

The faithfulness of God

Some Scriptures to note

Psalm 119:90 Psalm 100:4-5 Numbers 23:19 Psalm 36:5 Hebrews 6:13
Psalm 92:2 Lamentations 3:22-23 Deuteronomy 32:4 Psalm 119:75
Etc etc

Mi Kamocha Ba'elim Adonai
Mi Kamocha n'edar bakodesh
Nora tehillot, oseh pheleh
Who is like You LORD among the gods
Who is like You LORD there is none else
You are awesome in Power
Doing wonders O LORD
Who is like You O LORD

Psalm 89:1-8

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through **all** generations.
²I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that **you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**
³You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant,
⁴I will establish your line forever
and make your throne firm through **all** generations."^[a]
⁵**The heavens praise** your wonders, LORD,
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.
⁶For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD?
Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings?
⁷In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared;
he is more awesome than all who surround him.
⁸Who is like you, LORD God Almighty?
You, LORD, are mighty, and **your faithfulness surrounds you.**

Cannot emphasize one attribute at the expense of another because all are related and although they are all separate they all come together as we ponder the nature of our God

Sovereignty Righteousness Justice Omniscience Omnipresence Love

Immutability (unchanging and unable to be changed) Omnipotence (all powerful) Eternal Holy

Faithfulness and Veracity

Aseity Originating from Himself (having no other source than Himself)

Everything about God is all these things at the same time – and at no time is He false to any of His attributes – they are inextricably and entirely woven into His nature.

I am so aware that I am attempting to share things which are beyond my human understanding

Nevertheless we have the Holy Scriptures and they speak over and over again about the Name and the Nature of God. In fact God Himself speaks of His Name and then demonstrates His Nature from Genesis to Revelation.

My chosen topic is the **Faithfulness and Truth** of God.

It is impossible to consider His faithfulness without aligning it with His veracity. He is faithful to His Word and His Word is True.

When Moses asks His Name **Exodus 3:14** - God replies 'Yahweh' 'I AM' or 'I AM WHO I AM' and Jesus uses the Name of God when He tells His followers I AM – the Truth.

We see don't we that all Jesus' I AM statements are statements of His divinity. (Do you notice too that when someone asks who you are your reply is I am... and then your name - I am Sue – You see when we state who we say God's name first!)

To return to my brief the very fact that we can transpose the word **faithful** for the word **true** explains why the two have to go together. God is faithful to His Word because He is True to His Word.

Consider when has God ever promised something and not brought it into being? If we asked that question of Noah Abraham Sarah Hagar Joseph Daniel Gideon David Esther Samson Solomon Naomi Ruth Jonah Simeon Elizabeth Mary Moses Peter Paul etc..... their answers would always be 'NEVER!' What God says He will do He does.

You could ask the same question of Nebuchadnezzar Achan Michel (David's wife) the sons of Eli Pharaoh Sennacerib Herod.....etc They would give the same answer 'NEVER' For good *and* for ill God keeps His word because Veracity and Faithfulness are embedded in His Nature and His Name.

When I am preparing anything to be shared with others I always ask myself two questions

1. Why am I doing this?
2. What do I want people to feel as a result?

This evening I came up with these answers....

1. I am doing this to affirm and reaffirm the absolute faithfulness of God according to scripture and precedent
2. I want those who accompany me on the study to feel increasingly more secure in the Hands of God and of His Son, our Saviour Jesus the Messiah and I want them to rejoice in Him.

To begin with I want to look at the meaning of the word **'faith'** –Hebrew is structured completely differently to English in fact to many other languages. It is not just for academics – Knowing a little about Hebrew is for all Christians

- o English has around 800,000 words whilst Hebrew has only 60,000 words. In Biblical times only around 30,000 words were in common usage This means that for every Hebrew word in the Bible there are, on average, more than fifteen possible English equivalents.

Each word in Hebrew has root letters which gives richness to the meaning to any translated word. It does mean that we are at the mercy of translators when we read any version of the Bible so we need to know a little *about* Hebrew and we certainly need to know Hebraisms. Pull your socks up - have a good eye set in the Gospels amidst teaching on generosity (Matthew 6 Luke 11)

The word for **faithfulness** in Hebrew is from the root word '**Emunah**' which speaks of **belief**, firm persuasion, assurance, firm conviction, that which is perfect accurate true unwavering reliable loyal Authentic and Real. ... and more

Faithfulness and **Truth** are both legitimate translations of the Hebrew word Emunah which can be translated either way. But there is more to Emunah than that!

Emunah shares the same root word as the word 'Amen' which is much more than an agreement in prayer. Emunah is an innate conviction, a perception of truth that transcends reason. Amen might best be translated 'YES – that's the way it's going to be!' it is an unwavering affirmation **of** and agreement **for** the expressed prayer. Amen could be translated 'Yes – it is firmly and truly so'

In **Habakkuk 2:4** we read 'The righteous shall live by 'Emunah' that is firmness, steadiness and solid belief.

It is also interesting to note that it is linked to the **Hebrew root** word **meaning** "to live" or "to breathe" which can also be translated as 'life'. It can also be translated as 'I am' and 'I was' and 'I will be' It speaks of perfect reality.

It is of course the Name God gave Himself. So if we elaborated on God's Name it might sound like this 'I Am – the assured, unwavering, reliable, loyal, authentic, transcendent, permanent, certain, loving, true and faithful Reality.'

Now as you know Names are very important in the Bible, Adam means Man, Abraham means father of many, Jesus means deliverer or rescuer and so on. And names always indicate that which is important about the person. The name must fit the person, represent the person and be in tune with the person's nature. This is important because Gods Name and His nature are one. Our God has complete integrity so that His actions will always be in perfect agreement with His Nature and be true to His Name.

He is faithful because He *is* Faithfulness . He is true because He *is* Truth

With these things in mind I want to look at just some of the scriptures which show Gods faithfulness. There are many

Hebrews 6:13-18

Consider God's promise to Abraham a promise to which God has remained faithful across 4000 years to date. The write to the Hebrews states

'When God made His promise to Abraham since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying:

*¹⁴"I will certainly bless you,
and I will multiply your descendants beyond number."^c*

¹⁵Then Abraham waited patiently, and he received what God had promised.

16 Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. *17* God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. *18* So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.

God is bound by His Nature to keep this promise, He is bound by an oath which He made in His own Name. And as God cannot lie His Word is Truth and His Nature entirely faithful to His promises. His covenants are fixed and sure'

Consider how in **Genesis 15** God cuts a covenant with Abraham. He asked for animals to be brought to Him, a heifer, a goat, a ram, which are cut in two and arranged with the halves opposite each other according to custom. Then a dove and a young pigeon were brought and killed but not cut half. Normally the two parties making the covenant walked between the halves of the animals but not on this occasion. God put Abraham into a deep sleep and when the sun had set a smoking fire-pot and a blazing torch moved between the pieces of the animals.

On that day God cuts a covenant with Himself. To break it God would have to change and deny His Name and His Nature. He would have lied. It is this covenant which gives Abraham's descendants the land of Canaan. This unconditional covenant God made with Himself in **Genesis 15** relates to the land which God was giving to Abraham's descendants – far more land than Israel occupies today!

Moving on let's listen to what God says of Himself in **Numbers 23:19** Balaam is speaking God's word to Balak the Moabite King He says

19 God is not a man, that he should lie,
not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act?
Does he promise and not fulfill?

It is a rhetorical question. God does not lie because He cannot. What He says He does. Period. He is entirely trustworthy unwaveringly faithful to His Word.

Balaam is speaking the word the LORD has given him – and through it God is announcing His 'otherness' for although we are made in His image, Male and female, God is beyond our understanding. We cannot fathom the depths of God... but we are reminded throughout scripture of His nature.

In **Isaiah in chapter 46 and verse 10** God to His people Israel saying *'I am God and there is no other; I am God and there is none like me I make known the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'*

God tells us that He will make things known to us that have not yet taken place – so we have a yardstick against which to measure God's word faithfulness – I was checking out Biblical Prophecies on the internet when I came across this relating to the Isaiah scripture I have just quoted

'Supernatural predictions are evidence provided to us for verification. Not a single prophecy from the Bible has been proven false. Many prophecies remain in the future, but all that have come to pass have been verified to be true. Thousand of prophecies from the Bible have been fulfilled.

Revelation 1:7 tells us *“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”* and *“every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”*; and all peoples on earth *“will mourn because of him.”* So **shall it be!** Amen.

That was written about AD 70 and at the time it was impossible to understand how ‘every eye’ could see anything and yet now technology enables that to happen. And thus God is faithful across centuries to His Word. His Word is Truth.

I was struck by this following example - In 332 B.C., Alexander the Great conquered the island fortress of Tyre by building a causeway from the ruins of the old city. This fulfilled the prophecy in Ezekiel 26:4-5, written hundreds of years before. At the time of Ezekiel, Tyre was the capital of Phoenicia and the island fortress of Tyre had not yet been built. Ezekiel predicted: nevertheless *“They shall destroy the walls of Tyre, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea.”*

Two hundred years later it is recorded that, Alexander scraped away everything of the old city, leaving nothing but bare rock surrounded by sea. What detail – yet fulfilled to the letter

There are thousands of prophecies spoken by the LORD and faithfully fulfilled to the smallest details in the Hebrew Scriptures. And there are hundreds of fulfilled prophecies related to the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus .

Jesus himself in the Olivet discourse says in **Matthew 24:35** *I tell you the truth this generation shall not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*

Note that the word translated generation should have been translated ‘race’ – it refers to the Jewish people. In this scripture we hear Jesus is speaking as God. He is acknowledging He is God by making this statement and He is affirming the complete reliability and faithfulness of His Word.

In Jeremiah 31:31 and following God says

¹“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— ²not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, ³though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. ⁴But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their ⁵hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ⁶No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

*⁷Thus says the LORD,
Who gives the sun for a light by day,
The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night,
Who disturbs the sea,
And its waves roar
(The LORD of hosts is His name):*

³⁶ *"If those ordinances depart
From before Me, says the LORD,
Then the seed of Israel shall also cease
From being a nation before Me forever."*

³⁷ *Thus says the LORD:*

*"If heaven above can be measured,
And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath,
I will also cast off all the seed of Israel
For all that they have done, says the LORD.*

In the 20th Century God proved His faithfulness in returning Israel to her ancient homeland promised to Abraham 40000 years earlier.

And in Deuteronomy chapter 7 and verses 9 -10 we have an explicit record of God's total faithfulness to His covenant as He speaks to His people Israel through Moses after the giving of the Ten Commandments

⁹ ***"Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*** ¹⁰ *and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not ^[b]be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.*

We cannot avoid the second part of that promise although no-one ever wants to focus on it - it does say that God will repay those who hate Him. We cannot avoid the fact that God's faithfulness is sometimes worked out through the judgement and punishment of those who hate God and live lives opposed to His will and His ordinances. Everything we do as individuals and as a nation is set against the yardstick of His Word and when our actions, our behaviour, our laws and our society is set against Gods expressed will – there will be consequences. This scripture comes immediately after the giving of the 10 commandments.

God's use of the term 'thousand' is meant to indicate innumerable as in 'the cattle on a thousand hills are mine' **Psalm 50:10**

In the New Testament in **2 Timothy 2:13** we read this ultimate truth about God's faithfulness

¹³ *If we are faithless,
He remains faithful;
He cannot deny Himself.*

It is not enough to say that God *has* integrity - God is 'I AM' therefore He **is** complete integrity. He IS who He says He is! He does what He says He will do. He honours His covenants and keeps His promises. He cannot lie.

Accounts of God's covenants can be found more than 270 times in the Bible. But God is also entirely faithful to His promises as well as His covenants

Paul underlines for Timothy that whatever we do God remains faithful and He says why – because God cannot deny Himself. This fact of God's complete and total reliability is what gives the world

its order. I personally believe that the order of the universe itself would be compromised if God was not reliable – if God was not trustworthy. God's faithfulness and order has established that

- day should follow night,
- that Spring should follow Winter,
- that the sea should not encroach on the land beyond a certain fixed point,
- that the moon should wax and wane, that an embryo should develop into a fully formed human being,
- that a wound should knit together and heal over.

All this is and much more demonstrates God's order demonstrates His faithfulness. It makes our God the secure Rock on which we stand. God's Covenants and promises are set into the fabric of life and the created world. Covenant abides in the depths of God's nature. Covenant is immutable, irreversible and incontrovertible.

So what then are the objects of God's faithfulness? I believe there are three main ones

- His Name
- His Word
- His people (The Jews and Believing Christians)

We read in Ezekiel as God speaks over the mountains of Israel (the West Bank) He is telling His people Israel that He will bring them back to their own land and He is making it plain **why** He is doing it. They have been after all a disobedient and stiff necked people (a bit like us really!)

Ezekiel 36:22-23

²² "Therefore say to the Israelites, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. ²³ I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.'

God has to do this because He has said He will and His Name is at stake! This is why the issue of Israel – the salvation of Israel is of vital significance and why satan will do any and everything in his power to destroy Israel and to vilify the Jewish people. God's Name is at stake over their survival and according to Jesus Himself Messiah will not return to earth until they (the Jews) cry out 'Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD.' **Luke 13:35** and **Matthew 23:35** Every time a Jew receives salvation in the Name of Jesus the world takes another step closer to His return!

There is a story of the Russian Tsar who was on his death bed and asked one of His trusted advisors 'How can I be certain that God exists.' His advisor thought for a moment before answering 'The Jews your Majesty – the Jews!'

God is true to His Name and is still keeping His Word to Abraham! Amazing! I earnestly urge you not to see the issue of the Jews and Israel as a peripheral issue – something some people are into which is not of real importance. No – it is fundamentally significant and the future of the church of God depends on her attitude to Israel – remember ‘I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you...’

The Roman Empire - the Assyrian Empire – the Greek Empire – the Turkish Empire – the Nazis – all dealt wickedly with God’s chosen people and are consigned to the rubbish heap of history. Who knows what ills this country might have escaped, had we dealt fairly and honourably with the Jewish people during the years of the Mandate. As it is we now live in a post Christian society which exalts personal licence and calls it freedom which sets other gods alongside the One True Living God. Oh how far we have fallen when babies are killed in the womb, creation is destroyed and the image of God is compromised and the notion of the church as the bride of Christ is confused by political correctness

Moving on - I’m always interested that God always personalises and qualifies His Name. He says ‘I AM the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob’ He is a personal God relating to us individually and He goes on ‘Who brought you out of the land of Egypt...’ In other words He **does** things and only a God who is a True Living Reality can do that. In fact that is how He demonstrates His faithfulness – by cutting covenants and making promises and keeping them!

Exodus 20 in which are the Ten Commandments begins with

*‘I am Yahweh your God, **who brought you up out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me.**’*

This reminds the people of God’s faithfulness in the Exodus. And just as surely every day we live we can know God as the One who through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus brought each of us up from the land of sin and death into His marvellous light. Why because He is consistently faithful to His Word. **Joel 2:32 Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:13** all state categorically that everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved. That is a promise from the God who watches over His Word to perform it. He does what He says. Hallelujah!

I decided to briefly look at three people from scripture

In Genesis 37 and following we find the story of **Joseph** tell the story quickly

- Rejected by his own people,
- taken over by gentiles,
- dressed in unfamiliar clothes, and
- placed in charge of the resources that bring life to the perishing.
- Joseph foreshadows Jesus. I am always moved by the end of the Joseph story because it is then that Joseph makes himself known to his brothers. He is overwhelmed with emotion and asks that everyone leave him then he weeps as He tells his brothers who he is. What a picture that gives us of a day yet to come when Jesus will make Himself known

to the Jewish people, his brothers and sisters in the flesh. Will He weep? I think so. What a reunion that will be.

The point I am making is that God remains totally faithful to Joseph bringing about His redemptive purposes. So we see that.....

Personal attack, imprisonment, loss of reputation, loss of family, and the passing of time cannot stop the outworking of God's faithfulness.

My second example is of God's faithfulness is **Naomi – Book of Ruth**

- a woman who loses her husband
- she loses her sons –
- finds herself in a far country
- suffers hunger asks to be called Mara 'Bitter' –

But who through the faithfulness of her gentile daughter in law, Ruth, eventually holds in her arms a baby 'Obed' who was to be the grandfather of King David in the line of the Messiah. So we see that

Personal disaster, loss of life, separation from home and the country of birth, hunger and hardship cannot stop the out working of God's faithfulness. God uses any and all circumstances to weave together the reality of His promises.

Isaiah 66 verse 8 asks '*Can a nation be born in a day (or in a moment)*' God's prophetic word was faithfully fulfilled in May 1948 when the State of Israel was resurrected from the ashes of the Holocaust.

So we see that

The very worst that man can do to man cannot stop the outworking of God's faithfulness.

And then most astonishing of all there is our Saviour Jesus. It is easy to check out on the internet, the dozens of prophecies written about the Messiah which were faithfully fulfilled in His life, death and resurrection. Over and over God proves His faithfulness to His Word and to the Word made flesh until at the end we see God's ultimate act of redemption and faithfulness in the resurrection.

Re-read **Psalm 22** and marvel at the precision of the prophetic word made reality in the death of Jesus on the cross. Then see the promise in **verse 27** – '*All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him for dominion belongs to the LORD and He rules the nations.*'

As surely as all the former prophecies are fulfilled at the cross so shall this verse and the 3 verses that follow be fulfilled because of God's proven faithfulness.

We sing 'Great is Thy faithfulness' and 'Faithful God so unchanging..' 'Faithful, You are Faithful, forever, You will be...All Your promises are Yes and Amen' - I googled songs about God's faithfulness and found 3,638 !!! There are countless scriptures about the faithfulness of God but four from Revelation struck me as they all relate God's faithfulness to His Truth

In the Book of **Revelation chapter 9 and verse 11** we see a picture of Jesus ‘*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

There are three further references in the **Book of Revelation Chapter 3:14 - 21:5 and 22:6** where **Jesus and His Word** are referred to as **Faithful and True**

We can trust our Faithful and True God for all that is to come and the proof we have is all that God has done in the past in line with all His covenants and promises. I believe that issues surrounding C19 are just the beginning – the beginning of birth pangs but we know **FOR SURE** that God will continue to be true to His Word and that as time passes people will be more and more eager to know the promises in scripture and the God who is bound by His own Name and Nature to keep them!

Just like in the story of Joseph **Gen 50:20** we will be able to hold fast to scripture saying ‘*What the enemy planned for evil against us, God planned for good to bring about..... the survival of many people.*’ And finally listen to what God says to YOU and to me

Hebrews 13:5 He will never leave you or forsake you **Philippians 1:21** For me to live is Christ – to die is gain

Philippians 1:6 He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ

Psalm 103

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
¹²As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Matthew 26:64 I say to you, **hereafter** you will see **the** Son of Man sitting at **the** right hand of **the** Power, and **coming on the clouds** of **heaven**.

Isaiah 11:6-9The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling^[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra’s den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Our Faithful and True God watches over His Word to perform it .!

Finally in ([Rev 22:6](#))we read God saying, *These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.*

And in

Revelation 21

God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death^(a) or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

The scriptures are overflowing with covenant promises to you and I and we can trust them because over the centuries the LORD had proved Himself faithful to His Name and True to His Word - to the Prophets, the great company of characters in the Hebrew Scriptures, the Disciples, the Lord Jesus Christ and to you and I over the space of our lives to date.

Why would we doubt?

Our Bibles end with the final words of Jesus Yes (Emunah) I am coming soon

Amen Come Lord Jesus!