

DOCTRINE OF CHESED

I. Etymology.

- A. Verb **חָסַד** , chasad: in Aramaic, it means kind or mild. In Arabic, it means to put things together. In Hebrew, it means to show zeal or desire over a long period of time.
- B. Noun **חֶסֶד** , chesed: loyalty, love, faithfulness, immutability. **חֲסִידָה** , chasidah: stork.

II. In its earliest usage, chesed refers to a stork, due to the intense and total loyalty of a stork for its young.

- A. Moses mentions them among the unclean birds, Lev.11:19; Deut.14:18.
- B. They are noted for their powerful wings and high flight, Zech.5:9.
- C. They are normally a marsh bird but build their nest in high trees, Ps.104:17.
- D. The stork has a precise migration pattern, Jer.8:7.
- E. Because of their close family, they have become proverbial for parental love and loyalty.

III. Divine chesed is closely related to:

- A. **אֱמוּנָה** , emuna: immutability, faithfulness (from amen, **אָמֵן** meaning support), Ps.88:11; 89:24; 92:2; 98:3.
- B. **אֱמֶת** , emeth: truth, veracity, Ex.34:5,6; Ps.26:3; 86:15; 89:14; 115:1; 117:1,2; 138:2.
- C. **רַחֲמִים** , rachamim: compassion, expressed love. The motivation of chesed is love, Ps.103:4.
- D. **מִשְׁפָּט** , mishepat: justice, Jer.9:23,24; Ps.101:1.
- E. **יָשָׁר** , yashar: synonym for righteousness, Ps.37:37.
- F. **טוֹב** , tov: goodness, Ps.23:6.

IV. The extent of God's loyalty.

- A. In time: it is daily, Ps.52:1, from eternity past to the future, Isa.54:8.
- B. In space: it fills all three heavens; Isa.57:10; Ps.108:4; 36:5; it fills the earth, Ps.33:5; 119:64. Application: you cannot escape from God's loyalty.
- C. In quality: it is intrinsically good, Ps.69:16. It is the basis for Phase 2 deliverance from one's enemies, Ps.109:21. The result of deliverance is that the people will know it is from God, Ps.109:26-29. Loyalty is better than life itself, Ps.63:5.
- D. In quantity: loyalty exists in carnality and reversionism, Ps.86:5; example: the Exodus generation, Num.14:18,19. There is enough loyalty to meet everyone's needs, Ps.5:7; 69:13; Ex.34:7, from generation to generation, Ex.20:6.

V. God's loyalty is applied to man as expressed love in three ways.

- A. To Israel in the Covenant, Gen.12:13; Micah.7:20.
 - 1. To Israel under the Davidic Covenant, Ps.89.
 - 2. The New Covenant: Israel's restoration and blessing in the Millennium, Jer.31-33.
- B. Covenant acts of loyalty to the nation.
 - 1. The Exodus itself, Ps.136:10-16; 106:7,45.
 - 2. The conquest of the land, Ps.136:10-16; 106:7,45.
 - 3. The rise of the house of David is said to be an act of chesed, Ps.33:12; 44:26.
 - 4. The Assyrian captivity (721BC). The national identity remained intact.
 - 5. The Babylonian captivity (586BC), Ps.85:107. Israel returned after this captivity.
- C. Contract acts of loyalty to individuals.
 - 1. Lot: deliverance for Sodom, Gen.19:15,16.
 - 2. Job: chesed in suffering.
 - 3. Abraham: a bride for Isaac, Gen.24:12-14.
 - 4. Jacob: fear of Esau and deliverance, Gen.32:10.
 - 5. Joseph: promotion for loyalty, Gen.39:21.
 - 6. Ruth: loyalty to Naomi and Israel, Ruth.2:20; 3:10.

7. David: deliverance from Saul, Ps.57:3; 59:16,17; 86:13. Divine discipline, Ps.6:4; 143:12.
From the Absalom revolt, Ps.31:16,21.

8. The exile generation, Ps.42:8; 94.

VI. Each adjustment to the justice of God (salvation, rebound, and maturity) has a corresponding hedge of loyalty which surrounds the believer, Ps.32:10.

A. The enemies of the mature believer come under a reverse mantle of cursing, Ps.109:26-29; Ps.94; 36:7,10.

B. This hedge is also called a wall of fire, Zech.2:5 by application.

C. It is also the basis for Phase 2 deliverance, Ps.33:18ff.

VII. Divine chesed extends to the entire human race:

A. In spite of negative volition, Ps.103:8,11; Jonah.2:14.

B. In providential matters, Ps.107.

C. In the four divine institutions.

VIII. Loyalty to man's loyalty.

A. Loyalty to God is dependant upon knowledge of Bible Doctrine, Ex.20:6; Ps.119.

B. God knows those who are loyal, Ps.33:18; Ps.139.

C. God takes pleasure in those who are loyal, Ps.147:11. Your loyalty will be tested, Hos.6:6.

D. God injects divine discipline where there is no loyalty.

E. God remembers past generations and individuals who demonstrated loyalty, Jer.2:2; 1Chr.6:42.

F. God remembers the generation which will be blessed at the Second Advent, Hos.2:19; Ezek.34.

IX. Loyalty is a part of the categories of love.

A. Loyalty expresses itself in the absence of the object of love.

B. Category 2 love.

C. Category 3 love, 1Sam.20:8.

X. Loyalty is learned in the classroom of Christianity, the local church, Ps.48:9.

XI. God's loyalty is directed toward His Messiah, Ps.21:2.

XII. Ps.136 is a chesed Psalm calling for thanksgiving.

XIII. Chesed in the plural refers to the many acts of loyalty God performs toward the human race, Ps.106:7,45; Lam.3:22,32.