



THE GOD WHO IS UNCHANGING

Hebrews 6:19 |

want to dig deeper? OPC|M Devo: opcmlford.org/devo

RELATED SCRIPTURES

Isa. 40:6-8 + 48:12-23 | Ps. 90:1-2 + 119:89-90 | Ex. 3:14-15 + 34:6-7. | Heb. 7:25 + 13:8

SUMMARY

God does not change. How real are these words to you? They are, in fact, the reality upon which your entire life is built. God's unchanging nature means that he is unflinchingly pursuing us with his grace.

Unchanging character. Nothing can alter who God is. God says to Moses in Exodus 3:14, "I AM who I AM" or Yahweh for short. God's name for Himself tells us who He is. It is a declaration of the simple reality that he exists in eternality (I won't unpack all that this means for our conception of time). **Here, however, is where things get interesting.** God doesn't stop there. He goes on in Exodus 34 to share what He is like, his character. *"The LORD, the LORD (Yahweh), 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."* When God wanted to tell us what he is like, these are the words that he chose to describe himself, and when God tells us something about himself (just a suggestion), we should pay attention.

This is one of my favorite scenes in the Bible. Moses on the mountainside, hidden in a rocky crag, brilliant light engulfing the place, and the voice of God telling this old man who had become his friend exactly what he is like. **God came down not in fury, but in merciful love for his friend.** It's a moment that we should mark down as we read the unfolding story of redemption. God would one day come down again, but this time he would live, flesh and bone, among his people. But all that comes later. For now, let's spend time together reflecting on God's unchanging nature. Not only is he unchanging in his character, but he is also unchanging in his truth, his ways, his purpose, and importantly for us his Son does not change (Hebrews 13:8).

GROUP QUESTIONS

- From the sermon, or your direct reading of Exodus 34:6-7, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you about the God being an anchor for your life.
- Isaiah 40:6-8 tells us that we change and fade away, but God's word endures forever. Hebrews 13:8 tells us that Jesus is unchanging and the same always. Why do you suppose God tells this about ourselves (don't we already know it?) and about himself?
- Hebrews 6:19 shows us what we are supposed to do with God's unchanging nature. We are to be anchored by it. How is God and the gospel anchoring you right now?
- If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of these portions of Scripture, what is that thing?