

IMAGO DEI – The Long Nose of God

March 4-5, 2023

Exodus 34:5-7 (NIV) – Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed His name, the Lord. And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin. Yet, He does not leave the guilty unpunished; He punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation”.

“Not merely adequate, but abounding is this great God of glory. He has barns and silos full of love and faithfulness; He is stacking it in the streets looking for a distribution system” – **Gayle Erwin**

“**slow**” = Hebrew *arek* - “long”; “to anger” = Hebrew *appayim* - plural for “nostrils”

Psalm 18:6-8 (NIV) – “In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From His temple, He heard my voice; my cry came before Him, into His ears. The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook; they trembled because He was angry. Smoke rose from His nostrils; consuming fire came from His mouth, burning coals blazed out of it”.

Psalm 18:13-15 (NIV) - “The Lord thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded. He shot His arrows and scattered the enemy, with great bolts of lightning He routed them. The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundation of the earth laid bare at your rebuke, Lord, at the blast of breath from your nostrils”.

Psalm 86:5-7, 15 (NIV) – “You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call on you. Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me” – “But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness”.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) - “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him”.

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2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT) – “So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord – who is the Spirit – makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image”.

“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him” – **John Piper**

Colossians 3:7-10 (NIV) – “You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator”.

“When a tide of passion or a surge of anger is felt, it must be dealt with as the alien intruder it really is, and turned out of the house as having no right to be there at all, let alone to be giving orders” – **N.T. Wright**

Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV) - “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity”.

2 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV) – “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance”.