlasts every storm, every failure, every attack thru every generation. The Old Testament reveals a God whose holiness is matched only by His compassion. That same love that covered Adam and Eve, preserved Noah, and chose Israel... is the same love later revealed through His Son, Jesus Christ.

God's love was not what most people believed at that time of Jesus Christ. However, Jesus straightened them out on the subject.

Matt 5:43: Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. **44** But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; **45** That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. **46** For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?



John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. **17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

God's purpose in sending His Son was not condemnation and wrath, but salvation, physical wholeness and eternal life.

Romans 5:8: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Every miracle, every act of forgiveness, every word of grace that Jesus Christ spoke was an expression of His Father's love. After the Day of Pentecost, every believer who has confessed Jesus as lord and believed that God raised him from the dead, is the focal point of the same God of love that we just read about in the Old Testament. He will do for us what He's always done, and more!

Ephesians 2:4: But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us... **6** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Through Christ, God extended His grace to every believer—raising us from death to life and making us His children, and showing us how to love with the same love that HE love us with!

Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; **2** And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

God's love did not end all of His grace, mercy and love with the ascension of Christ. It lives today in the hearts of His people.

1 John 4:9: In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. **10** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us. *God's love now lives within us... therefore....* **VERSE 17** Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

At this very moment—as he is, so are we in this world. Jesus Christ paid the price in full for our sanctification, righteousness, and redemption. Because of him, we have new hearts—hearts of love. The same heart of love that Jesus exemplified in his life. Instead of hearts of stone. God's greatest work is still the transforming of human hearts, turning selfishness into compassion... and fear into believing. Whenever we act outside of love, we step out of fellowship with God. But when we walk in love, we walk in step with Him. Love brings peace, boldness, and joy.

There is nothing that puts a man or woman over in life successfully except love, because **love never fails**. Selfishness is so detrimental to a believer. People always fear selfishness in others, but not in themselves. However, when love burns white-hot in a believer's heart and life, it burns selfishness to a crisp. No force in this world can dominate or overcome genuine love.



We ought to go to the limits of love—to live where that love bubbles, effervesces, and glows.

God Almighty designed us to love. He created us in His image so that His nature could be reflected through our lives. Love is not merely a command; it is the evidence of His presence within us.

Romans 8:38: For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The love of God has never changed. It was present in the beginning, revealed through His covenants, displayed through His Son, and now lives in us by His spirit. His love permeates us, His grace envelops us, His mercy surrounds us. The records of the Old Testament show His love, grace, mercy and faithfulness; the New Testament reveals that same love is perfected in Christ, and Christ is in us, the hope of glory. And today, that love flows through every believer who chooses to walk by the spirit. Love never fails—because God never fails. His love is active! His love is everlasting! His love is unbreakable, and alive within each of us today. Let's enjoy it and be thankful for it.

God bless you.