

Discussion Guide -- “Tale of Two Gods?”
Week of April 29, 2018

Read Isaiah 55:8-9

It is impossible for us to fully understand God, yet God has chosen to reveal certain aspects of Himself to us through the various books of the Bible. Why would He do this?

Read 1 Samuel 15:2-3

What’s your first reaction when you read this? Does it help to know that God delayed bringing judgment on the nation of Amalek for hundreds of years? Why would He wait so long?

Read Deuteronomy 9:1-5

God gives two reasons in verses 4 & 5 for the judgment that was to come. What were the reasons? What does this tell you about God and His nature?

Read Psalms 103:7-12

What does this passage say about God’s nature? How can this be true in light of what is said in 1 Samuel 15 and Deuteronomy 9 above? Look for clues in verses 8 & 10. What “condition” does it list in verse 11 for receiving God’s love and mercy? Could “fearing God” be similar to “placing your faith” in Him?

Read 2 Peter 3:8-14

Verse 8 talks about the fact that God's view of time is different than ours. Does this help explain why God sometimes delays judgment for a long time? What reason does verse 9 give for God's patience? Is it possible God was being "patient" with people in the Old Testament too? Verse 10 gives a terrifying warning that God's patience will someday come to an end forever. How is this future judgment similar to God's judgment on towns / nations in the Old Testament? How is it different? We see in verse 9 how we can escape God's future judgment and receive God's mercy for eternity. What is the key to receiving His mercy?

Although God's provision of salvation is "packaged" a little differently in the Old Testament than it is in the New Testament (the OT sacrifices of animals vs. the NT sacrifice of Jesus), His overall nature has always been the same: those who repent and turn to Him in faith receive His mercy and grace. Those who do not repent and turn to Him in faith receive His judgment.