NEW LIFE CLASS

BRIDGING THE GAP

BETWEEN BIBLICAL LEARNING AND RADICAL LIVING



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I Am Love • Part 2

Lesson 7

Is God Holy and Loving at the Same Time?

The I AM God Is Holy and Loving in the Burning Bush that Was Not Burned Up!

Exodus 3:1-10

How Is His HOLINESS Revealed in the Burning Bush?	*How Is His LOVE Revealed in the Burning Bush?*
The thorn bush (result of the curse) burns due to the FIRE of the I AM God's HOLY PRESENCE. (2)	Even though the cursed thorn bush burns, it is NOT CONSUMED due to the LOVE of the I AM God's HOLY PRESENCE. (2)
No sinner can SEE the I AM God's HOLY PRESENCE and LIVE, unless He REVEALS Himself to them and uses some means of MEDIATION. (2)	The I AM God takes the INITIATIVE to REVEAL HIMSELF to Moses within the Burning Bush thru "the MESSENGER of Yahweh." He calls to Moses by NAME – TWO TIMES to emphasize desire, compassion, and intimacy. (2, 4)
The I AM God WARNS Moses to NOT COME NEAR His HOLY PRESENCE, because no one enters uninvited. They only DRAW NEAR on His TERMS and with an UNDERSTANDING of His HOLINESS. (5)	The I AM God WARNS Moses out of LOVE to not draw near lest He die. (5)
The I AM God COMMANDS Moses to TAKE OFF HIS SANDALS and not DEFILE His HOLY PRESENCE, because it's His PRESENCE that makes the PLACE where He reveals Himself HOLY GROUND! (5)	The I AM God EXPLAINS to Moses out of LOVE that it's His HOLY PRESENCE that makes other people and places holy. It is not us or our good works or our religious acts that make people or places holy. (5)
Moses HIDES HIS FACE before the I AM God and FEARED HIM, even though He reveals Himself as the promise-making God of the Patriarchs. (6)	Moses understands that entering into a relationship with the I AM God of LOVE does not CANCEL OUT His holiness or our NEED to FEAR HIM in all His HOLINESS! (6)
The I AM God FREELY CHOOSES to act ON HIS TERMS and IN HIS TIME to accomplish His HOLY PURPOSES for His people. (7-8)	The I AM God of LOVE KNEW and CARED about the SUFFERING of His enslaved people and ACTED to KEEP HIS PROMISES to them. (7-8)
The I AM God FREELY CHOOSES to SHOW MERCY to UNDESERVING SINNERS and to HARDEN DESERVING SINNERS according to HIS HOLY PURPOSES for the fame of His Name. (9-10)	The I AM God CALLED Moses to be HIS MEDIATOR and DELIVERER out of LOVE. Even though Moses didn't deserve it and made excuses for not obeying, the I AM God PROMISES Moses SUCCESS against Pharaoh and the Egyptians for the fame of His Name. (9-10)

The I AM God Is Holy and Loving after the Exodus in the Wilderness and on Mount Sinai!

Exodus 15:22-34:35

1) **IN LOVE,** *the I AM God keeps the promise He made to Moses from the Burning Bush and reveals the GLORY of His HOLY NAME on Mount Sinai to the Israelites He has rescued out of Egypt–even though they have been ungrateful gripers ever since they left Egypt!* (19:1-25)

2) **IN LOVE,** *the I AM God expects them to be HOLY as He is HOLY so He reveals His HOLY LAW to them!* (20:1–23:33)

3) **IN LOVE,** *the I AM God desires to DWELL with His people and be in a COVENANT RELATIONSHIP of LOVING OBEDIENCE with them.* (24:1-18)

4) **IN LOVE,** *the I AM God reveals His blueprints for building the Tabernacle and anointing the Priesthood, so His HOLY PRESENCE can DWELL in the midst of SINFUL people!* (25:1–31:18)

5) **IN LOVE,** *the "I AM" God will not let ANYONE or ANYTHING DEFAME HIS NAME or DIMINISH HIS GLORY for He ALONE is God and ONLY He can meet the needs of His people – besides to do otherwise would be untrue, unfaithful, and unloving.* (32:1-8; 20:5-6)

6) **IN LOVE,** *the I AM God tests Moses to see if he will love the rebellious and sinful people with a HOLY LOVE like the I AM God does! Moses passes the test and LOVES them with a HOLY and SELF-SACRIFICING LOVE just like the I AM God does!* (32:9–32)

7) **IN LOVE,** *the "I AM" God makes clear to Moses that he can't be the MUCH-NEEDED SUBSTITUTE to ATONE for the sinning people, because ONLY the "I AM" God is the SOVEREIGN JUDGE who EXECUTES JUDGMENT and COULD EVER ATONE for the sin of sinners.* (32:33–35)

8) **IN LOVE,** *the I AM God tests Israel to see if they are willing to live WITHOUT His HOLY PRESENCE dwelling with them! Israel passes the test and REPENTS of their idolatry and immorality that DEFAME HIS NAME!* (33:1-6)

So Moses ***once again intercedes*** for the sinful people, so God's glory would **REMAIN** with Israel and be **REVEALED** to Moses. (33:7-23)

How Will the "I AM" God of Love Respond to the Request of His Mediator Moses?

The GLORY of His Name Is Loving and Holy at the Same Time!

Exodus 34:1-10 plus Numbers 14:18; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 86:15; 103:8; 111:4; 116:5; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2; Nahum 1:3

"I Am Love" Is Revealed in…

1. His <u>UNCHANGING</u> Character! *Exodus 34:1-6a*

➤ God's character **<u>REMAINS</u>** ***faithful*** even when His people are ***unfaithful***.

1) **IN LOVE,** *the I AM God comes down* **<u>ONCE AGAIN</u>** *to reveal Himself and His holy law to Moses and His people!* (1-4)

2) **IN LOVE,** *the I AM God* **<u>STANDS</u>** *with Moses as Moses* **<u>CALLS</u>** *on the Name of the LORD!* (5)

NAS "The LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him [Moses] as he [Moses] called upon the name of the LORD."

CSB "The LORD came down in a cloud, stood with him [Moses] there, and proclaimed His [the LORD's] name, "the LORD."

2. His <u>HOLY</u> Character! *Exodus 34:6b-35*

➤ God's love **<u>BEGINS</u>** with His holy character and it ***never lessens*** it or ***departs*** from it!

Once Again There Are Two Ways This Can Be Translated

"I AM! I AM God!" (NAS) ***OR*** "I AM! I AM! The God who is…" (ESV)

➤ God's love is revealed in ***WHO*** He Is…

1) Quick to **<u>LOVE</u>**. *"compassionate (merciful) and gracious"*

- Compassionate speaks of **<u>HEARTFELT MERCY</u>**.
- Gracious speaks of **<u>UNDESERVED GRACE</u>**.

2) Slow to **<u>ANGER</u>**. *"slow to anger" (long-suffering)*

Don't Miss What the I AM God Is Saying

I **DO** get angry – very angry – I even burn with anger, but it takes Me a **<u>LOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOONG</u>** time get angry, execute My judgment, and pour out My wrath!

3) Abounding in **<u>LOYAL LOVE</u>** and **<u>TRUTHFUL TRUSTWORTHINESS</u>**. *"lovingkindness and truth (faithfulness)"*

- Lovingkindness speaks of the ***loyal love*** of the I AM God who is ***faithful to show kindness*** to His people based on His ***covenant relationship*** with them!

LOYAL LOVE is…

#1 The love of a ***promise keeper*** not a promise breaker!

#2 The love of a someone who ***remains faithful*** when others are unfaithful!

#3 The love of a someone who ***does what best for others even if it hurts*** – whether that is the One who is doing the loving or needing the love!

#4 The ***tough love*** that ***establishes boundaries and calls out sin*** – not to condemn and drive away in shame but to convict and draw near in repentance to receive show mercy!

#5 The ***mutual love*** that is ***returned*** to the LORD by those who have ***received*** His loyal love!

#6 The love that ***characterizes*** the I AM God's ***rule over*** all of creation and especially His people!

#7 The love that is ***most often used*** of the I AM God, because He is ***the only One whose love is always loyal*** to His people!

- Truth speaks of both the **<u>TRUTHFULNESS</u>** and **<u>FAITHFULNESS</u>** of God's character.

- Abounding speaks of an abundant **<u>OVERFLOW</u>** that multiplies with lavish generosity!

➤ God's love is revealed in ***WHAT*** He Does. Exodus 34:7

1) He is **FAITHFUL** in His love: *I AM the God who keeps lovingkindness for thousands!*

2) He is **FORGIVING** in His love: *I AM the God who forgives all kinds of sins and sin!*
Psalms 32:5; 85:2; Micah 7:18; Isaiah 53:12

3) He is **FEARFUL/ FIERCE** in His love: *I AM the God who punishes the guilty to the third and fourth generations.*

Does God Hold Future Generations Accountable for the Sins of Their Forefathers?
[See Handout: Are Children Punished for Their Parents' Sins?]

3. Moses' RADICAL Response to the Revelation of His Glory Name! *Exodus 34:8-35*

➤ Moses ***responds*** by **SURRENDERING** his life as an act of worship! (8)

➤ Moses ***requests*** that God's holy presence would still **GO** with them in spite of their sinfulness. (9-35)

How Will You Respond to the LOYAL LOVE of the I AM God?

Reject it? Resist it? Receive it? Repent in light of it? Rejoice in it?
Reflect it with a holy love for Him and His people? Request grace and mercy be shown to others who far from Him?

"Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory
because of Your lovingkindness, because of Your truth/faithfulness." *Psalms 115:1*