

## Doctrine of Suffering Long

1. When the glory of the Lord passed before Moses at the giving of the Law there was a great declaration by God concerning Himself of this attribute.
  - *Exodus 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,*
2. Moses remembered this divine attribute and used it in prayer to save Israel from wrath.
  - *Numbers 14:18 The LORD is long-suffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.*
3. David knew the long-suffering of God in his personal life and made it a matter of praise.
  - *Psalms 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*
4. During the Babylonian exile the prophet Jeremiah pleaded on behalf of the nation of Israel for the Lord to be long-suffering and gracious.
  - *Jeremiah 15:15 O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy long-suffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke.*
5. The fact that God does not soon destroy the wicked in their sin is designed to lead them to repentance. This is true of believers and unbelievers alike.
  - *Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*
6. The long suffering of God in sinners is clearly revealed in the life of Saul of Tarsus.
  - *1 Timothy 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all long-suffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.*
7. Those who do not repent and respond in a positive way to the long suffering of God, will find that this attribute will serve the cause of justice some day when the verdict of ultimate sentence is passed, and the soul is cast into hell.
  - *Romans 9:22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:*

8. The dealings of God with the Flood Generation testify to this divine justice.
  - *1 Peter 3:20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*
  
9. Following his conversion Paul, who had no patience prior to salvation, learned to suffer long with those who opposed the gospel.
  - *2 Corinthians 6:6 By pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,*
  
10. Part of the fruit of the Spirit is long suffering.
  - *Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*
  
11. The believer must be characterized by suffering long with the abuses and injustices of others to reflect the image of Christ, to please the Father, to be an example to the world and to know strength under pressure.
  - *Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love;*
  
12. Like all the fruit of the Spirit, to suffer long with others is not natural, but it is a sign of a worthy walk.
  - *Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness;*
  
13. The manifestation of long suffering is a sign of salvation, and being one of the elect.
  - *Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering;*
  
14. When the virtue of long suffering is revealed there is a moral basis on which to speak.
  - *2 Timothy 3:10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, charity, patience,*
  
15. One area that ministers are to express long suffering is in dealing with the souls of others.
  - *2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.*

16. One reason the Lord has delayed His Second Coming is so that souls can be saved.

- *2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

17. The official persecution and suffering that believers endure for the sake of righteousness in order to advance the kingdom of heaven is part of the Lord's plan for our salvation in time and in eternity. The hope of heaven leads to long suffering.

- *2 Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things [a new heaven and a new earth], be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 15 And account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;*