

1. Review:

- The chiasmic structure found in Exodus 25-40 has the Golden Calf (Ch. 32) followed by God's attributes and covenant restoration (Ch. 34) as the turning point.
- The re-establishment of the covenant relationship is only due to **God's Character**.
- **Read Ex. 34:6-7 -**

“the crucial importance lies in knowing **what kind of God it is** who has been, is, and will be acting. God is faithful, loving, gracious, and righteous, hence there is hope.”
 T. Fretheim *“The Suffering of God”*

2. Three words to encapsulate the nature of sin that God will forgive (see handout with definitions):

- **Sin** – *bata* – (הָטָא) to miss the mark, miss the way. God has a “road” or “way” (see Acts 22:4) for us to walk. To sin is to miss the way. Our aim is off, and we stray. We can repent – turn – to get back on the correct road.
 - This sin may be unintentional (see Leviticus 4) -

Leviticus 4:1	“If anyone sins unintentionally ”
Leviticus 4:13	“if the community sins unintentionally.”
Leviticus 4:22	“if the leader sins unintentionally.”
Leviticus 4:27	“if any member of the community sins unintentionally.”

- When we realize our sin – we confess, repent and get back into relationship with God.
- **Rebellion** – *pasha* – (פָּשָׁע) rebel, transgress, revolt.
 - Rejecting God’s authority
 - Primarily Rebellion against God’s law and covenant.
 - Rebellion against God’s authority is not merely an upset between God and man; it distorts the soul of humanity.

Hide our actions from ourselves and God	Job 34:5-9
Become deceitful	Prov. 28:24
Enjoy sin and chaos	Prov. 17:19
Easily angered	Prov. 29:22
Becomes a heavy-crushing weight	Isa. 24:20

- God wants to provide salvation from a life of rebellion.

- **Wickedness** – *avon* – (אָוֹן) from a verb meaning to distort, bend, twist, to make crooked.
 - Distorting what God has created as good for your own purposes.
 - In the OT Hebrew, the act of sin is not separated from the punishment or consequences of sin.
 - Denotes both sin and its consequences.
 - Like rebellion – *avon* - twists, bends and distorts the inner man – the soul.

3. Visiting the wickedness (and guilt) of the father on the children...

פָּקַד (*pāqad*) *number, reckon, visit, punish, appoint.* - The basic meaning is to exercise oversight over a subordinate, either in the form of inspecting or taking action to cause a considerable change in the circumstances of the subordinate, **either for the better or for, the worse.**

It has been said of this verb, which occurs more than three hundred times in the OT; “There is probably no other Hebrew verb that has caused translators as much trouble as *pqd*” (Speiser, BASOR 149:21).¹

- see Luke 19:44 – Jerusalem did not know the time of their “visitation.”

4. Third and fourth generation:

- God punishes each person for their own sin (Ezekiel 18:20)
- But the effects of sin extend beyond the individual and can affect the family. Unfortunately, the parents' sin will impact the children, and the cycle can repeat throughout the family line from generation to generation. (generational sins and curses).
- In the ancient world, three to four generations would live together in the “father’s house.”
 - In this regard, the wickedness of the father can have a direct effect on the entire household.

5. God’s Visitation (discipline) leads to holiness -

- Hebrews 12: 10-13
- “Visitation” – *paqad* – can either be positive or negative! When God “visits” our sin we have the chance to redeem it into strength.

¹ R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds., *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 731.



Exodus Study (pt. 27)
Divine Attributes – part 2
Exodus 34:6-7