

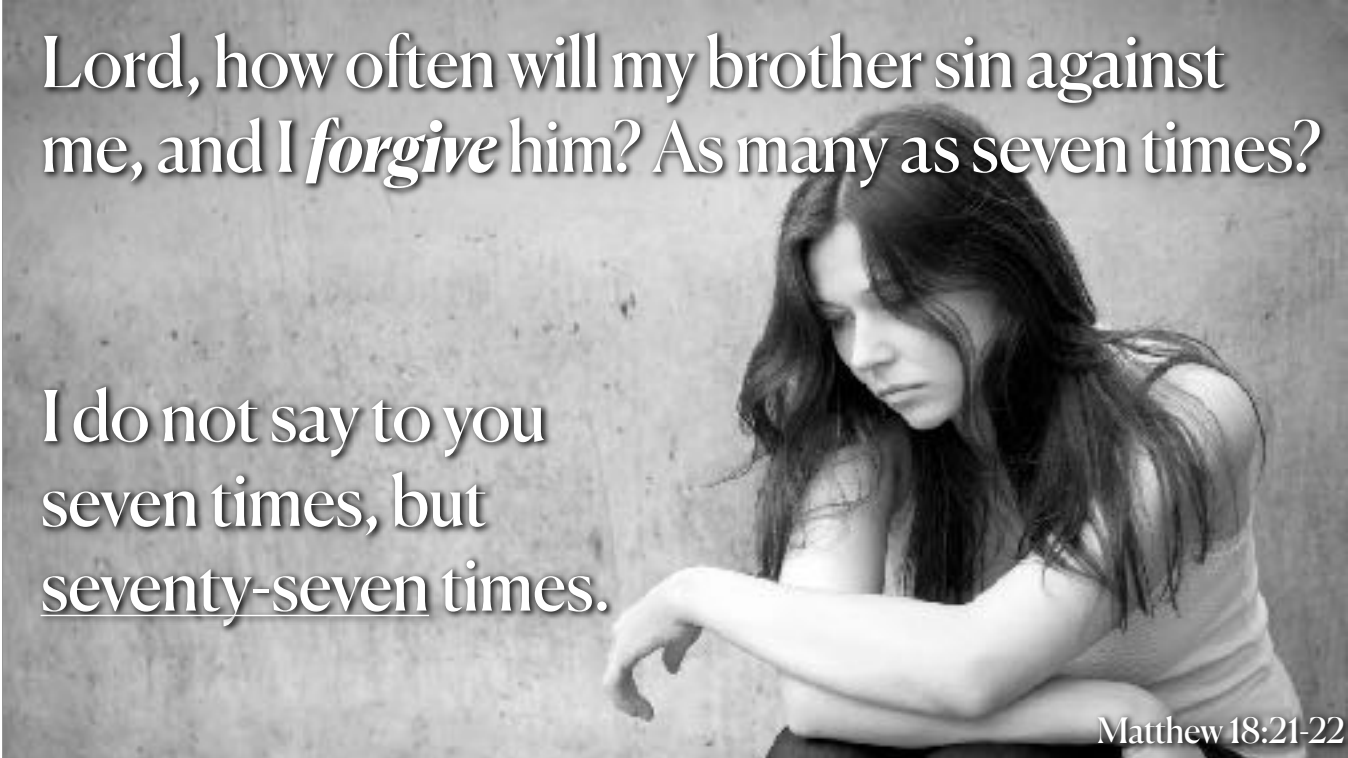


- Forgive and ...
  - most common answer is “forget.”
  - Is this Biblical? (Yes-ish)
    - And be patient with me.

Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I *forgive* him? As many as seven times?



- Matthew 18:21-22 (ESV) 21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.
- I forgive you. I forgive you. I forgive you. I forgive you. I forgive you. I forgive you. I forgive you.
- But what if there’s never change, or improvement.
- Such a situation would be stressful and agonizing for both parties!



Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I *forgive* him? As many as seven times?

I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:21-22

- 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.
- Jesus challenges Peter’s concept of what forgiveness is about
  - And we need that challenge also
  - We speak of it too casually.



- Every one says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive, as we had during the war. (Lewis, C. S. Mere Christianity (C.S. Lewis Signature Classics) (p. 115). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.)
- Is forgiveness hard or easy?
  - Depends on what has happened.
    - If someone bumps into me hard enough that I fall and skin my knee?
    - If someone steals from me?
    - If someone kills someone I love dearly?
  - Also it may depend on how close they are to me.
    - Sometimes it's easier to forgive a stranger than our spouse, or parents, or children.



- Forgiveness is about me.
  - Suzanne Somers: “Forgiveness is a gift you give yourself.” (Maya Angelou, Tony Robbins... )
  - Is this Biblical? God’s wisdom or man’s wisdom?
- Forgiveness is for your health and well being. Since research shows that holding onto anger is toxic for your health and well being, and since no one wants to be around those who are chronically angry, bitter, resentful, and unforgiving, then forgiveness is something that you do for you. It is in your best interest to forgive others for their transgressions, not necessarily theirs. You are not engaging in forgiveness to do them a favor, but to do one for yourself.
  - <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/do-the-right-thing/201403/7-rules-forgiveness>
- I hear Christians quoting this all the time...
  - When God forgives me, is He doing it for himself???
    - Certainly not in this sense.
    - But he is trying to restore our relationship with him.



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- Flogging Molly: Man with No Country: "The art of forgiveness is not what we are taught." (David R. King and Bridget A. Regan)
- Today, let's challenge ourselves by looking at Jehovah's forgiveness.



# Therefore the kingdom of heaven

Matthew 18:23-27

- Matthew 18:23-27 (ESV) 23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared ...
- Kingdom of heaven...
  - This is about reality
  - How we are to live and to act and to think

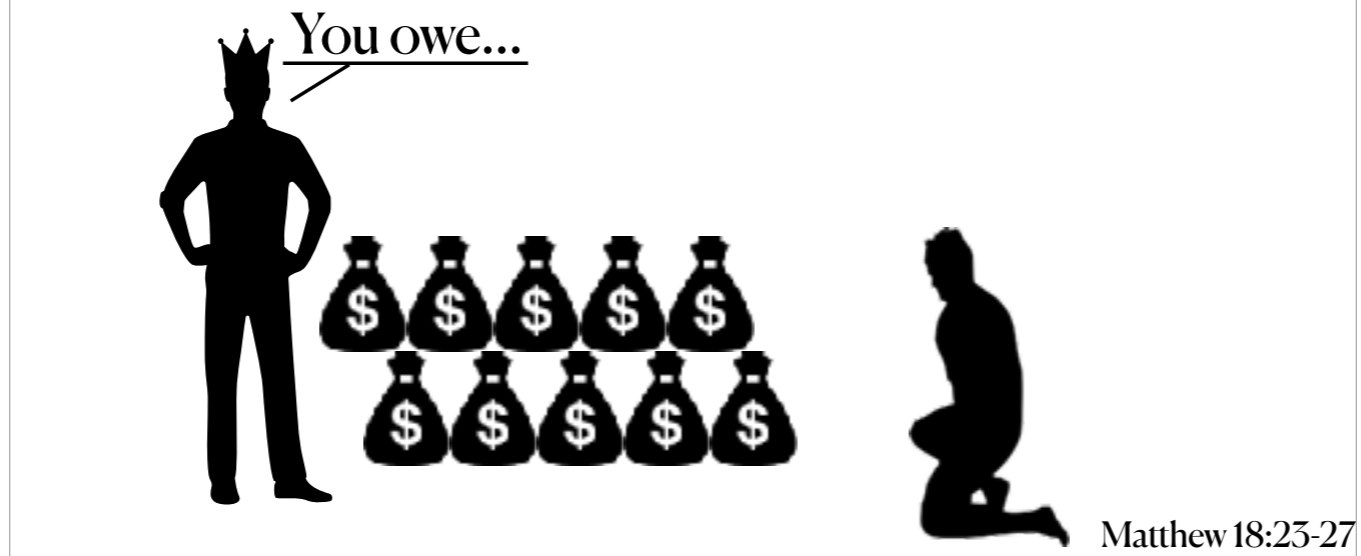
## A king who wished to settle accounts with his servants



Matthew 18:23-27

- Matthew 18:23-27 (ESV) 23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

## A king who wished to settle accounts with his servants



- 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.
- 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.

A king who wished to settle accounts with his servants



You owe...

Have patience  
with me, and I  
will pay you  
everything.

Matthew 18:23-27

- 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

A king who wished to settle accounts with his servants

pity

You owe...



Have patience  
with me, and I  
will pay you  
everything.

Matthew 18:23-27

- 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt

A king who wished to settle accounts with his servants

pity

released & forgiven



Have patience  
with me, and I  
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Matthew 18:23-27

- 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

A king who wished to settle accounts with his servants

pity

released & forgiven



Have patience  
with me, and I  
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everything.



Matthew 18:23-27

- Should it have changed this man's life that all his debt was forgiven?
- Joy! Elation!
- Burden is gone. Guilt is gone. Fear is gone.

A king who wished to settle accounts with his servants



released & forgiven

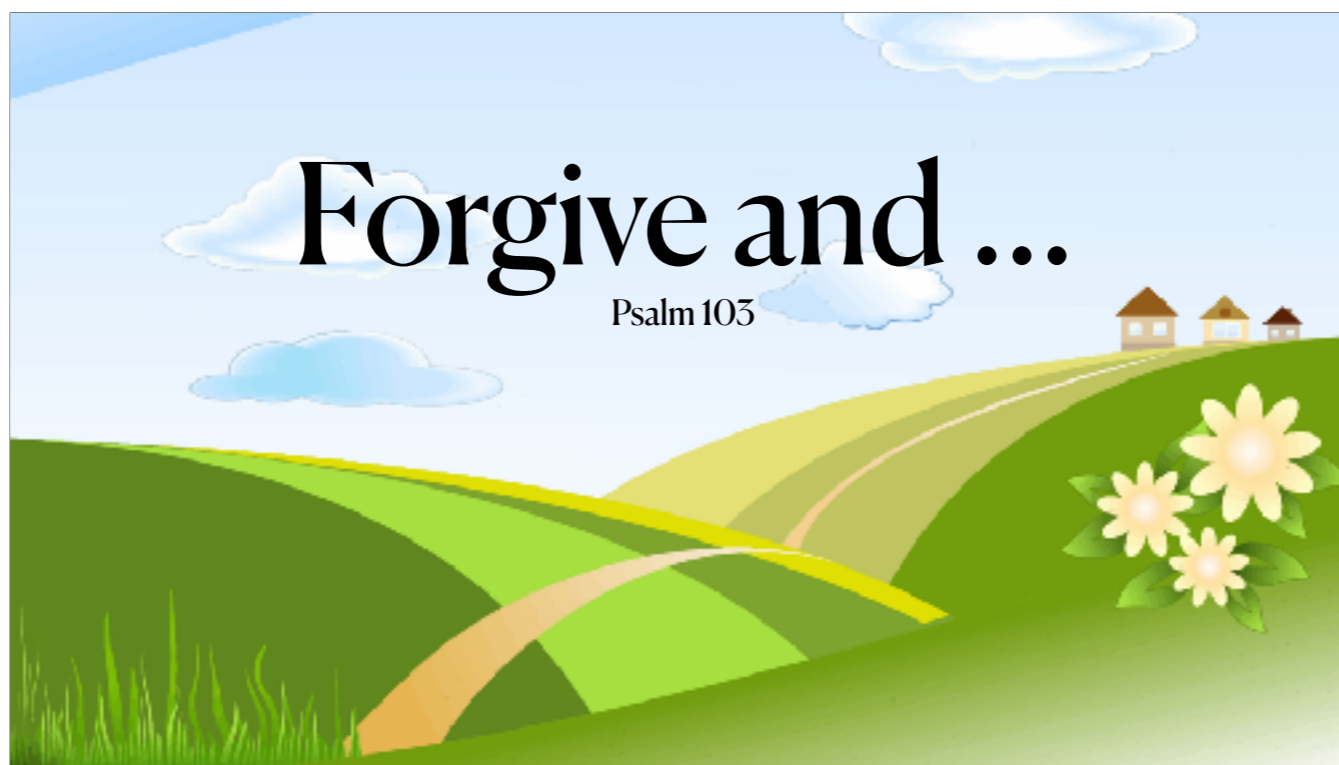


Have patience  
with me, and I  
will pay you  
everything.

Matthew 18:23-27

- What does it mean that the king forgave his servant?





• Psalm 103



- Psalms 103:1-2 (ESV) 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
- Benefits (dealings, doings)
  - (CWSB Dictionary) God's good deeds amount to benefits received from Him (Ps. 103:2).



• Our Condition:

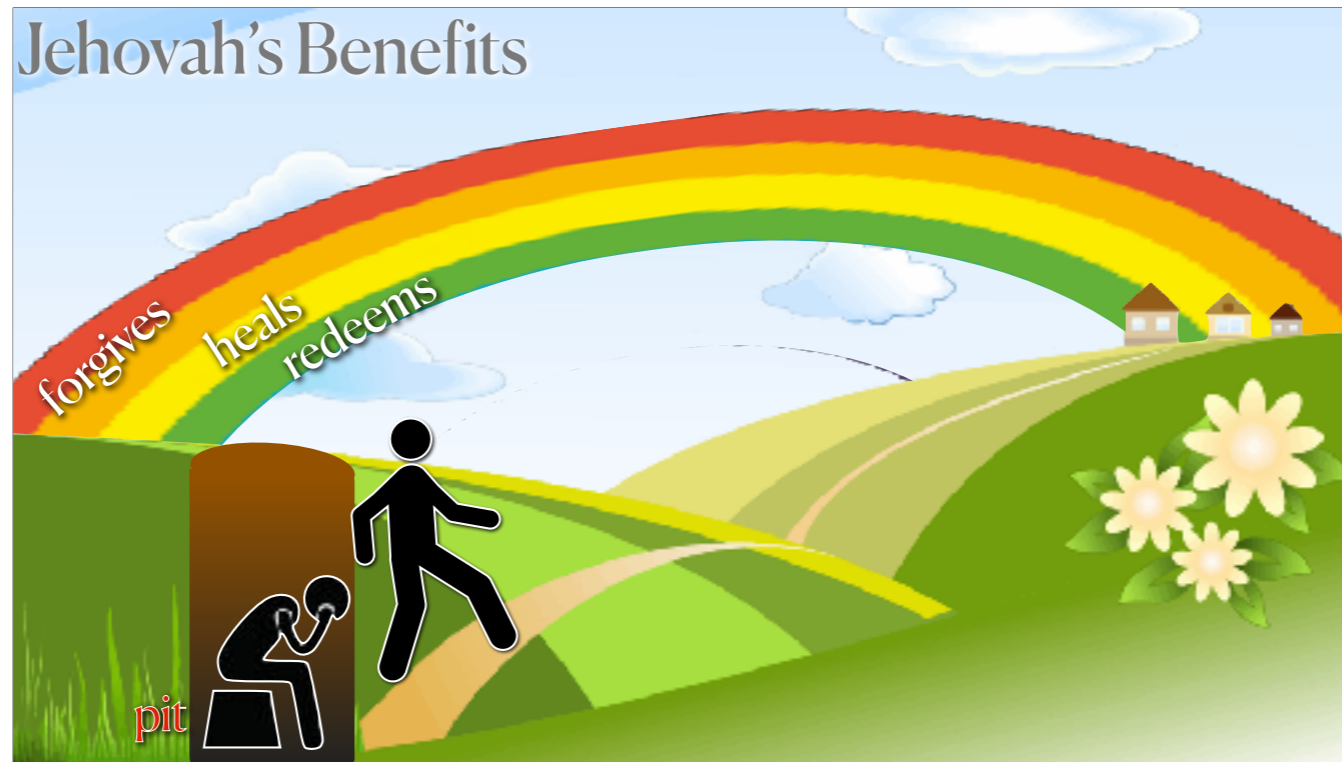
- 3) iniquity
- 3) diseases
- 4) life in the pit (death)
- 10) sins & iniquities
- 12) transgressions
- 14) we are dust
- 15) days like grass



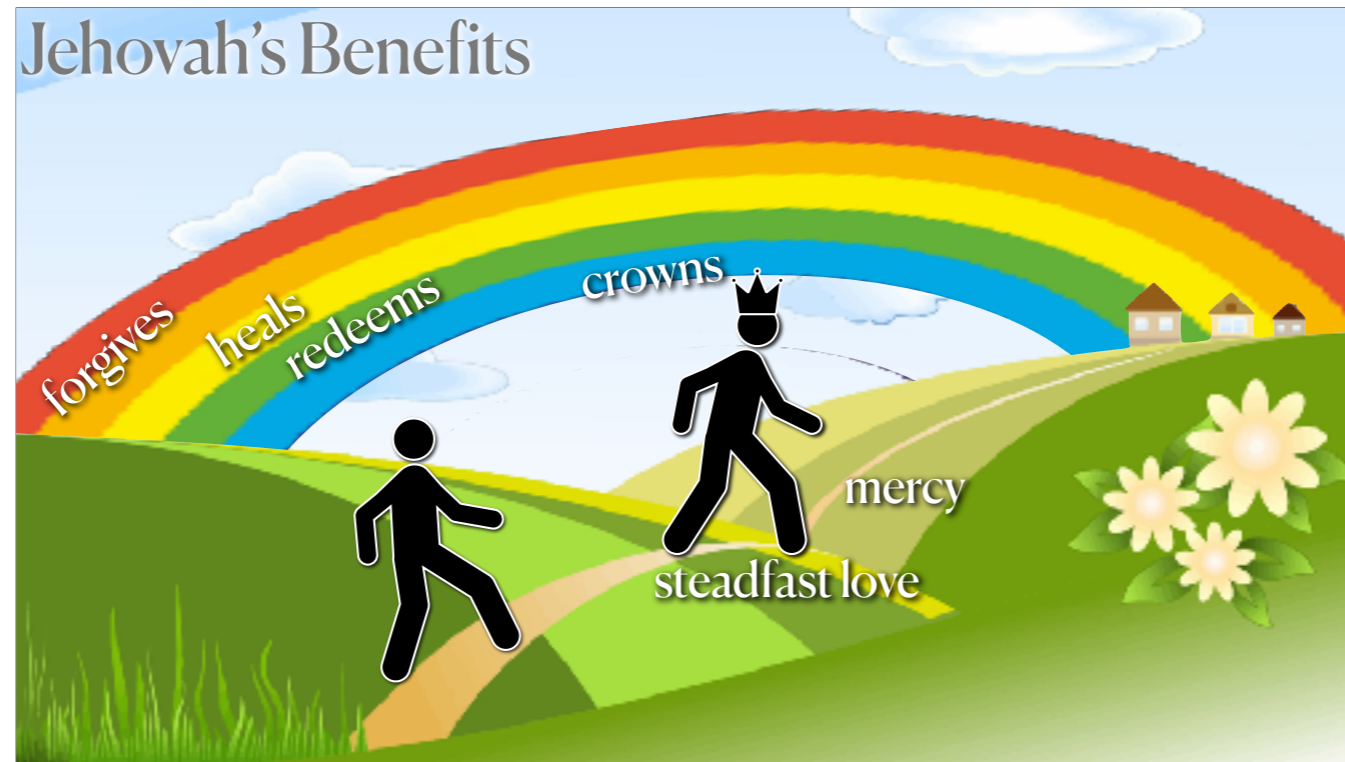
- Who forgives ALL your iniquities
  - Psalms 103:12 (ESV) 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- God doesn't stop at forgiveness though
  - This is just the beginning of what our Father does for us.
  - God doesn't just leave us where we are, but provides a way to go home, restore our broken relationship with Him.



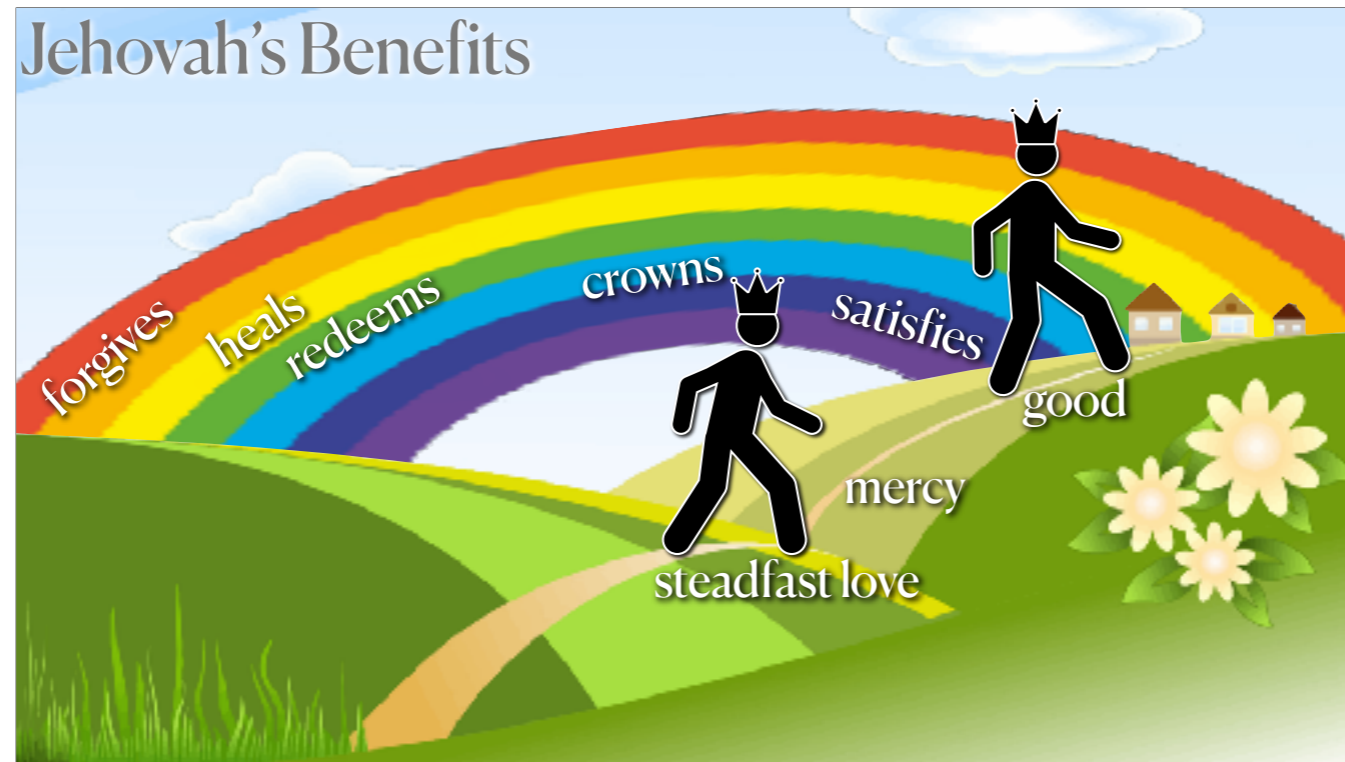
- 3) Heals ALL your diseases
  - We all know that sin is like a sickness: changes our minds and view of the world
  - It weakens us so that we cannot be who He would have us to be.
  - God knows that deep down we are not who and what we should be: not healthy, not whole
  - Compassion to help us when we have chosen to be so different than what He intended and planned.



- 4) Redeems your life from the pit
  - Redeems
    - (TWOT) Finally, there is the very common usage prominent in the Psalms and prophets that God is Israel's Redeemer who will **stand up for his people and vindicate them**. There may be a hint of the Father's near kinship or ownership in the use of this word.
  - We are in danger of death, unworthy of being brought back.
  - Hopeless and unable to save ourselves
  - He brings us out of the darkness and into His light.

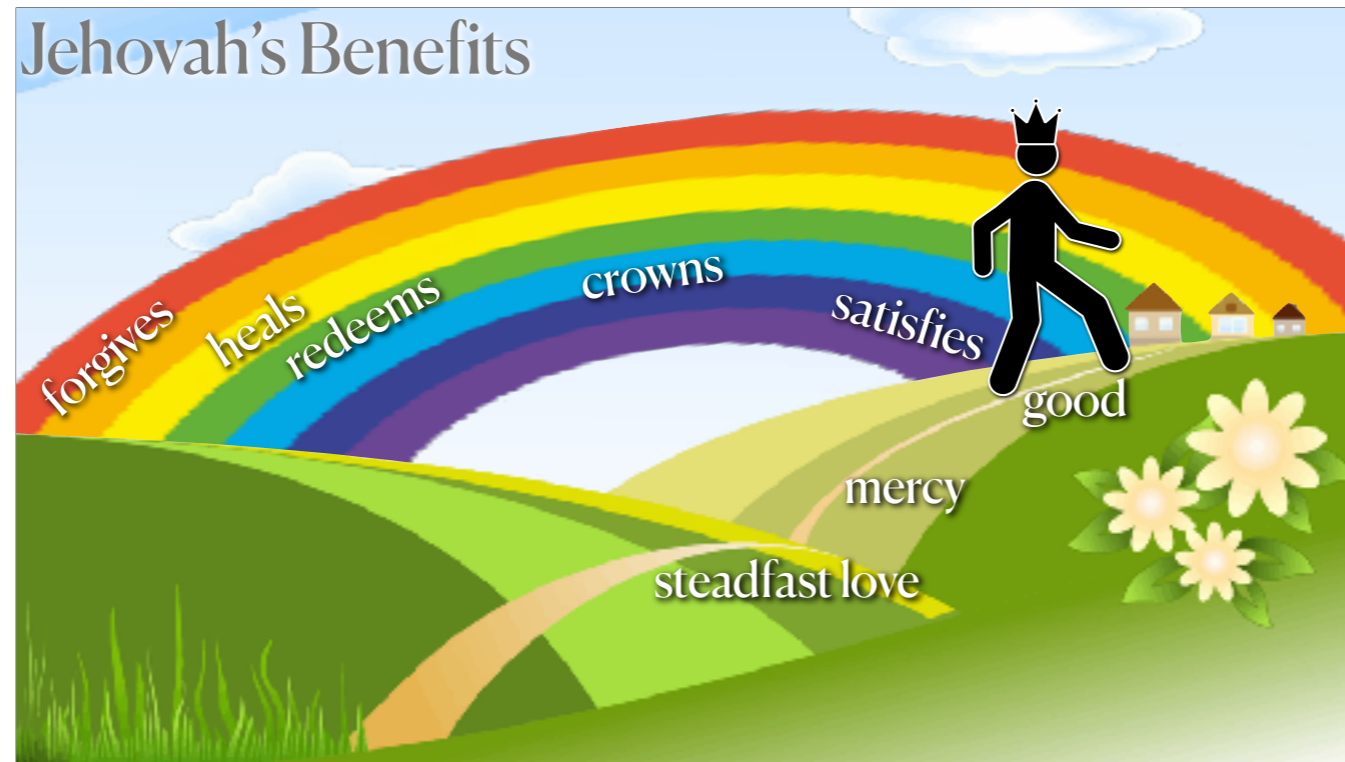


- 4) crowns you with steadfast love and mercy
  - crown or surround
  - steadfast love: covenant love
  - mercy: compassion & action to restore to what we should be
  - Father works to restore our relationship fully
  - He does not begrudge what He is doing for us



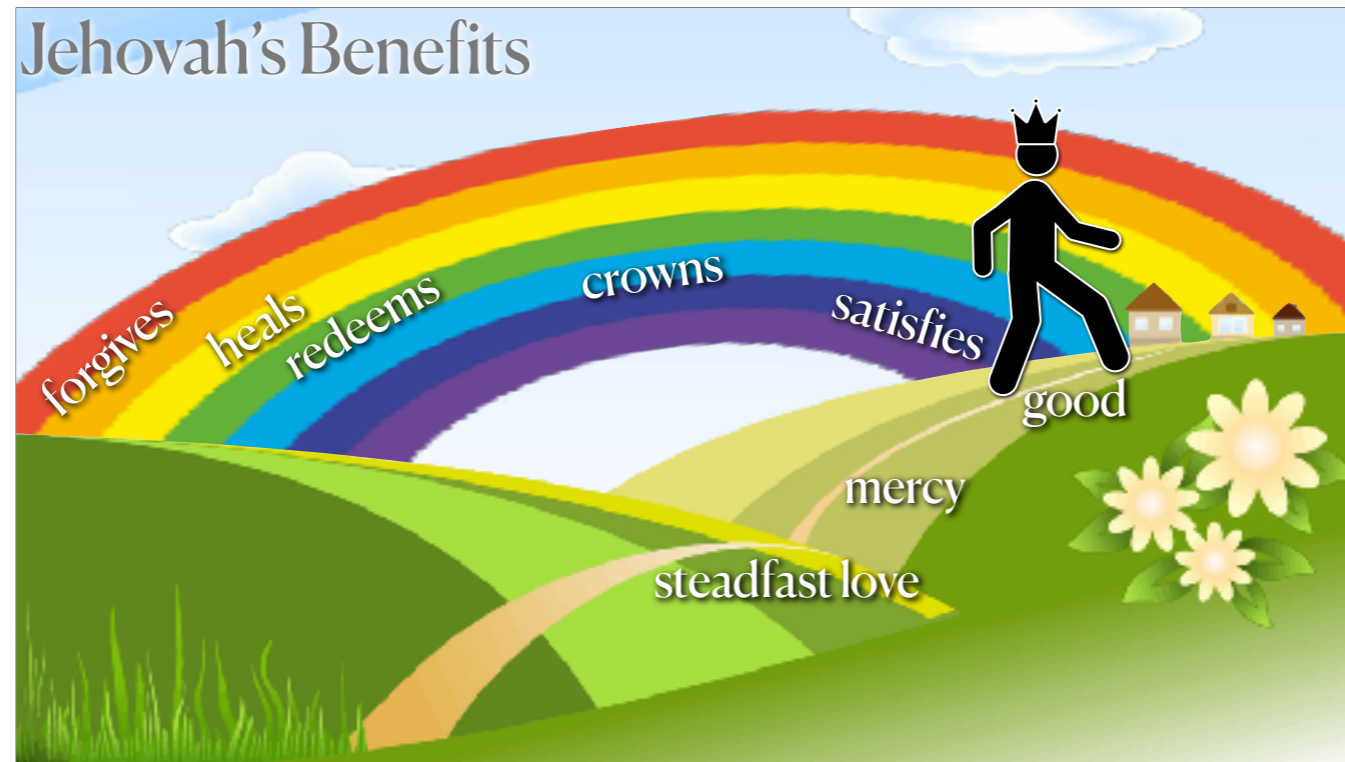
- 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
  - satisfied: filled, satiated, need nothing more
    - Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
    - Psalms 23:5 (ESV) 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.



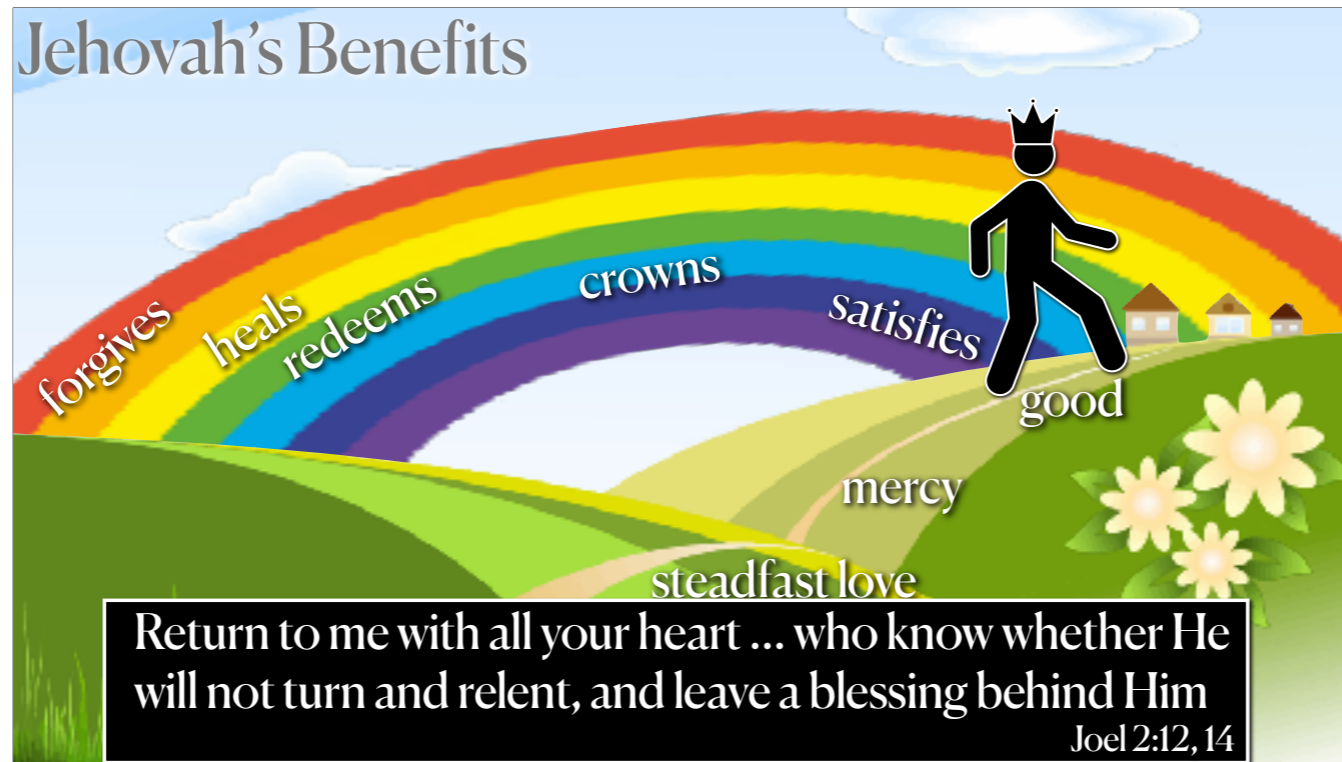


- good:

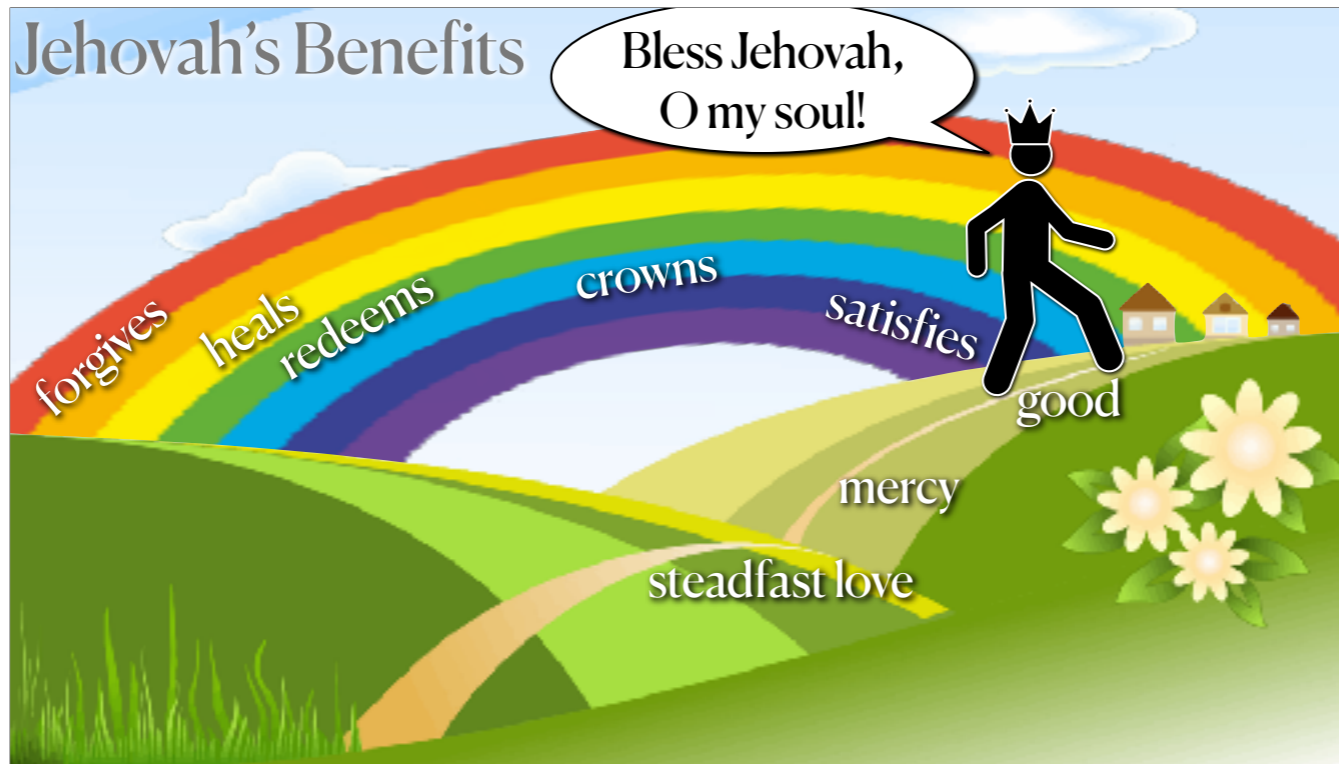
- Psalms 23:2-3 (ESV) 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- Psalms 23:6 (ESV) 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



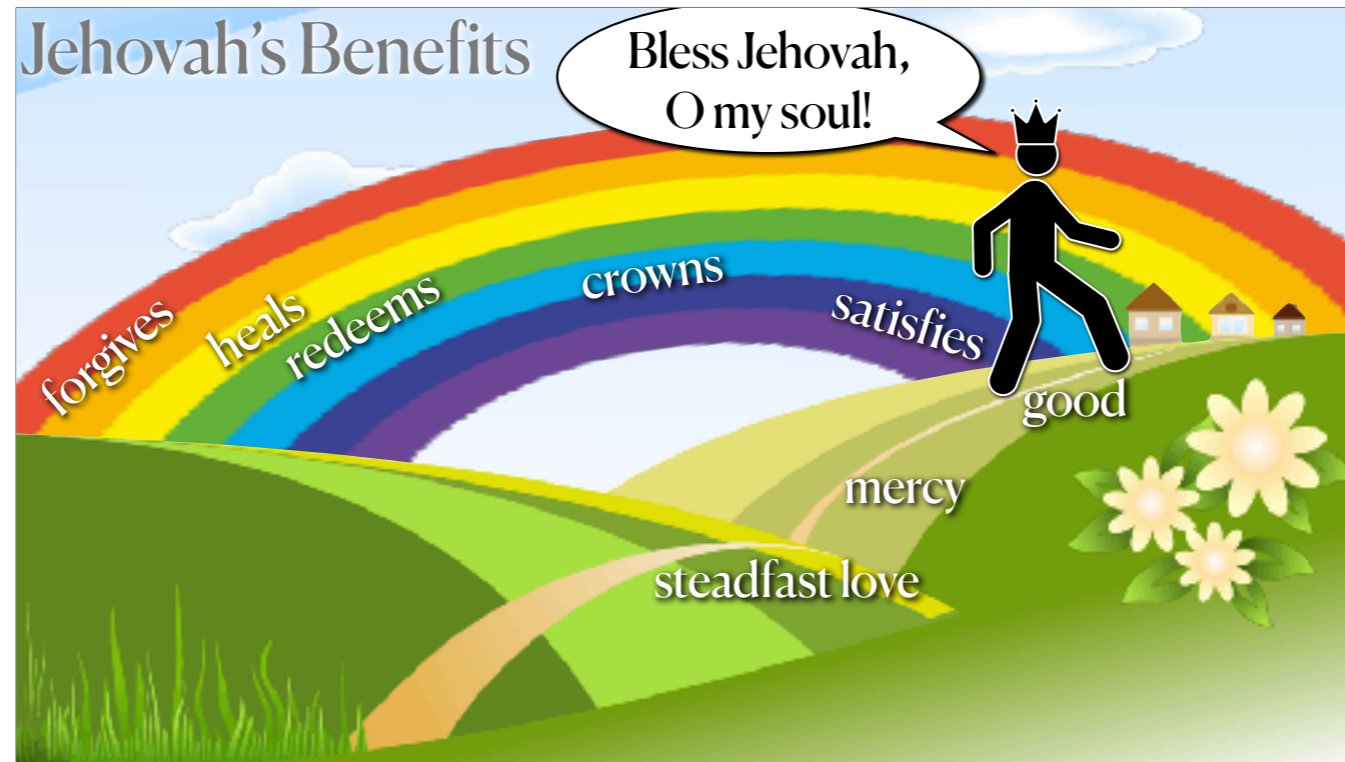
- Prodigal son who returns (Luke 15)
  - Asks to a servant
  - Restored as a son: robe, ring, and sandals
  - Feast, Celebrate, Joy
- Youth renewed like Eagles'



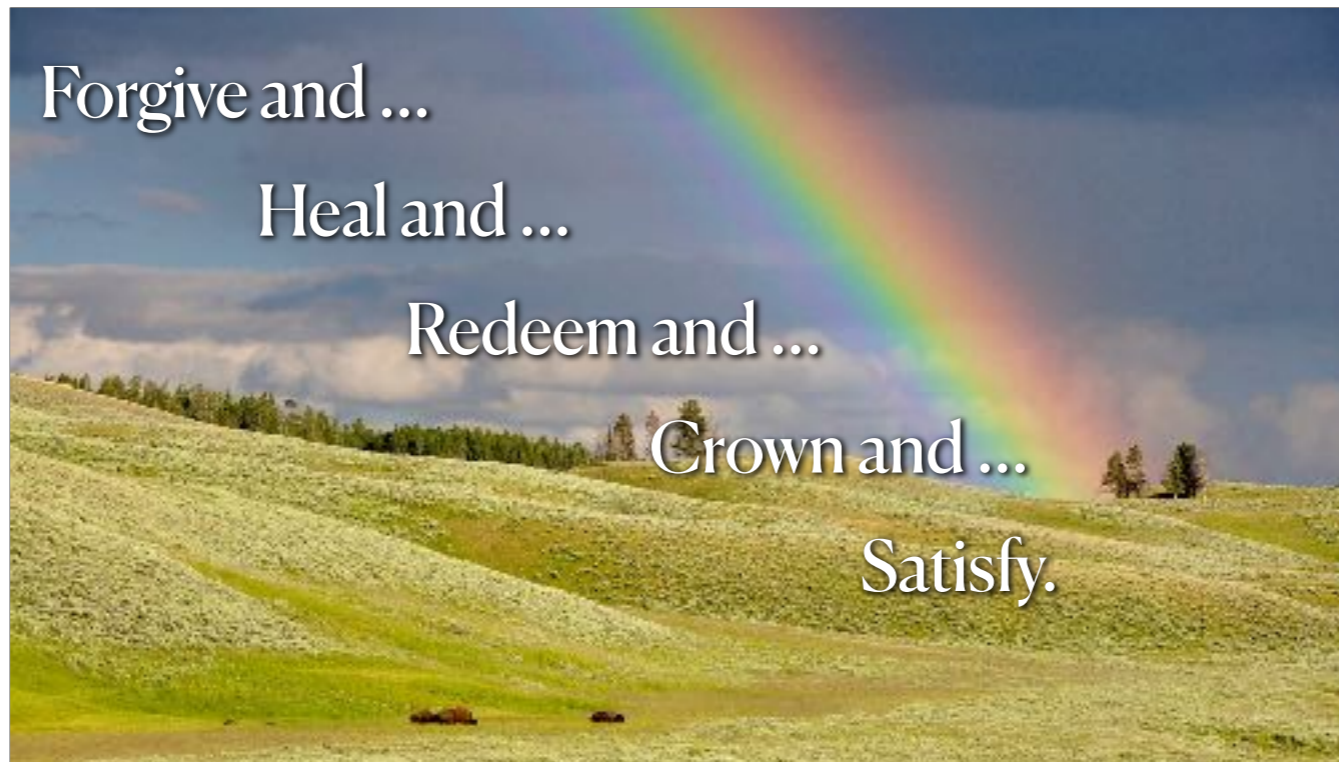
- This is how our God works for us and always has with his people.
- Joel 2:12-14 (ESV) 12 “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.14 **Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him**, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?



- It's so wonderful that our response must be to bless God, praise God with all that is within me.



- Forgiveness is only the beginning of a process to restore a broken relationship.
  - If we only forgive, what hope do we provide for the one we forgive?
  - Like Peter, counting times we've forgiven... but no real change happens.
- God goes beyond forgiveness and provides us with a way to be reconciled with Him.
  - This is what forgiveness is about.
  - This kind of forgiveness is POWERFUL!
- Our Father is in the business of forgiveness.
  - He is not just about being angry with us and punishing our sins
  - Since that is true, shouldn't we be in the business of forgiving others?



- Forgive and ...
  - forget (the sin)
  - But work for the sinner!
    - Don't forget the person
    - Don't write them off
    - Don't be exasperated or irritated by them.
  - Heal, Redeem, Crown, and Satisfy
- Forgiveness is hard ... because it's only the beginning.
- Forgiveness is not about me at all,
  - but about the one who has wronged me.
  - What can I do to bring reconciliation?
- Does God smile when He forgives me?

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

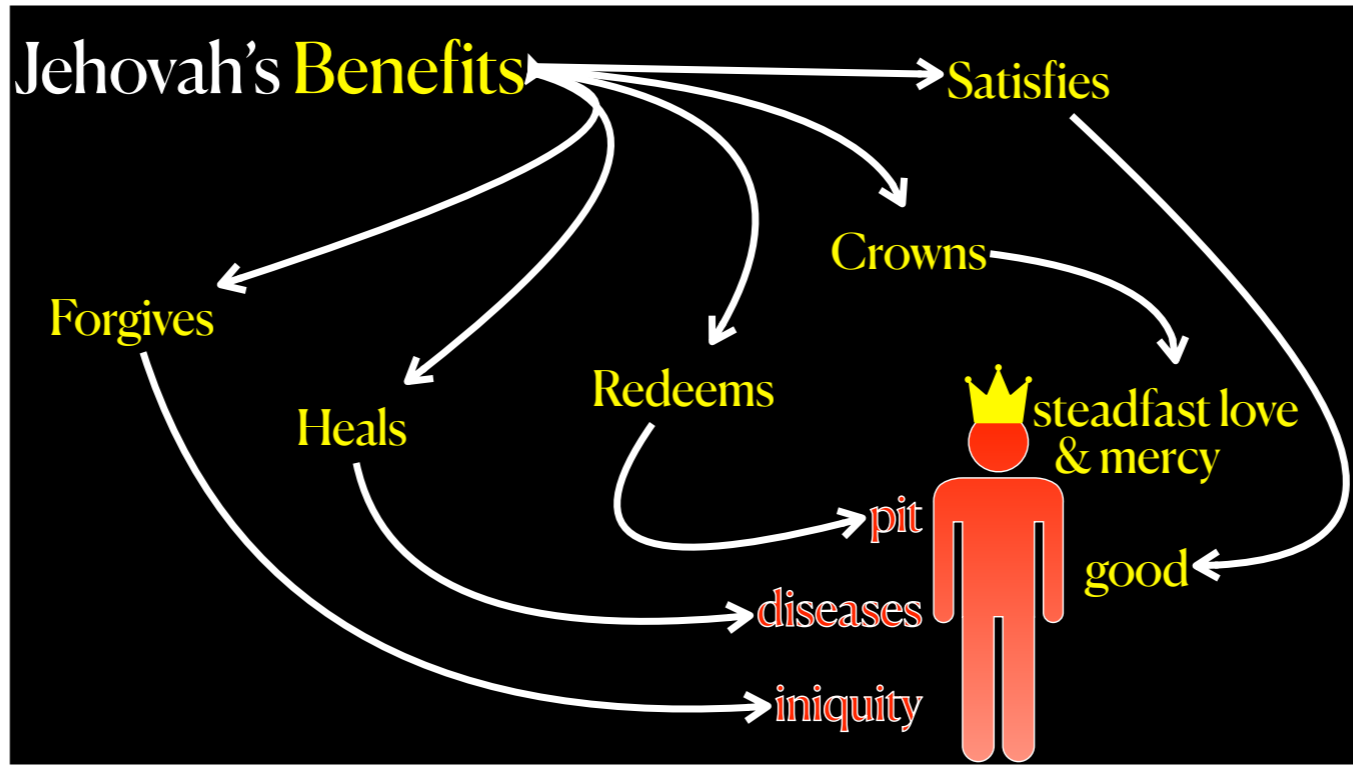
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# Jehovah's Benefits



## Forgive And...

Matthew 18:23-27 and Psalm 103:2-5

Synopsis: In this lesson we'll discuss why forgiveness goes beyond just forgiving by looking at what our Father does to restore us to a whole relationship with Him. He not only forgives, but heals, redeems, crowns and satisfies.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**