How great is our God – 2 Pet. 3: 8 – 10

**Focal Truth: God is great in patience**

Have you ever stopped to consider the greatness of God’s patience?

Do you understand that today God is showing great patience with sinners as He extends His grace to them?

Do you think God has forgotten His people in these days of trial and trouble because He seems to allow things to continue in their current condition?

**Observations**

1. **God promises are spoken by a patient God** – v.4 – *where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.* v. 8 - *with the Lord one day is alike a thousand years, a thousand years like one day*

*God is the fullness of patience*

1. God’s promises come from a patient God – v. 5 – *by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water*
2. God’s promises always come to past – v. 6 – *through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.*
3. God’s promises of coming judgment wait on a patient God – v. 7 – *by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*
4. **God’s patience is not slowness to act** – v. 9 *the Lord is not slow about His promise*…
5. God is slow to anger – Heb. Slow = long
6. God’s slowness is not inability
7. God’s slowness is not unconcern
8. God’s slowness is not forgetfulness
9. God’s slowness is patient graciousness
10. God’s slowness is deliberate patience
11. Ex. 34: 6 – *The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth*
12. Nahum 2: 8 – *The Lord is slow to anger and great in power*
13. 1 Pet. 3:20 – *the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of ark*
14. **God patiently tolerates sinful man** – v. 9 *but is patient with toward you*
15. God is patient toward you expresses the patience of God
16. Acts 14:16,17 – *in the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways, and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness*
17. Acts 13:18 – *for a period of forty years He put up with them in the wilderness*
18. Rom 2:4 – *or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance.*
19. Isa. 30:18 - *He waits that He might be gracious*
20. Rev.2:21 – *I gave her time to repent & she does not want to repent…*
21. **God patiently desires all to be saved** –“not wishing any to perish, but for all to come to repentance” His patience in the time of Noah, His patience with Israel’s rebellion to the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity

Jonah 4:2 – *I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity*

Ps. 145:8 – the Lord is full of compassion slow to anger

Neh. 9:17 – *you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness and you did not forsake them*

**We may run out of patience with the wickedness of sinful mankind, but God’s waits patiently for sinners to repent & come to Jesus Christ & be saved!**

1. **God’s promises will be fulfilled in His time** – v. 10 – *but the day of the Lord will come like a thief in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth its works will be burned up.*
2. The Day of the Lord will come as promised by prophets, Lord Jesus Christ & apostles
3. The Day of the Lord will come without interruption
4. The Day of the Lord will come surprisingly
5. The Day of the Lord will end God’s patience with sinful man
6. Rom. 2:5 – *because of your stubbornness & unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath & revelation of the righteous judgment of God*

**Things to Remember**

1. God is never in a hurry but always on time
2. God’s is great in goodness and great in mildness
3. God patience offers opportunity for repentance
4. God’s patience glorifies His graciousness
5. God’s patience is the silence of His justice & the whisper of His mercy
6. A patient God makes a patient people

**Daily Use**

1. Consider today how patient God is toward you and your condition
2. Glorify God for His patience with sinners
3. Ask God for His patient desire to see sinners be saved