

My Loved Ones:

In Psalm 103:8, God says, “The LORD is merciful and gracious, / Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.”

This verse here quotes almost word for word the self-portrait of God when God answered Moses’ prayer for God to show Moses His glory in Exodus 34:6 - “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love...”

This verse reminds us of what was taking place. Israel had worshipped the golden calf in rebellion and idolatry against God’s commands. Moses goes back up to the mountain and prays to the Lord. As God reveals Himself, God says that He is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. This is Who our God is. We especially notice it with Israel’s sin. Do we notice them when we sin? We often like to jump on the case of Israel and remark how bad they are when they sin against God. But do we realize that we fail the Lord many times? Do we recognize that His mercy, grace and steadfast love is with us, too? I hope that we appreciate that the Lord is always these things. It’s the story of our lives; it’s the story of all of history.

As we face a new year, claim God’s grace.

Also, we should show these characteristics in our lives. Since we are His children, there should be a family resemblance in us as we deal with other people. Do you demonstrate these? May we all do better at reflecting our Lord this year.

We love you and are praying for you today, loved ones.