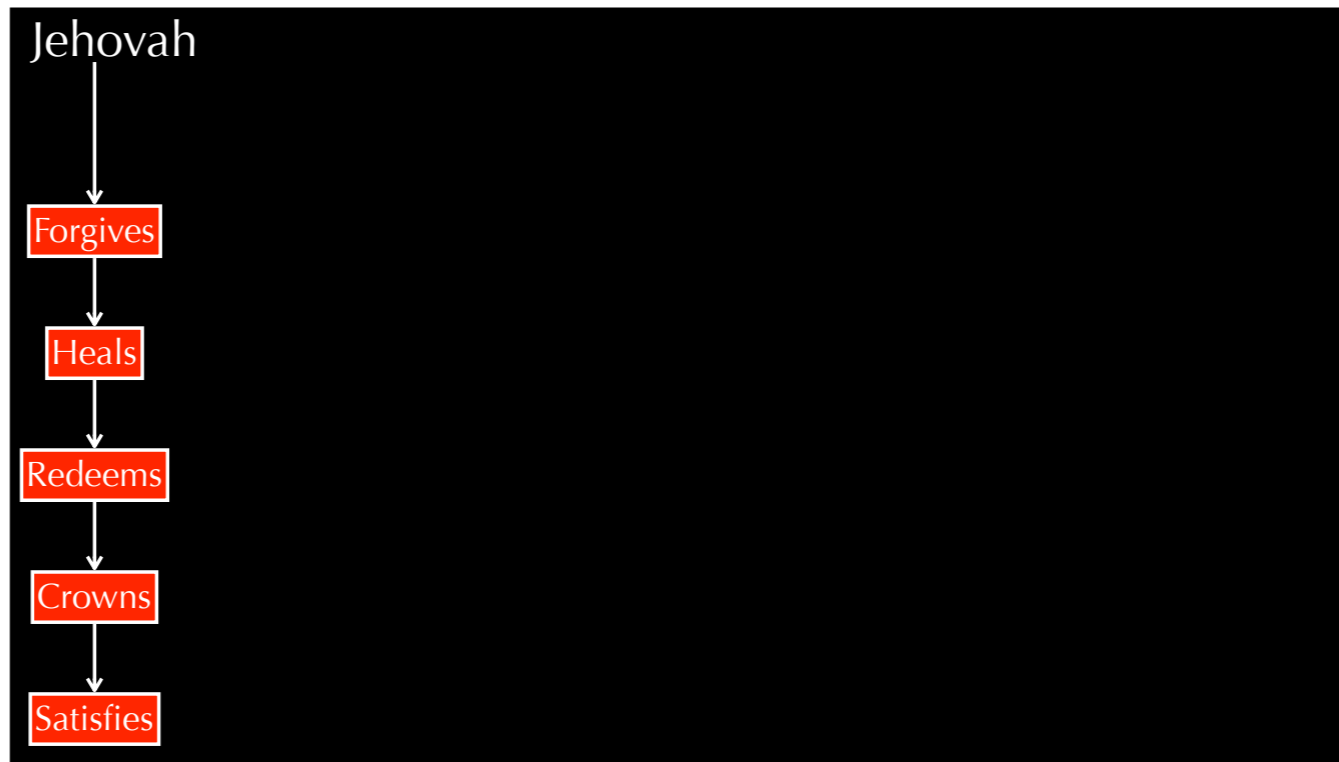




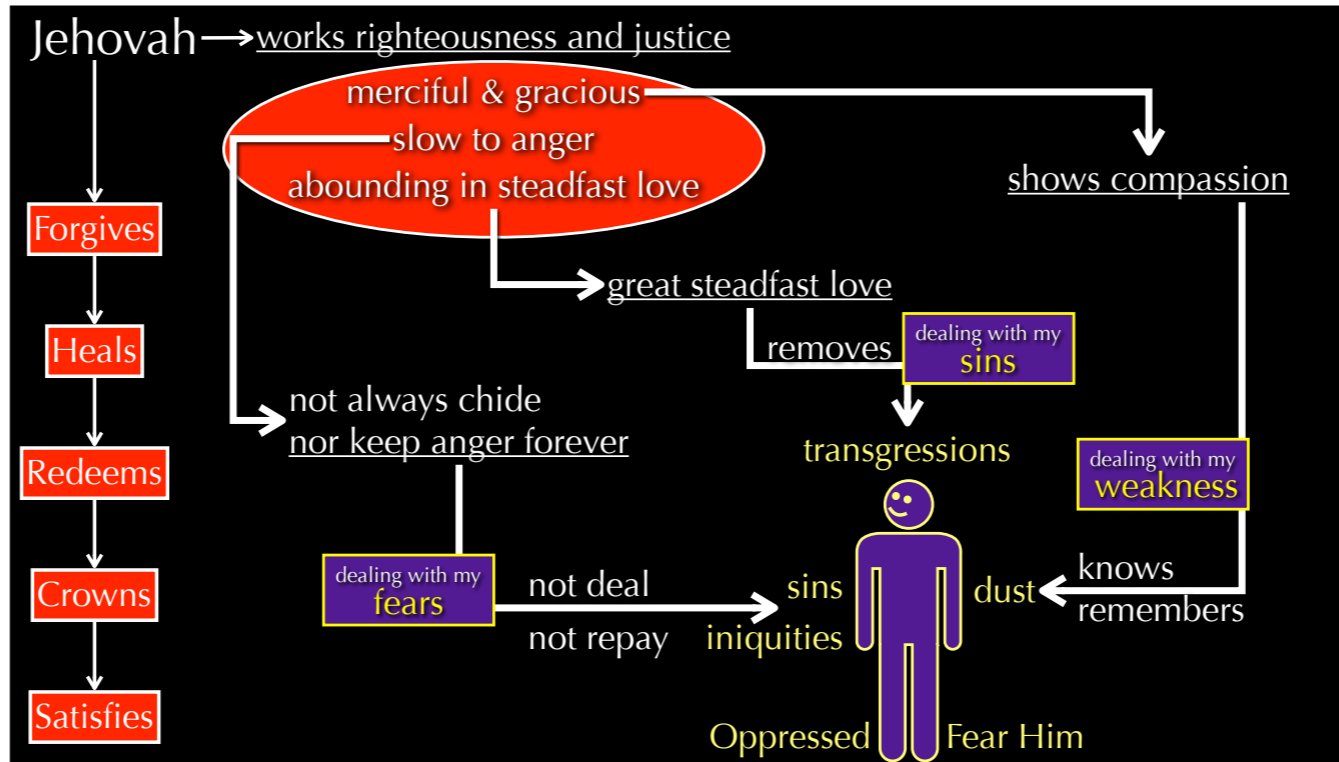
- Psalm 103



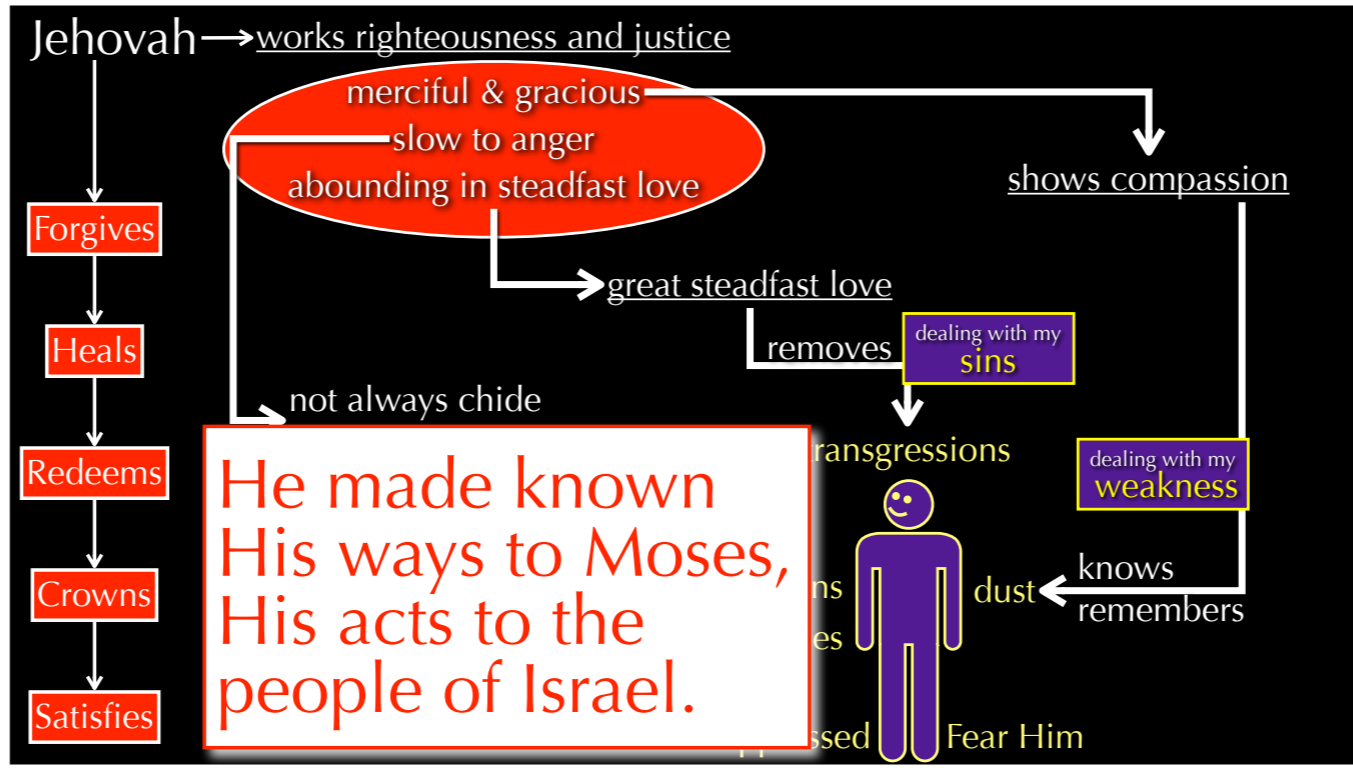
- Jehovah's Benefits: forgives, heals, redeems, crowns, satisfies
- Restoration of relationship
- God's forgiveness is just the beginning!



- Psalms 103:6: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.



- Based in His own Character: merciful and gracious; slow to anger; abounding in steadfast love.
- And his understanding of each of us: he knows my fears, my sins, and my weaknesses



- Psalms 103:7: He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.
- Importance of studying the OT.
  - They are there for our learning.
- Psalm 78

◆ Glorious deeds of Jehovah ◆ His might ◆ Wonders that He has done ◆ Testimony & Law

Psalm 78

- This is a study in contrasts: pay attention to transitions: “yet” and “but”
- Dark sayings (v. 2): forgiveness is about dark times and difficult circumstances.
  - Not just Israel’s sins
  - But often Jehovah’s anger
- Psalms 78:4-5 (ESV) 4 We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. 5 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,

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→ set their HOPE in God → NOT FORGET the works of God → KEEP His commandments

- Psalms 78:7-8 (ESV) 7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments; 8 and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.
- Hope in God
  - trust during difficult times; confidence
- Not Forget the works of God
  - thinking deeply about how God works even when circumstances are difficult
- Keep His commandments
  - because we clearly see God's care for us, we understand that his commandments are for our benefit, so it is wise to listen to Him and obey Him.

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- Asaph turns our attention to the history of God bringing his people out Egypt.
- Most of us have a general idea about this time in history, but the Psalm focus' our attention not just on events but on the relationship of Israel with Jehovah.



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→ did not keep God's commandments  
→ refused to walk according to His Law  
→ forgot His works and wonders

- Psalms 78:10-11 (ESV) 10 They did not keep God's covenant, **but** refused to walk according to his law. 11 They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them.
- Amazing how quickly the Israelites turned away from God and failed to trust him in times of need.

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- Psalms 78:12-16 (ESV) 12 In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan. 13 He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap. 14 In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light. 15 He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. 16 He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.
- He saved them from the Egyptian army and led them through desert providing plenty of water.
  - Amazing!

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- Psalms 78:17-22 (ESV) 17 **Yet** they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert. 18 They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved. 19 They spoke against God, saying, “Can God spread a table in the wilderness? 20 He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?” 21 Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel, 22 because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power.

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- sinned still more against Him → rebelling
- tested God → demanding → spoke against God
- did not believe in God
- did not trust His saving power

- Gave them water in abundance, but they rebelled and questioned God when they wanted food.
  - How does this happen?
  - How forget so quickly?
- Deeper problem: didn't believe in God or trust Him
  - God's response is anger (understandable)

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- Psalms 78:23-29 (ESV) 23 **Yet** he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven, 24 and he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven. 25 Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance. 26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind; 27 he rained meat on them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas; 28 he let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings. 29 And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.

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• YET

- Here's the lesson in forgiveness.
  - They rebelled and didn't believe in Him
  - He was angry
- He provided for them anyway.

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- Psalms 78:29-31 (ESV) 29 And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved. 30 **But** before they had satisfied their craving, while the food was still in their mouths, 31 the anger of God rose against them, and he killed the strongest of them and laid low the young men of Israel.
- Why did God become angry after feeding them? Why kill them?
  - They weren't thankful.
  - They continued in their disbelief.

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**Jehovah**

- ◆ opened doors of heaven
- ◆ rained down manna to eat
- ◆ sent them food in abundance
- ◆ rained meat
- ◆ they ate and were well feed
- ◆ anger
- ◆ killed & laid low

**Israel**

- sinned still more against Him → rebelling
- tested God → demanding → spoke against God
- did not believe in God
- did not trust His saving power
- still sinned
- did not believe
- sought Him
- repented
- remembered

- Psalms 78:34-35 (ESV) 34 When he killed them, they sought him; they repented and sought God earnestly. 35 They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer.
- They didn't remember God and really seek God until he punished their disbelief.
  - It took something drastic for them to see God's care, being so blinded by their own desires.



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- Psalms 78:36-37 (ESV) 36 **But** they flattered him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues. 37 Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not faithful to his covenant.
- They begin paying lip service to God, their hypocrisy was clearly seen.
  - Claiming belief, they were unfaithful.

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• Psalms 78:38-39 (ESV) 38 **Yet** he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath. 39 He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and comes not again.

• **YET**

- God knew what the people were doing, he knew their hearts.
- God was compassionate
  - Sin forgiven
  - Restrained his anger **often**; didn't stir all His wrath
- God remember that we are flesh (man, not deity)
  - This is what we saw in Psalm 103: God's compassion!

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- How often they rebelled against Him
- grieved Him
- tested God again and again
- provoked
- not remember

- Psalms 78:40-43 (ESV) 40 **How often** they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the desert! 41 They tested God **again and again** and provoked the Holy One of Israel. 42 They did not remember his power or the day when he redeemed them from the foe, 43 when he performed his signs in Egypt and his marvels in the fields of Zoan.
- How often ... again and again ...

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- 44-51: reminds us of the plagues/judgments on Egypt
- Did not remember
  - How does one forget such amazing display of power and redemption?
  - Complacency, thinking only in the moment.
    - What have you done for me lately?

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- Psalms 78:52-55 (ESV) 52 Then he led out his people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. 53 He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. 54 And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won. 55 He drove out nations before them; he apportioned them for a possession and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.
- This is a very short summary of > 40 years of God's leadership of Israel and providing them the land he promised.
  - What were they doing during this time?

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**Jehovah**

- ◆ He led out His people like sheep
- ◆ He guided them in the wilderness
- ◆ He led them to safety
- ◆ He brought them to His Holy land
- ◆ He drove out nations
- ◆ He apportioned and settled them

**Israel**

- tested and rebelled against the Most High God
- did not keep His testimonies
- turned away and acted treacherously
- twisted
- provoked Him to anger
- moved Him to jealousy with idols

- Psalms 78:56-58 (ESV) 56 **Yet** they tested and rebelled against the Most High God and did not keep his testimonies, 57 but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers; they twisted like a deceitful bow. 58 For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols.
- How did Israel respond to all that God did for them?
  - Testing and rebellion
  - Idolatry

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- Psalms 78:59-64 (ESV) 59 When God heard, he was full of wrath, and he utterly rejected Israel. 60 He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where he dwelt among mankind, 61 and delivered his power to captivity, his glory to the hand of the foe. 62 He gave his people over to the sword and vented his wrath on his heritage. 63 Fire devoured their young men, and their young women had no marriage song. 64 Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation.



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- Talking about forgiveness?
  - Yes
- God's wrath ... understandable and justifiable.
  - Sin must be punished and dealt with by God.
  - Exodus 34:7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."



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- Psalms 78:65-72 **Then** the Lord awoke as from sleep, like a strong man shouting because of wine. 66 And he put his adversaries to rout; he put them to everlasting shame. 67 He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, 68 but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loves. 69 He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever. 70 He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; 71 from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance. 72 With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.

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- God's love and forgiveness might seem to be asleep when we are facing his wrath.
  - But this is our way of thinking of Him
- Ultimately, God chose David to fulfill his plan of salvation for all mankind:
  - Does this not look forward to our salvation in Jesus? Forgiveness of sins.

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- God did amazing things from the redemption in Egypt to bringing his people to the land of promise and all the way to Jesus.
  - How could they fail to hope in Him?
  - How could they fail to remember Him?
  - How could they fail to keep his commandments?

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forgives → heals → redeems → crowns → satisfies



- We must see that despite their many, oft repeated sins and failures, he still brought them to their land and provided from them richly.
  - This is one of the most amazing wonders of God!
    - In some ways, this is more moving to me than all the water, food, and physical things.
  - But consider the breadth of this forgiveness...
    - It wasn't just one person sinning, rebelling, testing: but millions!
    - It wasn't just one time: over and over, again and again.
    - It was for years and years and years.

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forgives → heals → redeems → crowns → satisfies



- This is why Peter's question about forgiving as many as 7 times is important.
  - Jesus forgives 77, or 490, or ... put a number in ... millions.
- Can you see Jehovah's forgiveness?
  - Be amazed.... Hope, Remember, and Keep His commandments

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

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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## Seeing Jehovah's Forgiveness

Psalm 103:7 and Psalm 78

Synopsis: In Psalm 103, we are pointed to the history of Israel to see Jehovah's forgiveness. In this lesson we turn to Psalm 78 to see that Jehovah's forgiveness is one of the most amazing wonders of all the things that he did for his people bringing them out of Egypt and caring for them as he brought them to the land of promise. This helps us to set our hope in God, remember his wonders, and keep his commandments.

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**