

**Longsuffering of God Observations, #56 (50 Minutes)
Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:8-9, 2022-02-20A**

Introduction: Today I want to talk to you about the longsuffering of God.

I. Meaning of the Longsuffering of God:

A. Longsuffering and forbearance (Romans 2:4).

1. “Forbearance” translates the Greek noun ἀνοχή (*anochē*). According to W. E. Vine Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, “A holding back, a delay of punishment.”
2. Longsuffering translates the Greek noun *makrothumia* (μακροθυμία). According to W. E. Vine, *makrothumia*, is composed of two words *makros*, “long,” *thumos*, “temper” literally long-temper (anger, wrath).

B. Longsuffering means patience with people.

C. Atheists put the longsuffering and grace of God on display everyday (Job 12:10; Daniel 5:23; Luke 12:20; Acts 17:28).

D. Longsuffering is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

II. Reasons for the Longsuffering of God:

A. First, longsuffering is an attribute of God (Romans 2:4 and in Exodus 34:6).

1. Longsuffering is one of the communicable attributes of God which we are commanded to imitate (Ephesians 5:1, NKJV).
2. Some of the communicable attributes of God are: longsuffering, love, grace, etc. The command *to love one another* occurs more than any other one another command.
3. Some of the incommunicable attributes of God are omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, etc.

B. Second, God is longsuffering to provide an opportunity to repent (Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).

1. God wanted His people to recognize, repent, and return to Him (Amos 4:6-11).
2. Many misinterpret the longsuffering of God to mean approval of their sins.

III. Termination Date on the Longsuffering of God:

A. The termination date occurs when the cup of iniquity is full.

1. God warns before He disciplines and judges.
2. God judges and disciplines when the cup of iniquity is full (Genesis 15:13-16).

B. The Flood (Genesis 6:3).

C. Seven Nations: (Genesis 15:13-16; cf. Deuteronomy 7:1; Acts 13:19) Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites.

D. The sins that filled the cup of iniquity and brought about the termination date for Sodom and Gomorrah (Ezekiel 16:49-50):

1. Pride (Ezekiel 16:49a; Proverbs 6:16-19; 16:18; cf. James 4:6),
2. Gluttony (Ezekiel 16:49b),
3. Idleness (Ezekiel 16:49c),
4. Neglect of the Poor and Needy (Ezekiel 16:49d),
5. Homosexuality (Ezekiel 16:50; cf. Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

E. The termination date for the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

1. Listen to God through Hosea 4:17, “*Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.*”

2. **Listen to God through Amos 4:12-13**, “*Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel. For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.*” (cf. Amos 4:2-3).

F. The sins of the Northern Kingdom of Israel that filled the cup of iniquity:

1. **Idolatry- An idol can be any person, place, or thing we value more than God** (Hosea 4:17; cf. Matthew 22:37),
2. **Profanity** (Hosea 4:2a),
3. **Lying** (Hosea 4:2b),
4. **Killing** (Hosea 4:2c),
5. **Stealing** (Hosea 4:2d),
6. **Committing Adultery** (Hosea 4:2e),
7. **Violence** (Hosea 4:2f),
8. **Mistreatment of the poor and needy** (Amos 4:1),
9. **Pride** (Hosea 5:5; 7:10).

G. Termination of the longsuffering of God for the Southern Kingdom of Judah – Listen to God through Jeremiah 7:16; 11:14; 14:11; 15:1...

1. “*Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee*” (Jeremiah 7:16).
2. “*Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth*” (Jeremiah 15:1).

H. The sins that filled the cup of iniquity for the Southern Kingdom of Judah:

1. **Idolatry** (Jeremiah 1:16; 2:11-13; 19:3-15, Etc.),
2. **Child Sacrifice – Shedding of Innocent Blood** (Jeremiah 7:31; 19:4-5),
3. **Pride** (Jeremiah 13:9, 17; 49:16),
4. **Committing Adultery** (Jeremiah 5:7-8; 29:23),
5. **Neglect of the Poor and Needy** (Jeremiah 5:28),
6. **Violence** (Jeremiah 6:7; Habakkuk 1:2-3),
7. **Injustice** (Jeremiah 5:1, 28; Habakkuk 1:4).

IV. Delay of Judgment Is the Only Hope for America.

- A. **America is guilty of all of the sins of all the nations that were judged or discipline by God in the past.**
- B. **Delay of judgment is the only hope for America.**
- C. **Five of the things the Ninevites did to delay judgment on Nineveh (Jonah 3:5-10):**
 1. **The people believed God.**
 2. **The people proclaimed a fast.**
 3. **The people humble themselves.**
 4. **The people prayed.**
 5. **The people repented.**