

GOD'S UNCHANGEABLENESS (Immutability)

Intro. Change seems to be the fabric of life. Change mind, plans, goals, houses, cars, clothes, reservations, money, ideas, clocks, churches, merchants, hair color. Life is filled with changes. Constant flux. Know what a mutation is. Variation or change in organism. Mutability means liable or capable of change. Immutability. Person can (1) change from better to worse (he used to be so thoughtful), (2) from worse to better (he's a changed person), (3) within self (he's so much more mature).

I. Mal. 3:6 "I the Lord do not change."

A. Meaning in relation to God.

1. Cannot go from better to worse. Can never be less holy, loving, sovereign.
2. Cannot go from worse to better. Can never be more holy, merciful, etc. than He is.
3. Cannot change internally, be more mature, evolving, varying.

B. Result of this in this verse. "You are not consumed, O sons of Jacob."

They should have been bec. (1) Defiled offerings, 1:6, 14; (2) Dishonoring to Lord, 2:2; (3) Spiritually mixed marriages, 2:11; (4) divorces, 2:14; (5) robbery of tithes, 3:8; (6) arrogance, 3:13).

Why they were not consumed. 1:2. God's (electing) love. Proof: Survival of Israel. Holocaust. Future for Israel, Rom 11:1, 24, 26, 29--gifts and calling are irrevocable. Abr, Dav, new covenants will be fulfilled in full.

II. James 1:17. Father of lights with whom there is no variation of shadow of turning.

A. Who? Father of lights. Creator, Gen 1:14-16; Jer 31:35-- "the Lord who gives the sun for light by day, and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night."

B. What is He like? Constant. No parallax--variation, like alternate stones in pavement. Perceived as when view stars from diff positions on earth. Or real since some stars not precisely fixed but move ever so slightly. We may think He has changed but bec we do not see whole plan. Repent=be sorry. No shadow caused by turning. On earth there are some. Sundial called shadow clock. Shadow of night bec of rotation of earth. Shadow of an eclipse over moon or sun. None in God. He is unchanging. 2 Pt 3:11 Mt 24:29

C. What is (are) result(s) of this. Good act of giving and perfect gift. Is coming down, pres. to each one who believes. Greatest act of giving and gift is regeneration, v. 18. Continues to give good gifts, Mat 7:11. Good from His total care for us, not my perceived need.

Another result, 2 Tim. 2:13. God is no Indian giver. Never takes back our salvation bec He is immutable and has promised not to do so. Faithless also includes unbelief, disbelieving.

Concl. We wouldn't want any other kind of God. Otherwise perhaps today He is unmerciful, unloving, not everywhere present, unknowing as to best timing so He gives us our way, unjust (perhaps would take rebel into heaven), not eternal and therefore not even existing. But immutable guaranteed ^{per preservation} protection of Israel, ^{per} provision of greatest gift of sal, and ^{per} preservation of that sal.
permanence