

# **Who is God?**

## **Key Moments of Revelation**

Lecture 2

**The Revelation of the Divine  
Character**



σπ. η. λ. ο. ρ.



## *Exodus 33:18-23*

Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.”

<sup>19</sup>And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘YHWH’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

<sup>20</sup>But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.”

<sup>21</sup>And YHWH continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; <sup>22</sup>and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; <sup>23</sup>then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

*Exodus 3*

I will be who I will be.

*Exodus 33*

I will be gracious

to whom I will be gracious,

and

I will show mercy

on whom I will show mercy

*Exodus 34:5-8*

<sup>5</sup>YHWH descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name, “YHWH.”

<sup>6</sup>YHWH passed before him, and proclaimed,

“YHWH, YHWH,

a God merciful and gracious,

slow to anger,

and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

<sup>7</sup>keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation,

forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,

yet by no means clearing the guilty,

but visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children

and the children’s children,

to the third and the fourth generation.”

<sup>8</sup>And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

a God merciful  
and gracious,  
slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love  
*(hesed)*  
and faithfulness,

keeping steadfast love for the  
thousandth generation,  
forgiving iniquity and transgression and  
sin,

yet by no means clearing the guilty,  
but visiting the iniquity of the parents  
upon the children  
and the children's children,  
to the third and the fourth  
generation.

*Joel 2:13*

Return to YHWH your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

*Jonah 4:2*

I knew that you are  
a gracious God and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and ready to relent from punishing.

*Exodus 32: 12, 14*

[Moses said] <sup>12</sup>Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people....

<sup>14</sup>And YHWH changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

*Joel 2:12-14*

Yet even now, says YHWH,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to YHWH your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him...?

*Nahum 1:2-3a*

A jealous and avenging God is YHWH,

YHWH is avenging and wrathful;

YHWH takes vengeance on his adversaries  
and rages against his enemies.

<sup>3</sup>YHWH is *slow to anger* but great in power,  
and YHWH *will by no means clear the  
guilty.*



እግዚአብሔርም ዓሳውን አዘዘው፤  
እርሱም የናስን በየብስ ላይ ተፋው።

## *Jonah 4:1-3*

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to YHWH and said, “O YHWH! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.

<sup>3</sup>And now, O YHWH, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

*Psalm 145:8-9*

YHWH is

gracious and merciful (*raḥûm*),

slow to anger

and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>YHWH is

good to all,

and his compassion (*raḥ<sup>a</sup>māw*) is

over all that he has made.

## *John 1:14, 16-18*

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only One from the Father, full of grace and truth....

<sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is the Only One, himself God, who is in the bosom of the Father, who has made him known.

*Exodus*

merciful and gracious,

slow to anger,

and abounding in steadfast love and

faithfulness,

*(rab ḥesed we-'emet)*

*John*

full of grace and truth

*(plērēs charitos kai alētheias)*

*John 1:14, 16-18*

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only One from the Father, full of grace and truth....

<sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came (*geneto*) through Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is the Only One, himself God, who is in the bosom of the Father, who has made him known (*exēgēsato*).

Glorify the Lord and exalt him as much as you  
can,

for he surpasses even that.

When you exalt him, summon all your strength,  
and do not grow weary,

for you cannot praise him enough.

<sup>31</sup>Who has seen him and can describe  
him?

Or who can extol him as he is?

(Sir 43:30-31)

*Exodus 34:6*

a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love and  
faithfulness

*1 John 5:16*

God is love,  
and those who abide in love abide in God,  
and God abides in them.