



God is unchanging

Malachi 3:1-12.

Exodus 3:1-14; Psalm 33; Isaiah 40:1-8; John 8:51-59; Hebrews 1:10-14; 13:1-8

The world has changed a lot during the centuries. Mankind too has changed a lot as regards the use of things, habits etc., yet it must be emphasised that mankind still has the same needs as always; for food/sleep/love/comfort in sorrow/faith etc. Basically man remains the same. Man is a sinner and needs the Saviour.

God certainly remains the same and, whatever the changes in the world, He is always the same God who is ready to meet the spiritual needs of man. Down through the ages of the Bible, man has turned to God and God has always been there to meet his needs.

A man suggested to his minister that he should not keep preaching that man is a sinner, disguise it more, or speak less specifically on the subject of sin. The minister showed the man a bottle of poison. "Shall I make the label read Essence of Peppermint?" he asked, "Don't you see the milder you make the label the more dangerous the poison."

Man's need has not changed however refined we now appear to be. God too has not changed. He is the same Saviour, unchanging, that He might change the sinner who genuinely repents.

Jacob, running away from home, found God unchanged though he himself was in a different environment.

Joseph, a slave in Egypt and later a ruler there, found God still the same for him in every changing situation and temptation.

Saul, of the New Testament, found that, because God was unchanging, he could, and did, change him into Paul the apostle for Christ.

Isaiah 40:8 teaches that 'His Word', His promises, are forever sure. They are unchanging.

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands for ever. Isaiah 40:8

Get the members to list some of the Promises of God. Here are some to get you started.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Matthew 6:14

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. John 14:2

I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. John 6:47

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall. Psalm 55:22

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. Hebrews 13:5

In Exodus 3 Moses asked God His Name. Now, we know that no one name, nor even a hundred names, could adequately describe God in all His wonder, but God's reply was most illuminating: "I AM". Yes God is the Eternal I AM, the self-existent, unchangeable One to whom all time is a perpetual present. He is the same, yesterday, today and forever. His nature is permanent. He is perpetual consistency. He cannot change in being, in character, in purpose.

As the late Dr John MacBeath put it so ably: "He is the fixed and constant and absolute One. He will never be found wanting, never out of touch, never out of hearing, never out of time, never out of character. Eternity is His eternity, and that suffices for all things, present or future, near or far: He will be consistent with Himself and appropriate to our need to the very end and, in the end".