

God Reveals His Heart

Exodus 34:6-7

If someone asks you who you are, there are two ways you can answer:

- What you do (ie. your career/calling)
- What your character is like (ie. your heart/personality)

In our text we find God revealing who He is by opening up to us His deepest heart. We see God revealing His heart through His name and through His character.

1. Through His Name (v.6a)

- a. the significance of names
 - i. in our culture today
 - ii. in the Bible's culture of yesterday
- b. the revelation of God's personal name
 - i. Yahweh
 - ii. Exodus 3:14-15 – “¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, `I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: `The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations.”
- c. the meaning of God's personal name
 - i. existence
 - ii. non-existence
 - iii. eternal existence
 - iv. self-existence
 - v. with-you existence
- d. the fullest revelation of God's name
 - i. Jesus as the Great 'I am'
 - ii. Jesus as the 'I am with you' God (ie. Immanuel)
- e. God continues to be the 'I am with you' God
 - i. Exodus 24
 - ii. Exodus 32
 - iii. Exodus 34

2. Through His Character (v.6b-7)

- a. merciful [רַחֵם] & gracious [חַנּוּן]
- b. longsuffering
- c. abounding in goodness
- d. keeping mercy
- e. forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin
- f. not clearing the guilty but visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children's children
- g. comparing v.7a & v.7b

Conclusion

A) Keil and Delitzsch

"... all the words which the language contained to express the idea of grace in its varied manifestations to the sinner, are crowded together here, to reveal the fact that in His inmost being God is love. But in order that grace may not be perverted by sinners into a ground of wantonness, justice is not wanting even here with its solemn threatenings, although it only follows mercy, to show that mercy is mightier than wrath, and that holy love does not punish till sinners despise the riches of the goodness, patience, and long-suffering of God."

B) John Owen

"When [God] solemnly declared His nature by His name to the full, that we might know and fear Him, He does it by an enumeration of those properties which may convince us of His compassionateness and forbearance, and not till the close of all makes any mention of His severity, as that which He will not exercise towards any but such as by whom His compassion is despised."