

Attributes of God

Faithfulness and Truth of God (Outline)

Dr. V.A. Thomas, Pastor

“Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.” Ps. 36:5. “Faithful is he who calls you, and he also will bring it to pass.” 1 Th. 5:24

Introduction

As we continue the series, “The attributes of God”, I want to share with you ‘The Faithfulness and the Truth of God.’

Truth

One of the remarkable moments of Jesus’ trial before Pilate was when Jesus said to Pilate, “The reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” Pilate then asked Jesus, ‘what is truth?’

What is the truth? The Hebrew word for Truth is, ‘*Emet.*’ From the context of the Hebrew word, *Emet*, Truth has at least three aspects:

First aspect of Truth is that which is real as opposed to that which is fictitious or imaginary.

Second aspect of Truth is that which presents itself to be, as opposed to that which is false or lie.

The third aspect of Truth is the idea that it can be relied on; that which will not fail or disappoint. Someone is true, if they fulfill or do what they promise they will do. In Jer. 10:10, God declares about himself, ‘*Adonai Elohim Emet*’, the true God – the Truth Himself!

Another Hebrew word that describes God’s attribute of Truth is, ‘*Emunah.*’ ‘*Emunah*’ means that which is firm, reliable and Faithful. In Deuteronomy 32:4, God is called, ‘*El Emunah*’, the Faithful God. “He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”

In Revelation 3:14, Jesus is addressed as ‘*Emet*’ and ‘*Emunah*’. “These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness...” ‘*Emet*’ means, Amen and ‘*Emunah*’ means faithful! Yes, Jesus is the Truth! And he is faithful! In 2 Cor. 1:20 we read, “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘yes’ in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God.”

Faithfulness

God is faithful: (1) to his universe as the Psalmist says in Ps. 36:5, “Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.” Think about the faithfulness of God to his universe and his creation. The universe reflects the faithfulness of its Creator in its existence and function.

Imagine God operates the way some of us operate. Some day we don’t feel like showing up. Some days, we feel like taking it easy and get there when we can. Imagine what will happen

to the universe, if God begins to act like us! Aren't we glad that our God is not like us, or his laws and systems he has set are not like us – He is faithful to his universe and the ones who depend on him day by day and moment by moment!

God is faithful: (2) to his people. “Faithful is he who calls you, and he also will bring it to pass.” 1 Th. 5:24. It is God who has called you toward himself. He wants you to know that he is a faithful God. Although you might be going through some tough times, he will bring you through – because he is a faithful God! Stay close to him. Walk with him, rather than walking away from him. “Faithful is he who calls you, and he also will bring it to pass.”

He is faithful: (3) to his Word and His plans. It was God's plan to build a kingdom for himself out of the world that chose to deny and dishonor God. He decided to do it through the redeeming sacrifice of his own beloved Son Jesus Christ – the lamb of God slain before the foundations of the world!

His future plan is revealed in Daniel in chapter 7:13-14: *“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom is the one that shall not be destroyed.”*

Not only the coming of the kingdom, but every detail of how this kingdom would be established, starting with the event of the Son of God becoming the son of Man, the virgin birth of Jesus, his life in this world, his betrayal by his disciple, his suffering, crucifixion, burial and resurrection was well planned, laid out in his Word and fulfilled – he is faithful to his plans and his Word.

Virgin birth of Jesus (800 BCE) : Is. 9:6-7, *“...The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel – ‘God is with us.’”* It was fulfilled in Mt. 1:20-23 *“... an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘do not be afraid to go ahead with your marriage to Mary. For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’”*

The Temptation by the Satan was foretold: (1000 BCE) Ps. 91:10-12 *“No evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your dwelling. For He orders His angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot on a stone.”* We find it in Mt. 4:5-7 that's exactly what happened, *“Then the Devil took Him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, ‘If You are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He orders His angels to protect you. And they will hold you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot on a stone.’”* Jesus responded, *‘The Scriptures also say, “Do not test the Lord your God.”’*

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey was planned and foretold (520 BCE) by Zechariah 9:9, *“Rejoice greatly, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey – even on a donkey's colt.”* We read in Jn. 12:12-15, *“The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A huge crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet Him. They shouted, ‘Praise God! Bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel! Jesus found a young donkey and*

sat on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: 'Don't be afraid, people of Israel. Look, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt.'

Jesus was rejected by his own people – it was foretold in Is. 53:1-3, *“Who has believed our message? To whom will the Lord reveal His saving power? He was despised and rejected – a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way when He went by. He was despised, and we did not care.”* As we read the Gospel of John 12:37-38 we find that is exactly how it happened, *“But despite all the miraculous signs He had done, most of the people did not believe in Him. This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted: ‘Lord, who has believed our message? To whom will the Lord reveal His saving power?’”*

Jesus' betrayal by his own disciple was foretold in Psalms 41:9, *“Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”* We find that fulfilled in Mt. 26:47, 49-50, *“And even as He said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a mob that was armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent out by the leading priests and other leaders of the people. So Judas came straight to Jesus. ‘Greetings, Teacher!’ he exclaimed and gave Him the kiss. Jesus said, ‘My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.’”*

The price of the betrayal was also foretold in Zechariah 11:12-13, *“And I said unto them, ‘If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.’”* It was fulfilled in Mt. 26:14, *“Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and asked, ‘How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?’ And they gave him thirty pieces of silver.”*

Jesus' trial and sentencing was foretold in Is. 53:8, *“From prison and trial they led Him away to His death. But who among the people realized that He was dying for their sins – that He was suffering their punishment? We see that fulfilled in Lk. 23:1, 23 “The entire council took Jesus over to Pilate, the Roman governor. But the crowd shouted louder and louder for Jesus' death, and their voices prevailed.”*

How they abused him, smiting, spitting and mocking was also foretold Is. 50:6, *“I give My back to those who beat Me and My cheeks to those who pull out My beard. I do not hide from shame, for they mock Me and spit in My face.”* It was fulfilled in Mt. 26:67-68 *“Then they spit in Jesus' face and hit Him with their fists. And some slapped Him, saying, ‘Prophecy to us, You Messiah! Who hit You that time?’”*

Jesus would die as a sin offering was foretold in Is. 53:5-6,8,12. *It is described as such by Peter in 1 Peter 2:24, “He personally carried away our sins in His own body on the cross so we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. You have been healed by His wounds.”*

Conclusion

God is Truth and faithful – faithful to his universe, his creation, his people and his Word. He has promised the redemption of the fallen humanity and the establishment of a righteous kingdom through a righteous king – the Son of God! And he has been fulfilling every detail of his plan that he has declared through his Word, because He is *‘Adonai Elohim Emet’*, the true God – the Truth Himself and He is *‘El Emunah’*, the Faithful God!
