



• Matthew 9



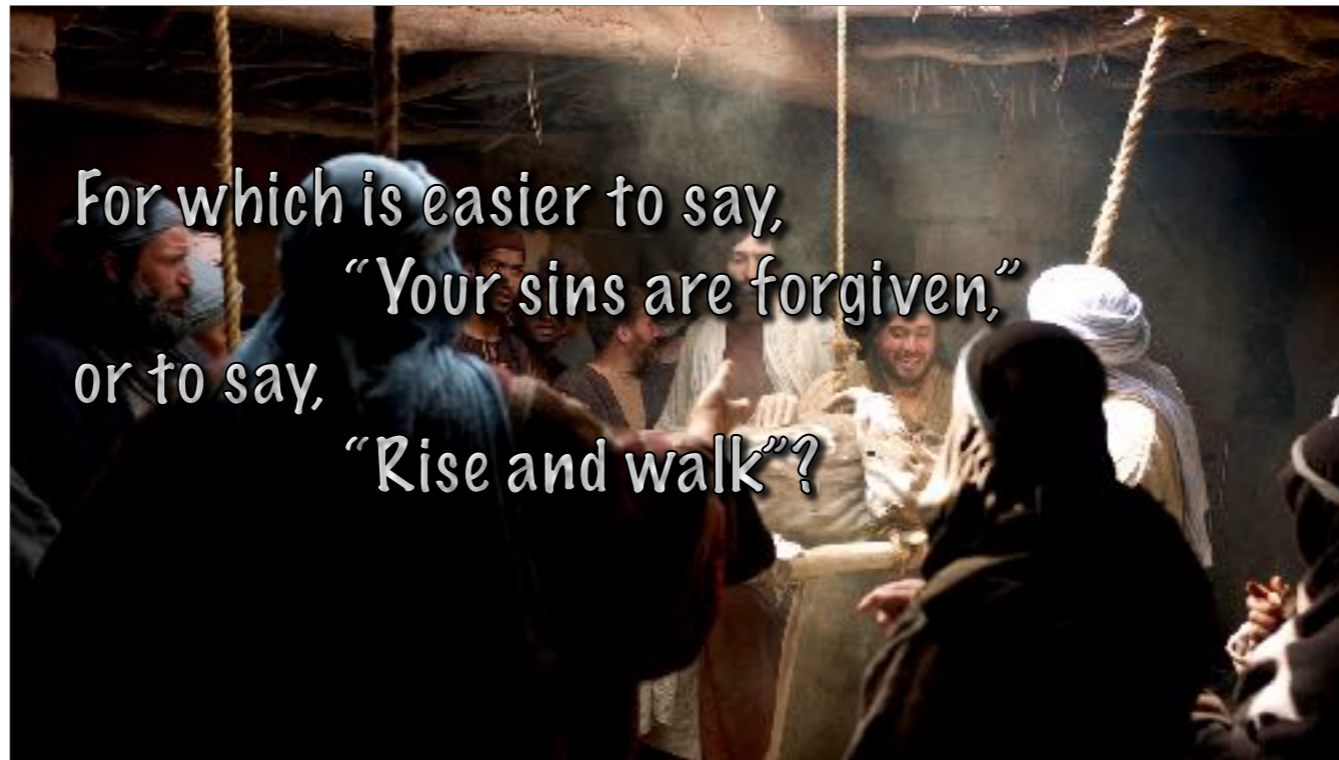
- Matthew 9:2 — And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.”
- Take heart is beautiful and touching to me:
 - there’s nothing like the compassion of our God in our most difficult times.
- My son: relationship, caring
- Forgiveness: most pressing problem is solved.



- Mark 2:6-7 (ESV) 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”
- They failed in part because they only saw Jesus as a man; nor did they consider other possibilities.
- They immediately accused Him of great sin.
- They didn’t consider to what was happening before them, because they couldn’t see.
 - A man does not have authority to forgive sin.
 - God does have authority to forgive sin.
 - Here we see Jesus’ compassion, relationship and authority to forgive.



- Matthew 9:4 — But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?”
- The baseless accusations, even unspoken, are evil.



- 5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'?
- Power and authority
 - One is clearly visible.
 - Who can make a man who is paralyzed walk again?
 - Doctors?
 - Only Jesus: instantly!
 - Implies the power/authority to do the other.



- 6 But that you may **know** that the Son of Man has **authority** on earth to forgive sins” —he then said to the paralytic—



- "Rise, pick up your bed and go home."
- This man was immediately able to rise and go home.
- Visible proof of Jesus' power, authority.
- Jesus' point is that just as it was clear that He had authority to heal this man, completely and immediately
- He had the authority to forgive his sins, completely and immediately.



- How do you know that you are forgiven?
- Psalm 103:
 - Benefits: forgives, heals, redeems, crowns, satisfies
 - God's character: merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love
 - Deals with our fears, our sins, and our frailty.
- Psalm 103:15-22



- Contrast between Jehovah and Man



- We've already seen his forgiveness beautifully made clear.
- Compassion
 - 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
 - 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.



- Further description of man's frailty ... or rather brevity
- Psalms 103:15-16 (ESV) 15 As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; 16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.
- Our time on this earth ... however long we are blessed ... is very short
 - After death, what happens?
 - vs. 4: the pit (like the grave, Sheol)



- Judgment
 - Hebrews 9:27-28 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.
- Does my time on this earth really matter?
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.
- But we realize how the Psalmist has described us: oppressed, iniquity, sins, transgressions, diseases.



- The Psalmist turns our attention back to Jehovah.
 - 17: But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,
- Steadfast love — leading to our forgiveness



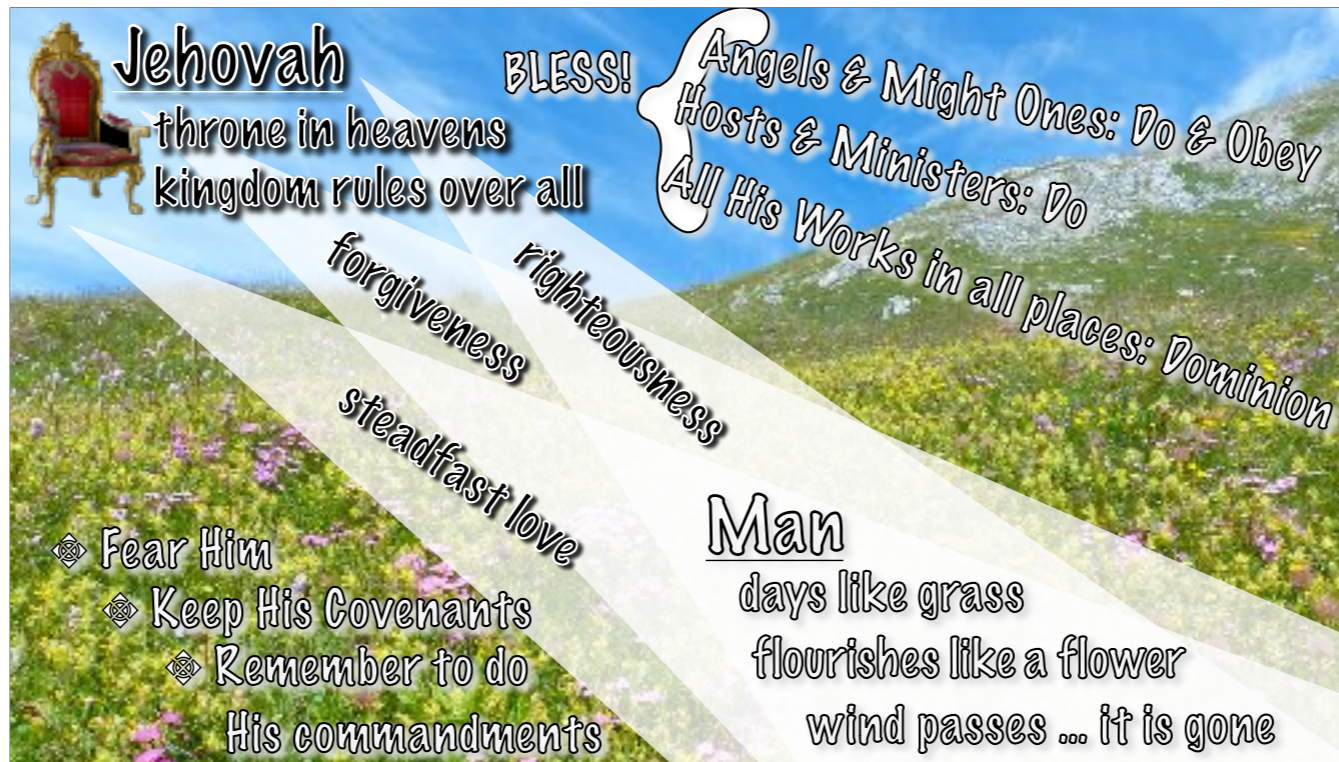
- 17: and his righteousness to children's children,
- righteousness — just and justifier: He always does what is right.
- Key thought here is not just about his character, though. That's been made clear.
 - Rather it's the timelessness of Him:
 - Everlasting to everlasting
 - children's children
 - You can depend on the character of God.
 - He is not capricious; erratic; arbitrary; volatile; unpredictable.
 - God is ALWAYS abounding in steadfast love and always righteous.



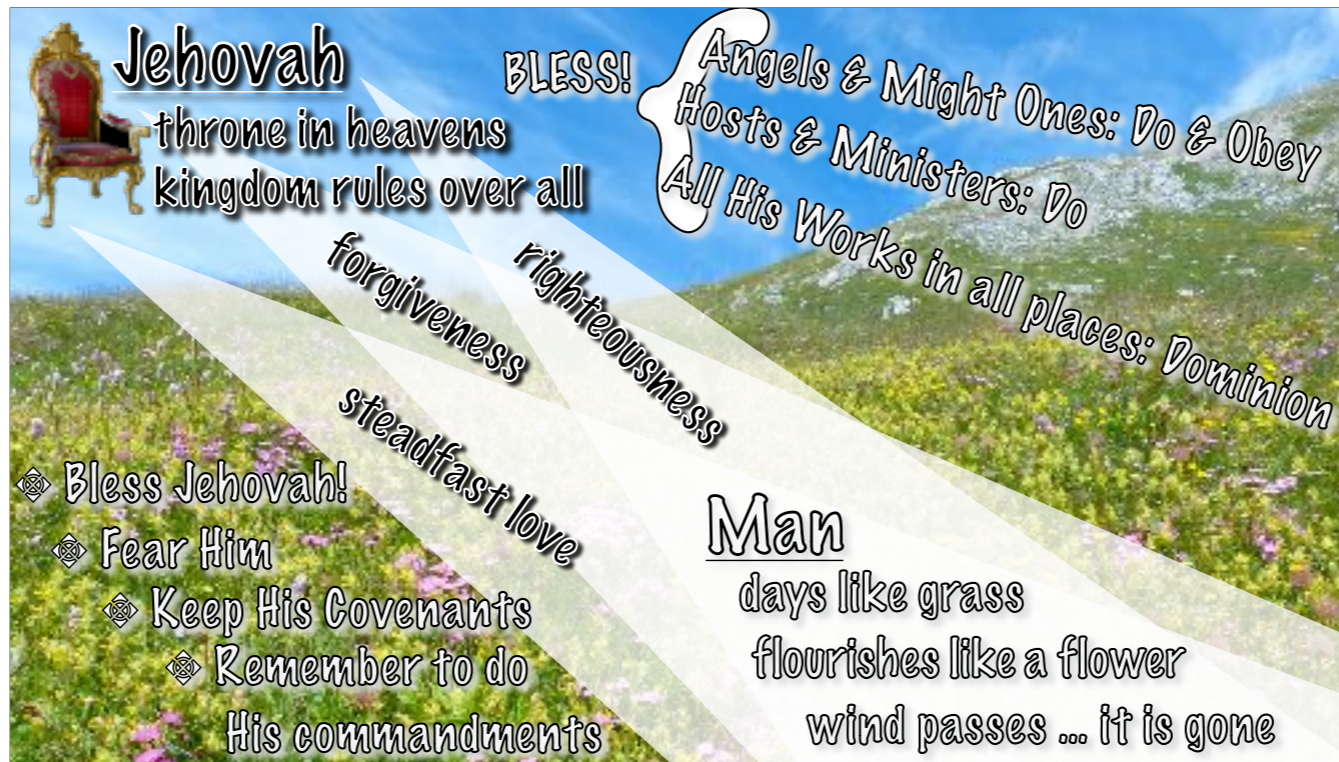
- What does God want from me, having forgiven my sins?
 - 17 But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who **fear him**, and his righteousness to children's children, 18 to those who **keep his covenant** and **remember to do his commandments**.



- The Authority of Jehovah
 - Psalms 103:19 (ESV) 19 The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.
 - Heaven and earth: over all
- He has the right and the power to forgive sins.
- The paralytic man and Jews came to understand this:
 - healing a paralyzed man is as easy as saying “Rise”
 - healing our sins is as easy as saying “Your sins are forgiven”
 - For God, not man of course.
 - He has power and authority.



- Finally, we are given a powerful example of our proper response to Jehovah's rule, love, and righteousness.
- Psalms 103:20-22 (ESV) 20 Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! 21 Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! 22 Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!
- All of God's creation obey's him and honors his dominion.
 - All also Bless him! They find great joy in obedience.



- 22 Bless the LORD, O my soul!
 - And so it must be true of me also.
 - I am forgiven.
 - All he asks of me, for this short time, is to fear him, keep covenant, and remember to obey.



- How do you know that you are forgiven?
 - It's not about you.
 - Though you flourish for a short time
 - Like grass and wind.
 - Does the Father care about something so short lived! Of course.
 - It's because of who Jehovah is that you can be assured that you are saved.
 - He is always ruling, abounding in steadfast love, and righteous.
- Paralytic ...
 - Not about him (though he and his friends had faith)
 - But about Jesus!

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of the spirit, washed in His blood

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior, am happy and blessed
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Fanny Crosby

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 103:15-22

Synopsis: The final portion of Psalm 103 draws a contrast between the brevity of man and the eternity and authority of Jehovah.

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