

No. 6      Jehovah's "Loyal Love Is Better Than Life"

JEHOVAH ALONE IS LOYAL (5 min.)

Loyalty is rare today (w10 6/1 26)

Few things hurt us more deeply than being disappointed by someone we trust

Is there anyone we can count on to be completely loyal to us?

Consider the experience of King David of ancient Israel

He was faced with disloyalty at its worst

His king wrongly outlawed and persecuted him (1Sa 19:9-11)

His wife Michal despised him in her heart (2Sa 6:16)

His son Absalom led a conspiracy to overthrow him

His trusted adviser Ahithophel turned traitor (2Sa 15:12, 31)

Did David conclude that no one is resolutely loyal? No!

He was confident that no matter how humans might disappoint him,

Jehovah would remain loyal [Read Psalm 21:7]

Jehovah's loyalty is unmatched [Read Revelation 15:4]

It can be said of Jehovah: "You alone are loyal" (c1 282 ¶7-8)

WHAT IS JEHOVAH'S "LOYAL LOVE"? (5 min.)

God's "loyal love" is so rich in meaning that most languages have no single word with which to express its full sense

It describes the interaction of strength, steadfastness, and love (jr 142 ¶8)

It is love motivated by commitment, integrity, loyalty, and deep attachment

It is often used in parallel with "faithfulness" (Ps 36:5)

Jehovah never fails to display loyal love to those who love him

He remains true to his standards of what is right and what is wrong, giving us clear moral direction (Ps 119:128; 145:17)

He is ever faithful to his promises to the living and even the dead (Ru 2:20)

He does not abandon his loyal servants when they need help or deliverance (Ps 18:25; c1 283 ¶9)

We cherish Jehovah's loyalty

DAVID EXTOLLED JEHOVAH'S LOYAL LOVE (3 min.)

David always believed that Jehovah knew what he was going through and what his innermost feelings were (Ps 31:7; 56:8)

In Psalm 63, David praised Jehovah for His loyal love

Likely, the setting is when David was forced to flee Jerusalem and live as a fugitive in the wilderness of Judah because of Absalom's rebellion (2Sa 15:13, 14)

At a time when most men would feel overwhelmed with discouragement, David is consoled by reaching out to God

HOW IS JEHOVAH'S LOYAL LOVE "BETTER THAN LIFE"? (14 min.)

Please open your Bibles to Psalm 63, and let us see what we can learn [Read each portion, explain it, and apply it to our lives today]

Verse 1: As David wandered in the desert, his greatest thirst was for spiritual sustenance and fellowship with God

His intense longing for Jehovah's help was making him feel faint

We must be ever conscious of satisfying our spiritual need by communicating with Jehovah every day (w15 4/15 20 ¶3)

Verse 2: David developed his spiritual appetite by reading God's Law and worshipping at His sanctuary

David yearned for those times when he could draw near to the holy place where the ark of the covenant resided and sense God's presence there

Regularly associating with our congregation and worshipping together prepares us for any crises that may come our way

Verses 3-5: God's loyal love is more precious than life itself

David focused, not on the gift of life, but on its Giver

Instead of complaining about his problems, David sang praises to God, satisfied with having enjoyed his loving care

There is nothing that this world has to offer that is better than God's love and loyal friendship (w01 10/15 15-16 ¶17)

Value your personal relationship with Jehovah above everything

Verses 6-8: David often meditated on Jehovah's acts of loyal love—even during wakeful periods of the night

His heart was at peace as he rejoiced over all the ways Jehovah had lovingly protected him

David treasured his intimacy with Jehovah and desired to hold fast to him, ever thankful that God extended his right hand of favor to uphold his faithful servant

We too must meditate on all the ways Jehovah is faithfully blessing us and helping us cope with life's challenges

Jehovah treasures our obedience to him, and he urges us to show loyalty in our dealings with others (Pr 3:3)

Verses 9, 10: David knew that his enemies were also God's enemies, and he was confident that they would suffer defeat and be plunged into the pit of death—their carcasses becoming food for jackals

Absalom and his coconspirators suffered humiliating defeat in battle and thousands were slain (2Sa 18:7, 14, 15)

Jehovah will eventually destroy our enemies too

Verse 11: David's confidence in God's loyal love was not misplaced  
Because of what Jehovah would do for him, David would be able to rejoice in his kingship

Those who speak falsely in God's name, who have no approved relationship with him, will have their mouths silenced

Those who, like David, gratefully extol Jehovah can take pride in having an approved standing with God

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED ABOUT JEHOVAH'S LOYAL LOVE? (2 min.)

Life without Jehovah's loyal love would not be much of a life

God's loyal love is worth more than our own existence (w06 6/1 11 ¶7)

Jehovah assures us that he will sustain us during times of trial

By remaining loyal to him, we can enjoy his loyal love forever!

TO BE COVERED IN 29 MINUTES