

“Father of Mercies”

This particular phrase is found in II Corinthians 1:3 and holds very interesting truths about Jehovah. First, He is a father. Easton’s Bible Dictionary defines the word “father” as: *“The author or beginner of anything”*. We often talk about how merciful our God is and we pray to our “merciful Father in heaven”, but He is much more than a merciful father.

And that brings us to our next truth concerning God. He is the progenitor of mercy. Mercy is defined by Webster’s dictionary as,

“That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment, or inflict less than law or justice will warrant.”

Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, records for us that, “...the wages of sin *is* death;” (Rom 6:23a). The justice of God warrants death as the punishment for sin. However as Paul continues this verse he writes, “but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom 6:23b). So it is clear that the “author of mercy” here shows us, His children, the true definition of what it means to be merciful. Let us declare as the Psalmist did, “...I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.” (Psa 13:5)

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