

Exodus 34:5-10 (NIV)

5 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. 6 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, 7 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 fathers to the third and fourth generation." 8 Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. 9 "O Lord, if I have found favor in your eyes," he said, "then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance." 10 Then the LORD said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you.

The season of Epiphany is the time where the Christian church focuses on how God has revealed himself to us, namely in the person of Jesus. How do we know God? We know him by what he tells us about himself in his Word. What does he tell us today? He is compassionate and gracious. He cares for us and loves us undeservedly! He is slow to anger. Even when we constantly fall short of obeying his Word, God is patient with us. He doesn't destroy us immediately. He is abounding in love. God's love is as high as the heavens are above the earth. That's a distance that we can't measure. God's love will never run out. He's also abounding in faithfulness. Name one promise that God has failed to keep. You will be searching in vain because God has never failed to keep a promise. God has promised to forgive our sins of wickedness and rebellion because of his Son.

Jesus is the reason that we have found favor in God's eyes. Like Moses says, we are a stiff-necked people. We are stubbornly stuck in our sinful pattern and by ourselves we have no desire to change. But Jesus has taken all of those sins away. He has removed them as far as the east is from the west. By his perfect life and innocent death, he has given us our inheritance in heaven. We are now God's children and full heirs of eternal life. So great is God's love for us, that he has offered us this free gift!

But God is just. He will punish those who reject his gift. Those are the guilty. They remain in their sin because they reject their Savior. Often that rejection is passed on to the successive generations! God promises that they will be punished for their sins. If he didn't punish them, he wouldn't be a just and fair God.

But for those who have believed God's promise to them, he will do wonders that the world has never seen! He will save his people! He will bless them here on earth! But most importantly, he will take them to be with him in heaven for all eternity. That is when everyone on earth, even the unbelievers, will realize how awesome our God truly is!

The Sunday's after Epiphany are rapidly drawing to a close. Take the opportunity to see how awesome your God truly is as he reveals all he has done for you.