

Exodus 33:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

Analysis

And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee—God grants Moses' request but on divine terms. Rather than abstract glory, God reveals His טוב (tuv, 'goodness')—His moral excellence and benevolent character. The proclamation of Yahweh's name reveals His covenant faithfulness. The phrase 'I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy' asserts divine sovereignty in dispensing grace (quoted in Romans 9:15). Grace cannot be earned or demanded; it flows from God's free will. This revelation becomes foundational for understanding God's character throughout Scripture.

Historical Context

This proclamation anticipates Exodus 34:6-7, where God passes by Moses declaring His name and attributes. Paul quotes this verse in Romans 9:15 to defend God's sovereign election, showing its theological importance beyond the immediate context.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's definition of His glory as 'goodness' and covenant mercy reshape your understanding of divine glory?
2. What comfort and challenge do you find in God's absolute sovereignty over the distribution of grace?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר And he said H559	אֲנִי H589	אָעֲבִיר pass H5674	כָּל H3605	טוֹבִי I will make all my goodness H2898	עַל H5921	לִפְנֵי יְיָ before H6440
לִפְנֵי יְיָ before thee and I will proclaim H7121	וְאֶקְרָא אֹתִי the name H8034	בְּשֵׁם of the LORD H3068	יְהוָה before H6440	אֲנִי thee and will be gracious H2603	אֶשְׂרָר אֶת H853	אֶשְׂרָר אֶת H834
אֶבְרָחָם: and will shew mercy H7355	אֶשְׂרָר אֶת H853	אֶשְׂרָר אֶת H834	אֶבְרָחָם: and will shew mercy H7355			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 31:14 (Good): And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 31:12 (Good): Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.

Isaiah 7:14 (References Lord): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Zechariah 9:17 (Good): For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.

Isaiah 9:6 (Parallel theme): For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 12:4 (References Lord): And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

Nehemiah 9:25 (Good): And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.