

**Program:** SS Panel 2025 1 Q  
**Quarterly title:** God’s Love and Justice  
**Quarterly author:** John C. Peckham  
**Lesson Title:** #1 God Loves Freely  
**For Lesson Dates:** *December 28-January 3, 2025*  
**Section title:** Tuesday - Love Freely Given  
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**Note:** This color and font = John Dinzey notes

**Lesson 1**

*December 28-January 3*

# God Loves Freely

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## SABBATH AFTERNOON

**Read for This Week’s Study:** *Exod. 33:15–22; Hosea 14:1–4; Rev. 4:11; John 17:24; Matt. 22:1–14; John 10:17, 18.*

**Memory Text:** “ ‘I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him’ ” (*Hosea 14:4, NKJV*).

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**TUESDAY**

*December 31*

**Love Freely Given**

\*\*\*READ\*\*\* only up to “...while we are sinners.”

God not only continued to bestow His love freely on Israel, despite repeated rebellions, but God also continues to bestow love freely upon us, **even while we are sinners**. We do not deserve God’s love, and we could never earn it. Conversely, God does not need us. The God of the Bible does not need anything (Acts 17:25). **God’s love for you and for me and for all persons is entirely of His own volition.**

**Deuteronomy 7:6-8 6** “For you *are* a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

**7** The Lord did not **set His love** on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

>> **set His love:** [H2836](#) (**Brown-Driver-Briggs**) קָשָׁה châshaq

**BDB Definition:**

- 1) (Qal) to love, **be attached to, long for**
- 2) (Piel) fillet
- 3) (Pual) fillet

> [H2836](#) (**Strong**) קָשָׁה châshaq — khaw-shak’

A primitive root; **to cling, that is, join** (figuratively) to *love, delight in*; elliptically (or by interchange for [H2820](#)) to *deliver*: - have a delight, (have a) desire, fillet, long, set (in) love.

**Deuteronomy 7:8** but **because the Lord loves you**, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, **the Lord has brought you out** with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

> **loves:** [H160](#) (**Strong**) אָהַבָה ‘ahăbâh — a-hab-aw’

Feminine of [H158](#) and meaning the same: - **love**.

**Deuteronomy 10:14-15 14** Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, *also* the earth with all that *is* in it.

15 The Lord **delighted** only in your fathers, **to love them**; and He chose their descendants after them, **you above all peoples**, as *it is* this day.

**]]>** a comparison of Deuteronomy, 7: yes, sir628, and Deuteronomy 10 verse 15 helps us understand that God's great love.

**Theological word, book of the new Old Testament;**

He is attached to the people of Israel, his chosen people. it is a love that is already bound to its object. Furthermore, it is “a deep inward attachment (in a positive sense) this is what is descriptive of God's love Israel. He was bound to them of his own volition, and not because of anything good or desirable in them.

**]]>** because of God's great love he delivered the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. Now consider this— because of God's great love for you what has he delivered you from?

**REF:>>** Ephesians 2:1-3 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

**2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

**3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

**Ephesians 2:4** But **God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love** with which He loved us,

**5** even when we were **dead in trespasses**, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

**6** and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

**7** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

**8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

SDA BC **Ephesians 2:6**

REF: >> **Heavenly places.** See on ch. 1:3. Those who see Christ as sitting at the right hand of God may dwell in the atmosphere of heaven while here on earth. Believers now belong to the heavenly world, in that Christ's entrance to the heavenly courts was a pledge of the entrance of all who would accept salvation. The spiritual life on earth then becomes a foretaste, an anticipation, of the heavenly life. Christ is with us by His Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:20), and He counts us as already dwelling with Him.

\*\*\***READ**\*\*\*

**Compare Revelation 4:11 and Psalm 33:6. What do these verses tell us about God's freedom relative to Creation?**

**Revelation 4:11** "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist **and were created.**"

**Psalm 33:6.** By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

God freely created this world. And, because of this, God is worthy of all glory, honor, and power. God did not *need* to create any world. Before the foundation of the world, God already enjoyed the love relationship that existed within the Godhead.

**Read John 17:24. What does it tell us about God's love before the world existed?**

**John 17:24** "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for **You loved Me before the foundation of the world.**

God did not need creatures as an object of His love. But, in accordance with His character of love, **God chose to create the world** and enter into a love relationship with creatures.

Not only did God freely create this world as a bestowal of His generous love, but **God also continues freely to love humans, even after humans fell into sin in Eden, and even after we personally sin.**



**10** I said, "In the prime of my life I shall go to the gates of Sheol; I am deprived of the remainder of my years."

**11** I said, "I shall not see Yah, The Lord in the land of the living; I shall observe man no more among the inhabitants of the world.

>> Notice Hezekiah's gratefulness

**Isaiah 38:17** Indeed *it was for my own peace That* I had great bitterness; But You have lovingly *delivered* my soul from the pit of corruption, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

**Song: God and God alone, sung by Steve Green**

God and God alone  
Created all these things we call our own  
From the mighty to the small  
The Glory in them all  
Is God's and God's alone

God and God alone  
Is fit to take the universe's throne  
Let everything that lives  
Reserve it's truest praise  
For God and God alone

God and God alone  
Reveals the truth of all we call unknown  
And the best and worst of man  
Won't change the Master's plan  
It's God's and God's alone

God and God alone  
Will be the joy of our eternal home  
He will be our one desire  
Our hearts will never tire  
Of God's and God's alone