

What is The Character of God?





Have you ever asked yourself:

“What is God Really like?”

Some think about God as:

- Loving
- Forgiving
- Accepting
- Compassionate

Others think about God as:

- Angry
- Unforgiving
- Condemning
- Judgmental

So, what is the character of God?

The Character of God:

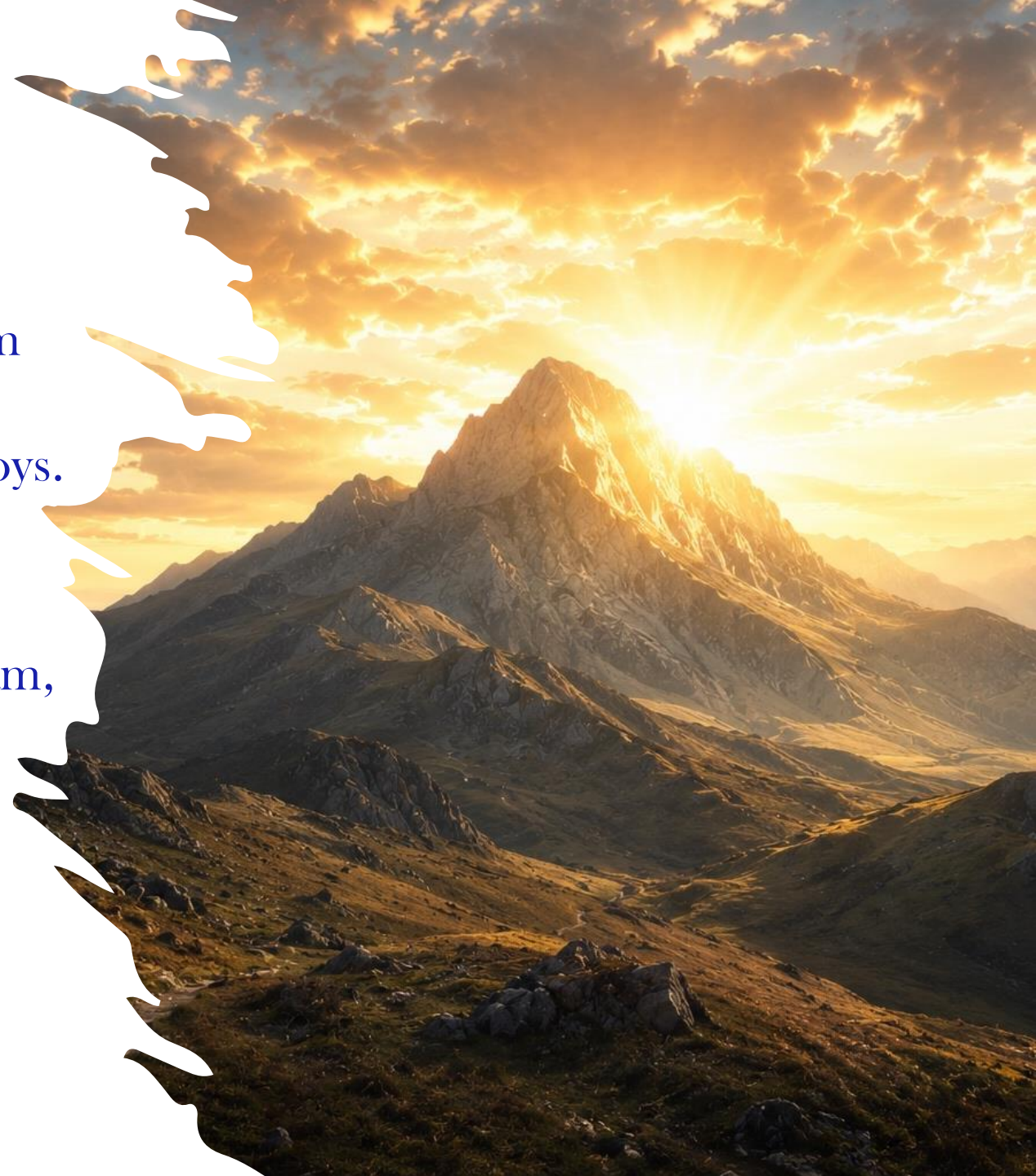
As witnessed in the Exodus account

God Sees: Exodus 1

- Pharaoh enslave the Israelites and afflict them with hard labour.
- Pharaoh orders the death of Israelite baby boys.

God Hears: Exodus 2

- the groaning of His people.
- God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- God looked upon Israel and knew their suffering.



The Character of God:

As witnessed in the Exodus account:

God Sees: Exodus 1

God Hears: Exodus 2

God Appoints a Deliverer: Exodus 3-4

- God calls Moses from the burning bush.
- God reveals His purpose to rescue Israel.
- God promises, "Certainly I will be with thee".
- God sends Moses back to Egypt to lead His people to freedom.

God Delivers His Children: Exodus 7-14



The Character of God:

As witnessed in the Exodus account:

God Sees: Exodus 1

God Hears: Exodus 2

God Appoints a Deliverer: Exodus 3-4

God Delivers His Children: Exodus 7-14

- Demonstrates His power through 10 plagues upon Egypt.
- Gives Pharaoh opportunity (repeatedly) to relent and release His people.
- Remains committed to His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- Provides a way of escape and brings His people to freedom.



The Character of God:

As witnessed in the Exodus account:

God Sees: Exodus 1

God Hears: Exodus 2

God Appoints a Deliverer: Exodus 3-4

God Delivers His Children: Exodus 7-14

So....what characteristics of God are being revealed to us?



The Character of God:

As witnessed in the Exodus account:

But there is more:

Israel starts to complain: Exodus 15

- The people complain about the bitter waters of Marah.
- Their immediate difficulty overshadows God's recent deliverance.

Israel starts to doubt: Exodus 16

- The people feared they would not have enough food.
- They wished they had remained in Egypt.



The Character of God:

As witnessed in the Exodus account:

Israel complains, doubts...

Israel grumbles: Exodus 17

- The people contend with Moses over water.
- They ask: "Is the LORD among us, or not?"
- Yet God provides water, and then deliverance from an attacking army

Israel recommits: Exodus 19-24

- The people enter into covenant with God.
- They declare: "All that the LORD hath spoken we will do."



The Character of God:

As witnessed in the Exodus account:

Israel complains, doubts, grumbles, recommits...

Israel rebels (again): Exodus 32

- While Moses was receiving God's law... the people turned aside.
- They made and worshipped a golden calf.
- They attributed their deliverance from Egypt to an idol.

Moses Intercedes: Exodus 32-33

- Moses pleads for the people.
- God spares the nation and agrees to renew His relationship with Israel.
- Moses asks God: Show me thy glory."



The Character of God:

As witnessed in the Exodus account:

Israel complains, doubts, grumbles, recommit, rebel (again), Moses Intercedes...

What would we expect God would do in these circumstances?

- He saw their suffering, heard their cries, raised up a deliverer, brings them out of slavery and then provides for them in the wilderness.

And what did they do in return?

- They complained, they doubted, they questioned, they broke their commitment, and then they worshipped a golden calf.



The Character of God:

As witnessed in the Exodus account:

So....now what characteristics of God are being revealed to us?

Then God Reveals Himself to Moses: Exodus 34

- God Renews His covenant with His people
- God comes down to Moses to show him His glory – where he passes by in front and says:

The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin....



What is the Character of God?

He revealed it to Moses in this way:

- Compassionate
- Gracious
- Slow to anger
- Abounding in loving kindness and truth
- Forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin

Yet – by no means will He leave the guilty unpunished

So how does this help us today? With an unseen God – How would we see these qualities in action?



What is the Character of God?

There was a man in New Testament who asked the same question, in John 14:8 -

Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

Jesus answers “He that has seen me has seen the Father” (vs. 9)

- Jesus was a perfect reflection of Gods character... lived upon the earth.



What is the Character of God?

- Jesus was a perfect reflection of Gods character... lived upon the earth.

Exodus 34	The Lord Jesus
Compassionate	He healed many
Gracious	He forgave many
Slow to anger	He endured rejection
Abounding in loving kindness and truth	He shared God's word so others could be saved
Forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin	He never accepted others sin, yet called them to repentance



What is the Character of God?

God's character has a perfect balance:

- He is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, forgiving

And this is balanced by:

- He is Holy, Just, a keeper of promises, Righteous and will not ignore evil

Observation: His character is a 'perfect' harmony between love and justice





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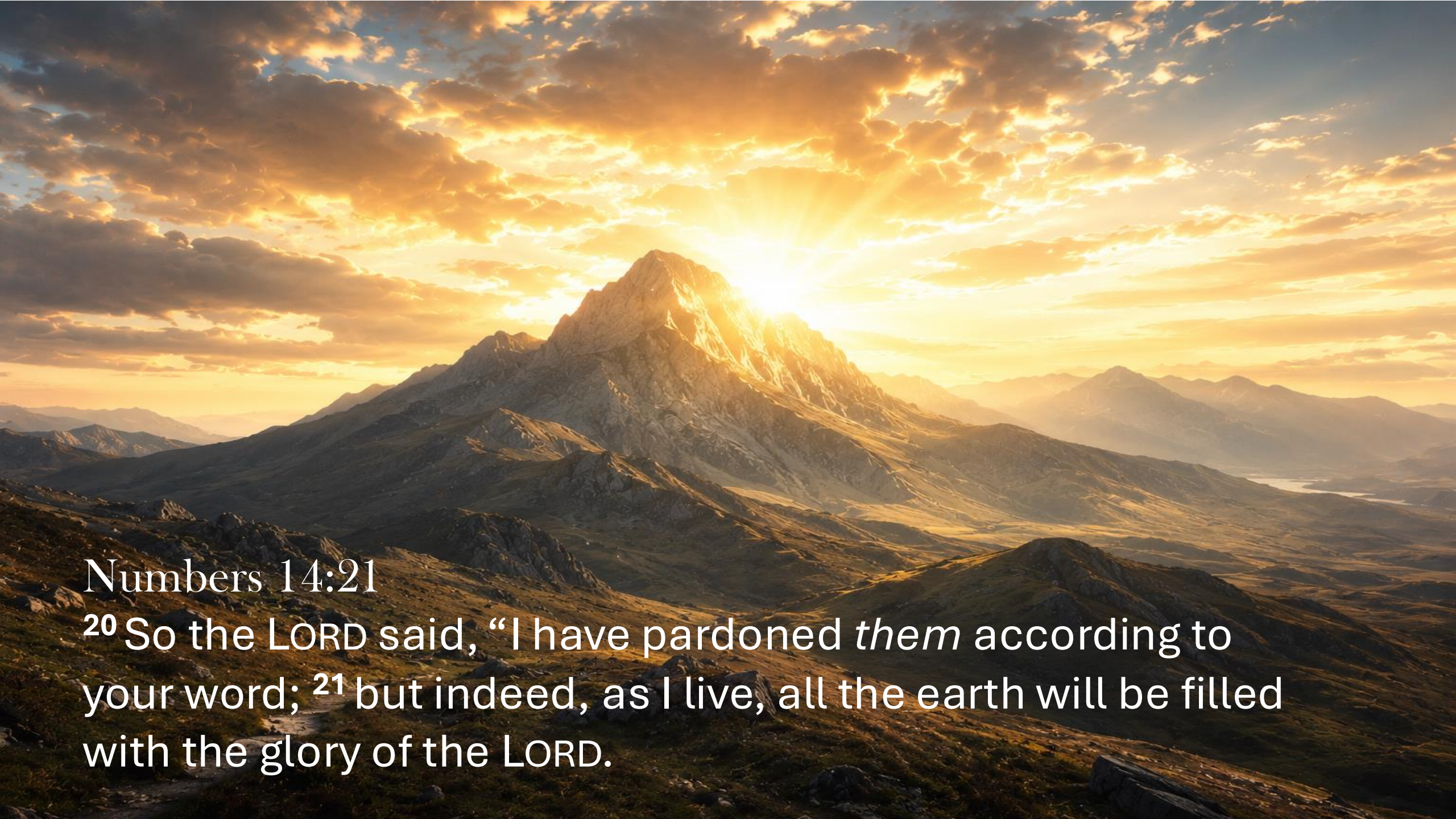
- Angry
- Unforgiving
- Condemning
- Judgmental

What does the Character of God mean for you?

How does God reveal Himself to people today?

- 1 kings 19 Elijahs story:

- Elijah - had just fled into the wilderness feeling alone and overwhelmed
- God sees his need and strengthens Elijah, calling Him to the mountain
- Here God reveals Himself to Elijah
 - 1st came wind, but God wasn't in the wind
 - 2nd came earthquake, but God wasn't in the earthquake
 - After the earthquake, came the fire - but God wasn't in the fire
 - Instead, there was the sound of a gentle blowing - a still small voice



Numbers 14:21

²⁰ So the LORD said, “I have pardoned *them* according to your word; ²¹ but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD.