

- I. Session 66: The Loving Kindness of God in the Old Testament Part 2: Its action and implications
- a. Purpose: In this session we shall explore the attribute of the loving-kindness of God as taught in the Old Testament and also draw implication for the Christian life as a result of our study.
 - b. Reminder: What is “loving kindness?” This is from a unique word in the Hebrew Old Testament: *Hesed*
 - i. This is not an easy word to translate.
 - ii. Summarizing definition:
 1. Many Bible teachers often like to translate this term as God’s covenantal love.
 2. It is God’s loyal love. That is, it is God’s faithful love.
 - c. What does the Bible in the Old Testament teaches about the loving kindness of God?
 - i. Note: This session will look at the duration of God’s loving kindness and also the action God takes because of His loving kindness.
 - ii. Duration: God’s loving kindness is forever
 1. **Isaiah 54:10** specifically states that God’s lovingkindness will not be removed: *“For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, And My covenant of peace will not be shaken,” Says the Lord who has compassion on you.*”
 2. A formulaic confession of God’s loving kindness found throughout the Bible is that God has loving kindness: **Jeremiah 33:11, Psalm 100:5, 106:1, 107:1, 118:1-4, Psalm 136:1-9.**
 - a. Note that in all the verses it mentions God’s goodness and God’s loving kindness.
 - b. Note also all these verses mentions that God’s loving kindness is everlasting.
 - iii. Appeal to God’s help is made on the basis of His loving kindness
 1. *“Make Your face to shine upon Your servant; Save me in Your lovingkindness.”* (**Psalm 31:16**)
 - a. **Verse 15b** reveals a little more context of David’s request that *“Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me.”* Thus David is being persecuted and in physical danger when he cried out to God.
 - b. Here David wanted God to save Him by means of God’s *“lovingkindness.”*
 2. *“Rise up, be our help, And redeem us for the sake of Your lovingkindness.”* (**Psalm 44:26**)
 - a. This is a Psalm by the sons of Korah.
 - b. Note here that the writer wants God’s help and appeal that they be redeemed *“for the sake of Your lovingkindness.”*
 3. *“Help me, O Lord my God; Save me according to Your lovingkindness.”* (**Psalm 109:26**)

Here we see again that David recognizes that the basis we as God's people can appeal to God's help is because of God's attribute of loving kindness.

- iv. God's lovingkindness is basis for God's compassion: "*In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, But with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you,*" Says the Lord your Redeemer." (Isaiah 54:8)
 1. The context is about God's love for Israel despite their sins in which God compares Himself to a husband loving a wife.
 2. Here we see the basis for God's anger being turned away is because of God's "everlasting lovingkindness." God's "everlasting lovingkindness" appears before God's compassion!
- v. God's lovingkindness is basis for God sustaining us up when we fall: "*If the Lord had not been my help, My soul would soon have dwelt in the abode of silence. 18 If I should say, "My foot has slipped," Your lovingkindness, O Lord, will hold me up.*" (Psalm 94:17-18)
- vi. God's lovingkindness is linked to salvation
 1. "*Show us Your lovingkindness, O Lord, And grant us Your salvation.*" (Psalm 85:7)
 - a. This is a Psalm by the sons of Korah.
 - b. Notice in this verse the Psalmist's petition is for God to "grant us Your salvation."
 - c. This salvation does not seem to be just a physical deliverance in light of this Psalm's discussion about sin, forgiveness and God's anger in **verses 2-3**.
 2. "*May Your lovingkindnesses also come to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to Your word;*" (Psalm 119:41)
 - a. God's lovingkindness here is parallel with salvation.
 - b. Salvation is according to God's promises in His Word! Again the loyal love of God is shown here.
- vii. God's lovingkindness is linked to forgiveness of sin (Psalm 130:7-8, Numbers 14:19)
 1. "*O Israel, hope in the Lord; For with the Lord there is lovingkindness, And with Him is abundant redemption. 8 And He will redeem Israel From all his iniquities.*" (Psalm 130:7-8, Numbers 14:19)
 - a. The language of salvation is here: Redemption and mention of sin.
 - b. Yet this is associated with God's lovingkindness.
 2. "*Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.*" (Numbers 14:19)
 - a. In the context the Hebrews are in the wilderness having left Egypt but now they decided to rebel in **verses 1-10**.
 - b. This is the prayer of Moses for the people which is astounding since:

- i. The people wanted a new leader with a different vision of returning to Egypt (v.4)
 - ii. The people wanted to stone Moses and the leadership (v.10)
 - c. Moses requests is that God pardon the people “*according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness,*” (v.19a)
 - d. Moses prayer also acknowledges God’s lovingkindness in forgiveness from the past up to the present moment when he said “*just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now*” (v.19b)
 - viii. God’s lovingkindness is basis for God leading His people after they are redeemed: “*In Your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed; In Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation.*” (Exodus 15:13)
- d. Implications
 - i. We need to trust in God’s loving kindness (Psalm 13:5). Even if we are to be kings, if we trust in God’s loving kindness we shall not be shaken (Psalm 21:7).
 - ii. We need to worship and give thanks to God for His loving kindness (Psalm 138:2).
 - iii. We are to seek and be satisfied with God’s loving kindness every morning (Psalm 90:14).
 - iv. We should find comfort in God’s loving kindness (Psalm 119:124).
 - i. We too need to cultivate God’s loving kindness in our lives.
 1. Hosea 4:1, 6:4, 6:6 are passages that shows God’s requirement for His people to be loyal in “loving kindness” to Him (57).
 2. It is listed as among the qualities God requires of His followers in Micah 6:8 and Zechariah 7:9.
 3. Characteristics of a Godly woman as well according to Proverbs 31:26
 - ii. Psalm 141:5 shows that it also involves rebuking can be done in loving kindness

