

God of Truth

September 7, 2014

I. This title is found in 4 places:

A. Moses The Lord is titled "God of truth" first by Moses in Dt.32:4.

Dt 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He. (NKJV)

A God of faithfulness and without injustice ... (NASU)

As Moses approached his own death, "God of truth" was one of the first titles he gave to the Lord in a teaching song (which Moses then had Israel memorize). It's clear from this first occurrence of the title, that the Lord as "God of truth," is closely related to His moral character.

B. David in Ps 31:1-5 David prays for the Lord's help and protection; he concludes with -

Ps 31:5 Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth.

According to the gospel of Luke, the last words of Jesus are:

Lk 23:46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said this, He breathed His last.

Jesus was confident that His suffering and death would accomplish all that the Father had declared, and that He would raise Him from the dead, because He is the God of truth!

C. Isaiah in chapter 65, Isaiah announces that the gospel will be received by the Gentiles after Israel rejects it (see Rom 9-11; 10:20). 65:13-15 declares Israel will be hungry and thirsty, having a heavy heart and broken spirit. He then says

Isa 65:15c ..."But My servants (believers in Christ) will be called by another name"

The final two references of "the God of truth" are found in the next verse (65:16).

Isa 65:16a "Because he who is blessed in the earth Will be blessed by the God of truth;

Isa 65:16b And he who swears in the earth Will swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My sight!

II. Definition of "God of Truth" El Emunah

El = God; &

Emunah = truth, faithfulness, reliability

A. The Hebrew (Old Testament) word most often translated "truth" is emet.

1. The basic meaning of emunah is "certainty" and "faithfulness."

2. It translates as "logical truth;" something is true when it "conforms to the facts,"

The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology points out that: "the Hebrews recognized the logical truth that others also recognized, that a true word can be relied upon because it accords with reality, and that both for a God of truth and for a man of truth, word and deed are one" (Vol. 3, p. 882).

In other words, words and actions need to be consistent with a persons moral character:

a. Truth (for the biblical writers) was the reliability, dependability, and trustworthiness of a person - and, specifically, of God.

The best way to translate most occurrences of "true" in the Old Testament is with the word "reliable," for that which is true is reliable and can be counted on.

b. When Scripture speaks of truth, it is a moral matter - a way of thinking and acting; not merely an intellectual or scientific matter.

3. Root - other key words in the Old Testament fall into the semantic range of this root word:

'aman, = "to confirm," or "to support;" it is often translated as "faithfulness."

'emunah, which means, "faithfulness," or "steadfastness";

'amen, which means, "truly," "verily," "amen."

B. How these words are used in the Old Testament

1. The Hebrew words (emunah, emet, aman, amen) are used over 150 times in OT.

2. The "God of Truth" is used four times.

3. Psa 89 is a Messianic Psalm; Truth (emunah) is used 7 times (89:1, 2, 5, 8, 24, 33, 49).

This Psalm speaks about Jesus being the son of David. God establishes His covenant with His people through the descendent of David (Jesus) His Servant (Ps 89:20-29).

20 I have found David My servant; with My holy oil I have anointed him, 21 With whom My hand will be established; My arm also will strengthen him. 22 The enemy will not deceive him, nor the son of wickedness afflict him. 23 But I shall crush his adversaries before him, and strike those who hate him. 24 My faithfulness and My lovingkindness will be with him, and in My name his horn will be exalted. 25 I shall also set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. 26 He will cry to Me, 'You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.' 27 I also shall make him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. 28 My lovingkindness I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall be confirmed to

Let us look at these 7 verses:

1) Ps 89:1 ... To all generations I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth.

2) Ps 89:2 ... In the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness.

3) Ps 89:5 The heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones.

4) Ps 89:8 ... who is like You, O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.

5) Ps 89:24 My faithfulness and My lovingkindness will be with him, ...

6) Ps 89:33 "But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, nor deal falsely in My faithfulness.

7) Ps 89:49 Where are Your former lovingkindnesses, O Lord, which You swore to David in Your faithfulness?

4. The foundation of righteousness and justification is found in Hab 2:4, where it says, " Hab 2:4 but the just shall live by his faith."

This is quoted in the New Testament in Ro 1:17 & Gal 3:11;

Ro 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Gal 3:11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

III. God of truth

A. God's nature is truth

Truth is an attribute of God

Deut 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He. (Ps 31:5; 89:14; 146:6; Is 65:16)

He is the one and only true God

Jer 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; ... (2 Ch 15:3; 1 Thes 1:9)

There is no other!

Dt 4:35 To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him. (Dt 4:39; Isa 43:10-11; 45:5-6, 14; 45:21)

Contrast with other "gods"

Ex 15:11 "Who is like You among the gods, O LORD? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders?" (Dt 32:39; Ps 86:8)

Contrast with earthly rulers:

Jer 10:6-8 There is none like You, O LORD; You are great, and great is Your name in might. 7 Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? Indeed it is Your due! For among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is none like You. 8 But they are altogether stupid and foolish In their discipline of delusion-- their idol is wood!

God can't lie

Titus 1:2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, (Num 23:19; 1 Sam 15:29; Jas 1:17)

B. All of His actions are in truth (faithfulness)

Ps 33:4 All his works reveal his "faithfulness".

Ps 86:15 He is abundant in truth (Ex 34:6)

Ps 100:5 His truth endures to all generations.

Ps 85:10 His truth is united with mercy

Is 25:1 He has done wonderful things; in faithfulness and truth.

Rev 15:3 all His works are done in justice and truth

Ps 33:4 all His works are done in truth (Dan 4:37; Ps 19:9)

Ps 96:13 all His judgments are executed with truth (Rev 6:10; 16:7)

C. All of His words are in truth (faithfulness)

Description of His words

Ps 12:6 The words of the LORD are pure words ...

Ps 33:4 For the word of the LORD is upright, ...

Ps 119:86 they are an expression of his "faithfulness";

Jn 17:17 Your word is truth. (Ps 26:3; 86:11; 119:142)

Ps 57:10 Your truth higher than the clouds and sky

His word is truth

Ps 119:160 The sum of Your word is truth, (Ps 119:151; Jn 17:17; Rom 3:4)

His words of promise are totally true and trustworthy

2 Tim 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. (Ps 132:11)

He fulfills His promises

2 Cor 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. (Ps 57:3; 2 Sam 2:6; 2 Chr 6:17)

He guarantees His promises:

Heb 6:18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. (Heb 7:21; Ps 110:4)

He fulfills His covenant.

Heb 8:6 ... He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. (Mic 7:20; Ps 25:10; 89:49 98:3)

IV. New Testament use of "Truth"

A. Use of Greek words for truth

1. The Greek noun (aletheia) translated truth is used 104 times
John uses this word 45X
All others use this word 59X
2. The Greek adverb (alethos) translated truly, indeed or truth is used 21 times
John uses this word 11X
All others use this word 10X
3. The Greek adjective (228 alethinos) translated true is used 12 times
John uses this word 11X
Luke uses it 1X
4. The Greek adjective (alethes) translated true used 11 times
John uses this word 6 X
All others use this word 5 X
5. The Greek verb (aletheuo) translated truth is used 8 times
John never uses this word
6. The Greek noun (amen) is used 153 times
translated truly or verily 101 X
translated amen 52 X
John uses this word 63 X
All others use this word 90 X

Note: Vine says this - "amen is transliterated from Hebrew into both Greek and English. Its meanings may be seen in such passages as: "He is God, the faithful God, (the Amen God) who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation ..." (Dt 7:9) (see also Isa 49:7; 65:16). And if God is faithful His testimonies and precepts are "sure (amen)," "the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple" (Ps 19:7) (see also Ps 111:7), as are also His warnings, (Hos 5:9) and promises, "according to the faithful mercies shown to David." (Isa 55:3) (see also Isa 33:16)

B. What John says about truth

1. God is true (Jn 3:33; 7:28; 8:26)

His judgments are executed with truth

Rev 16:7 10 ... "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

His ways are just and true

Rev 15:3 Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!

2. His essence is grace and truth (reality) - This means that He is the full reality of God.

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

3. Jesus brought grace and truth into being

Jn 1:17-18 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

4. Jesus came to bear witness to the truth

Jn 18:37-38 Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." 38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

Jesus is the Amen and the true witness

Rev 3:14 to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

5. Jesus is the truth

Jn 14:6 "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

a. Jesus is the true vine -

Jn 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

b. Jesus is the true light -

Jn 1:9-10 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

c. His flesh and blood is true food and drink

Jn 6:55 "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

d. Jesus is the true God and eternal life

Jn 17:3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

1 Jn 5:20 the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

6. We worship God in spirit and truth

Jn 4:23-25 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

7. God's Word of truth makes us walk in holiness

Jn 8:31-32 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, " If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Jn 17:17-19 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

1 Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

1 Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 Jn 2:4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

1 Jn 2:21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

1 Jn 3:18-19 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. 19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him

8. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth

Jn 14:16-17 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

Jn 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

Jn 16:7-8 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

Jn 16:12-14 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

1 Jn 4:6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1 Jn 5:6 It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

1 Jn 2:27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

9. The last verse of the Bible declares the grace of Jesus and ends with Amen

Rev 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

C. Conclusion

Moses gave the Lord the title "God of truth"

Dt 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He. (NKJV)

The song of Moses

Rev 15:3-4 And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."

His name

El Emunah - **The Faithful God**: The Strong One is completely reliable. You can trust Him completely, in this life and with your eternal destiny.

We declare

Zec 14:9 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.

Isa 25:1 O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.

Ps 138:2 I will bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.

The following references were used in the study:

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words
Every Name of God in the Bible
The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology
Dictionary of Bible Themes
The MacArthur Topical Bible
Englishman's Concordance
Strong's Concordance