ALL STAND!

While teaching a class on The Everlasting Covenant at an evangelism school, one student, unable to sit for more than a few minutes at a time, had situated a “bed.” I flashed my next slide on the screen and began to read—Psalm 103. Suddenly I noticed a stirring on my front left. She was struggling to pull herself up. I stopped reading.

“It’s OK, you don’t have to get up,” I assured her.

“No, sir,” she responded, “if God is really like this, I have to stand,” which she did until I finished reading the passage three slides later. During the next break, she couldn’t stop talking about it: “Is it really true,” she kept repeating, “is God really like this? I never knew this!”

Psalm 103 is an Old Testament believer’s theology of the Mosaic/Sinaitic/old covenant (the main section is bracketed between direct references to “Moses” and the “covenant” in vv. 7, 18). However, many modern scholars attempt to pit the “law of Moses” (the Mosaic covenant) against the “law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2). They describe the Mosaic covenant as primarily bondage-generating rules and regulations that were to be externally obeyed, by rote, in contrast to the new covenant’s law of love to be obeyed from the heart.

Written by David, Psalm 103 was adopted into Israel’s national hymnal (the book of Psalms) by believers who actually lived under that covenant and wrote of it, “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day” (Ps. 119:97, NKJV). What my student heard during the reading of Psalm 103 in class that day is what the people of Israel heard several millennia earlier. No wonder she felt the need to stand!

Welcome to “The Gospel of Moses According to David.”
Write out Psalm 103:1–22 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Psalm 103:10–14. You may also re-write the passage in your own words, outline, or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Psalm 103:1–22. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

If God asked you to drop one benefit from the five listed in the Psalm, which would it be? Why?

If you could only be assured of one benefit, which would it be? Why?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov04-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What verse in Psalm 103:7–18 do you resonate with most? Why?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov04-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Exodus 34:27
Ezekiel 18:1–32
Micah 7:18, 19
Psalm 63:1–8
Galatians 1:6–9
Hebrews 3:16–4:2
John 14:21
Colossians 1:21–23
Philippians 2:12, 13
Romans 3:10–19

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Psalm 103:1–22?

Review your memorized verse from Psalm 103:1–22.
Where do you see Jesus in Psalm 103:1–22?

How have you been biased against the Old Testament God?

What is Jesus saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are things that need to be rearranged on the inside?

What are practical applications you feel convicted to apply externally?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/cov04-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What is your gut reaction when hearing Mosaic, Sinaitic, and old covenant law?

What is the link between the gospel message of forgiveness and physical health?

Why can’t God’s benefits be separated from having a relationship with God?

How do superficial believers of God try to make this separation?

How do you explain the guarantee of justice and righteousness in the context of the second coming of Jesus?

How has Psalm 103 changed your view of the old and new covenants?

Why is it a problem to think of the Bible having two or more gospels?

How have you sought more of a Psalm 103 experience?

The Gospel of Moses