

God’s *Chesed* Love

Exodus 34:6-7 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in *steadfast love* and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping *steadfast love* for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” (emphasis added)

The best definition is from the Children’s Storybook Bible: “a Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love.”

Big Idea: God’s chesed love for us is perfectly demonstrated and epitomized in Jesus Christ.

It’s a Life-Saving Love

Redeemed from the pit

The first use of chesed in the Bible

Genesis 19:15-17 – God saves Lot, who was dilly-dallying after God told him to quickly leave Sodom.

Other uses in Genesis

Genesis 20:13 – Sarah saves Abraham’s life

Genesis 32:10 – Esau spares Jacob’s life

Genesis 40:14 – Pharaoh releases Joseph

Genesis 21:23 – Abraham saves Abimelech life

Genesis 39:21 – Joseph is protected in prison

Genesis 47:29 – Jacob is buried in Canaan

It’s a Covenantal Love

About covenants

A covenant is a solemn promise that ensures a relationship between two parties until death. Each party in a covenant would have obligations to fulfill, and often the penalties for violating the covenant would be physically enacted, like in the blood covenants made with Abraham, Moses, and through Christ.

Six Bible covenants, all born out of love – Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses (Old Covenant), David, and Jesus (New Covenant)

Hosea

Hosea’s story

Hosea 6:7 “Like Adam, they have broken the covenant.”

Ephesians 5:31-32 “A man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

It’s a Completing Love

Verses 3-5

These verses show a movement from God doing something to satisfy the person’s needs, to then doing something above and beyond what the person required.

It’s an Everlasting Love

Thousands of generations

It’s an eternal love. That means it will never end.

Why does it matter that God’s love lasts forever?

Because it means it will never run out.

It’s a Love to Remember

Bless the Lord and forget not his benefits

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. What is one of the examples of undeserved, unfailing, steadfast love you’ve experienced in life?
2. Which aspect of God’s love that we discussed today was most significant to you and why?
3. Why is it significant that God’s love is extravagant and exceeds our needs?
4. Why do we forget God’s love for us? What can you do to remember what he has done?