

THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD

Father's Day, Winchester Church of God (6/18/22)

By Matthew A. Arakaky

There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O YHWH, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O YHWH, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people. (Isaiah 64:7–9).

Here are some key passages of the Father's mercy in the Old Testament:

Ezekiel 33:11: “Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. (וּשְׁבוּ אֶשְׁמֵי סִרְיָתְכֶם הַעֵי) Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’”

Exodus 34:6: “Then YHWH passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “YHWH, YHWH, a compassionate and merciful God, slow to anger, and abounding in faithfulness and truth”

Joel 2:13: “So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to YHWH your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

Psalm 103:8: “YHWH is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in mercy.”

Psalm 145:9: “YHWH that he has made.

(Daniel 7:9–12):

⁹ “As I looked,

thrones were placed,

and the Ancient of Days took his seat;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames;
its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
and came out from before him;
a thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;
the court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

¹¹ “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with

fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

Let’s keep reading: (Daniel 7:13–14):

¹³ “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.

¹⁴ 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 one
that shall not be destroyed.

Romans 8:12–17.

¹² So then, brothers, **we are debtors, not** to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For **if** you live according to the flesh **you will die**, but **if** by the **Spirit** you **put to death** the deeds of the body, **you will live**. ¹⁴ **For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.** ¹⁵ For you **did not** receive the **spirit of slavery to fall back into fear**, but you have

received the **Spirit of adoption as sons**, by whom we cry, “**Abba! Father!**”¹⁶ The **Spirit himself** bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God**,¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

PP - ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.