

God's Amazing Patience

Toward Those who Trample on His Truth

2 Chronicles 33 & Selected Scriptures

Example of God's Patience with **King Manasseh** (2 Chronicles 33)

Definition of God's longsuffering:

"Longsuffering" - Both the Hebrew and Greek words refer to the quality of a prolonged "self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish" (Vine, p. 12). Greek = "Macrothumia" - forbearing; patient; slow to anger; "long-fused"

I. Examples of God's Long-suffering:

A. **In Canaan among the Amorites**

"They shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full" (Gen. 15:16).

B. **At Mount Sinai**

Ex. 34:6 - "And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth."

C. **At Kadesh Barnea**

Moses testified that "the LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression" (Num. 14:18)

II. The Purpose for God's Long-suffering:

Basic answer: That men would repent and turn to Him.

The purpose of God's long-suffering –

A. **To lead sinners to repentance** (Rom. 2:4)

B. **To display His ability and desire to save even the lowest of sinners** (I Tim. 1:12-17).

C. **To give sinners time to repent**

1) **God was long-suffering before the flood came** (I Pet. 3:20)
(The first universal judgment on earth)

2) **God is long-suffering before the fire falls** (II Pet. 3:9)
(The last universal judgment on earth)