**YAHWEH IS HIS NAME: THE GOD OF GENERATIONS**

Exodus 34:5-8 (HCSB) The Lord came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed His name **Yahweh**. **6**Then the Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: **Yahweh**—**Yahweh** is a **compassionate** and **gracious** God, **slow to anger** and rich in **faithful love** and **truth**, **7**maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin. But He will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers’ wrongdoing on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation. **8**Moses immediately bowed down to the ground and worshiped.

**I AM YAHWEH**

**I AM** compassionate!

**I AM** gracious!

**I AM** slow to anger!

**I AM** faithful with my love!

**I AM** truth!

**3 BIG STATEMENTS (FROM VERSE 7)**

***(NLT) 7****I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected— even children in the third and fourth generations.”*

*\*\*God is self-disclosing His name and His nature.*

1. **"lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations"**
   1. This is God's "hesed" love.
      * God chose this word for His covenant love.
      * Translated with english words like faithful, unchanging, loyal, steadfast.
      * God's pursing and initiating love that is unchanging and unshakable.

Lamentations 2:22,23 *The steadfast (hesed) love of the LORD (Yahweh) never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;****23****they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness!*

* God is maintaining hesed.
  + Parallel Verse Exodus 20:**6 NLT**But I lavish unfailing (hesed) love for a **thousand generations** on those **who love me** and obey my commands.
  + "thousands of generations"
    - 40 years is one generation then 40 times 1000 is 40,000 years!
  + Yahweh moves within generational family lines.
    - God told Moses, I am the Yahweh the God of your fathers! The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (3 generations)
    - Even before Abraham was born God demonstrated his love for family in situation with Noah and the Ark.
    - Lot found himself living in the wicked twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and Lot's own sons had succumbed to the sexual wickedness of that day… But God, because of Lot, spared Lot’s family when he rained down fiery judgment.
  + Aaron’s family became Priests, Levites in Israel.
  + David’s family became rulers (Jesus came from his family line.)
  + John the Baptist was the cousin of Jesus.
  + Jesus called two sets of brothers to follow him as disciples. (Peter & Andrew and James & John)
* Think about your family.
  + If your children or grandchildren are not serving God, claim this promise: "God you keep your steadfast love for a thousand generations. I am calling on your love for my kids."
  + In your life, you have no idea of what you are experiencing because of previous generations.
  + Maybe you are the first of your generation to respond to God’s covenant love within your family line.
  + When you look at your life and you think, I have no hope… I come from a long line of Heathens, Atheists, God-haters.

**You are the hope for your legacy. YAHWEH is the God of Generations!!**

1. **"forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin"**
   1. God is a forgiving God.
   2. God always seems to be looking for the opportunity to be reconciling, redemptive and restorative.
   3. The word “forgive” depicts the image of someone who carries… He literally carries away your wrong doing and rebellions… if you let Him.
   4. **God specifies 3 things He forgives:**
      1. **Iniquity:** our tendencies toward specific sins. (Psalm 51:5)
      2. **Rebellion:** premeditated acts of wrongdoing.
      3. **Sin:** Broad category of actions that miss the mark.

* In the Hebrew mindset, there existed these 3 wrongdoings -- Psalm 51:1-3 (ESV)***1****Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast (Hesed) love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions (rebellion).****2****Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!****3****For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.*
* "steadfast love" = Hesed
* David is appealing to God’s Covenant Love. I need your mercy.
* Later David prays Create in me a clean heart -- Verse 9-13 *Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.****10****Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.****11****Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.****12****Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.****13****Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.*

3. **"But He will not leave the guilty unpunished,**bringing the consequences of the fathers' wrongdoing on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation."

1. **This truth is meant to provoke two responses in us:**
   * **Praise:** thank God He sees the wicked and will judge them rightly.
   * **Fear:** Help me never to become entitled and/or self-indulgent with God’s love.
2. God is loving but He is also just.
3. God knows how to deal with the wicked and we need to allow for that.

* Psalm 37:1-4 HCSB *Do not be agitated by evildoers; do not envy those who do wrong.****2****For they wither quickly like grass and wilt like tender green plants.****7-8****Be silent before the Lord and wait expectantly for Him; do not be agitated by one who prospers in his way, by the man who carries out evil plans.****8****Refrain from anger and give up your rage; do not be agitated—it can only bring harm.****11,12****The wicked person schemes against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him.****13****The Lord laughs at him because He sees that his day is coming.*

1. Does God punish people for the parents’ sins?
   * God is clear that He doesn't.
   * Although sins are individually assessed, they impact generations.
   * Notice the drastic contrast between three generations and thousands of generations.

**Yahweh is the God of Generations! Let’s claim the Promise of His Love Generationally!**

*Psalm 145:3-9 HCSB* ***Yahweh*** *is great and is highly praised; His greatness is unsearchable.* ***4****One* ***generation*** *will declare Your works to the next and will proclaim Your mighty acts.* ***5****I will speak of Your splendor and glorious majesty and Your wonderful works.* ***6****They will proclaim the power of Your awe-inspiring acts, and I will declare Your greatness.* ***7 They will give a testimony of Your great goodness*** *and* ***will joyfully sing of Your righteousness****.* ***8****The* ***LORD****(Yahweh) is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and great in faithful (loyal, steadfast, and unfailing) love.*

Let’s declare his great goodness and lets joyfully sing of his righteousness and steadfast love!