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Longsuffering- Pt 1 The Lord is longsuffering

This is our first study on the word “longsuffering” in the scriptures. We establish four points- (i) The Lord suffers long- man’s sin, even though He hates iniquity, (ii) The Lord was longsuffering prior to Israel when He waited (patiently) in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared, (iii) The Lord was longsuffering to Israel, and (iv) God is longsuffering toward the heathen.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our points-

1. The Lord suffers long- man’s sin, even though He hates iniquity

“And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering... “ (Ex.34: 6)- CF- Rom 3:23- “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”.- CF- Heb 1:9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity...”

2. The Lord was longsuffering prior to Israel when He waited (patiently) in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared

“Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water” (1 Pet.3: 20).

3. The Lord was longsuffering to Israel

Moses besought the Lord not to smite Israel on the basis of His longsuffering
“I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they. [15] Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying, [18] The Lord is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty...” (Num,14: 12, 15, 18).

4. God is longsuffering toward the heathen

The Lord endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath
“What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction” (Rom.9: 22).

Illustration

One thing all “other gods” have in common, is they are unable to show their worshippers- great mercy, forgiveness, goodness, patience, compassion and truth. Therefore, they are incapable of being longsuffering toward their worshipper’s sin.

Question of the scriptures

What is the end result of God’s longsuffering?

Answer from the scriptures

The end result of God’s longsuffering is either our salvation or judgment
Salvation – 2Pet 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation;
OR judgment- right in the middle of Romans chapter 2- verses 2, 3 and 5 which are about the judgment of God, is verse 4 which is about His longsuffering
When we preach the gospel, of our salvation, offering eternal life or judgment, let us never forget to warn the heathen that, God is able to send them to destruction at any moment – but for His abundant goodness and mercy their feet do not slide down into ever lasting destruction when they sin. Such is the longsuffering of our God!