Sandy Run MBC

"The Hallmark of Hope"

# It Is in His Nature!

**Rev. Reginald Maxwell**

**November 29, 2026**

**Scripture:** Exodus 34:5-7; New King James Version *(NKJV)*

**Supporting Scriptures:** 2 Timothy 2:11–13; Lamentations 3:22–23; Hebrews 13:8; Psalm 103:8–12

**Context: Setting the Scene on Mount Sinai**
To understand the power of Exodus 34, we must remember the disaster of Exodus 32.

**The Low Point:** Moses had been up on Mount Sinai receiving the Law. Below him, Israel grew impatient, melted down their gold, constructed a golden calf, and proclaimed an idol to be the god that delivered them from Egypt. Moses came down, saw the apostasy, and threw down the stone tablets in righteous anger (Exodus 32:15-21).

**Covenant Intimacy was Broken.** God told Moses, "I will send *My* Angel before you..." (Exodus 33:2). "...for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way..." (Exodus 33:3).

**Moses' Intercession:** Moses pleaded with God: "Show me Your way..." (Exodus 33:13); "...show me Your glory" (Exodus 33:18). Moses wasn't asking for a light show or an earthquake (Exodus 19:16-22).

**God's Answer:** God instructs Moses to cut two new stone tablets. In Exodus 34, God descends in a cloud, places Moses in the cleft of the rock, covers him with His hand, and proclaims **His own character** (Exodus 34:1-5).

This is God's self-definition. God does not define Himself by His power first, nor by His wrath first. He reveals His essential character.

## Content: Exodus 34:5-7 *(NKJV)*

5 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him
there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The
LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering,
and abounding in goodness and truth,

7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and
transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting
the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's
children to the third and the fourth generation."

### It Is in His Nature to Show Relentless Mercy

"The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious…" (v. 6)

### It Is in His Nature to Exercise Steadfast Patience

"…longsuffering, and abounding in goodness…" (v. 6)

### It Is in His Nature to Maintain Unwavering Faithfulness

"…and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin…" (vv. 34:6b–7)

## A Word of Hope

"Always let people see a reflection of God's character in you." ~~**Unknown**~~

## Our Mission Statement

To love and serve God through Jesus Christ our Savior by the power of the Holy Spirit. To be committed to reshaping the lives of our families, our church, and our communities through *biblical worship, discipleship, and evangelism*.

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