

The Nature of God—God and Time
References
(New American Standard Bible)

Exodus 33:5 [God does not know what He will do with the Israelites, He must see what they do first.]

For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the sons of Israel, 'You are an obstinate people; should I go up in your midst for one moment, I would destroy you. Now therefore, put off your ornaments from you, that I may know what I shall do with you.'"

Jeremiah 18:7–10

"At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it."

2 Peter 3:8–9 [The context shows that this passage is about God's patience and not His relation to time.]

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

God Lives In Time

(References in parentheses are verses that clarify the original quotation.)

Genesis	9:5, 6, 18	Deuteronomy	7:1, 26
1:26, 27	12:23, 29	1:30-33, 34, 37	10:14
2:3 (1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23,	14:24	2:25	23:16
31; Ex. 20:11; 31:17)	19:3, 10, 11, 20	4:14	24:20
6:5, 12, 13	24:16	5:24, 28, 29	
8:21	31:18 (32:16)	9:7, 8, 10, 11, 19, 20,	Judges
9:16	32:9-14, 32-34	22, 25	2:20-22
11:5-8	33:11, 17-23	10:1, 2, 4, 8	10:7, 16
17:1, 22	34:1, 2, 5	11:12	
18:1, 10, 14, 21, 33		13:17, 18	1 Samuel
19:22, 24, 29	Numbers	23:14	2:35
35:9, 13	1:1	26:6-9	3:8, 10
	11:1, 33	28:63	9:16
Exodus	12:2, 4-9	29:20, 27, 28	15:11, 35
2:23-25	14:8, 20-24, 27, 28	32:21, 39	
3:4, 7-9	25:3, 4, 10, 11		2 Samuel
4:14	32:13	Joshua	11:27
6:2-5	35:34	5:2, 9	24:1, 16

1 Kings	33:11, 13-15	15:1	3:10
8:34-40, 46-50, 59	35:23	16:17	Micah
11:9	40:17	17:10	1:3
22:19	78:21, 38, 58, 59	23:24, 25	3:4
2 Kings	80:14	29:11	4:12
13:3, 4, 23	90:2, 4	32:17-19, 30-32	5:3
14:26	95:10, 11	44:21, 22	7:18, 19
17:18	102:19, 24-27	51:6	Nahum
19:16, 20, 25, 28	103:13	Ezekiel	1:2, 3, 6, 7
20:5 (20:1)	105:19	5:13	Zephaniah
22:13, 17	106:23, 24	6:9	1:18
23:26	125:2	8:18	2:8, 9
24:20	139:17	16:42	3:5, 8, 17
1 Chronicles	149:4	20:33	Haggai
28:9	Proverbs	21:17	1:8
2 Chronicles	1:18	22:20, 31	Zechariah
1:7	2:19	34:11, 12	1:12-16
7:12-16	9:1	35:10-15	4:10
16:9	10:25	38:18, 19	7:12, 13
29:8, 10	11:11	39:23, 24, 29	8:14, 15
30:8, 9	12:1	43:7	10:6
Nehemiah	13:9, 13	Daniel	Malachi
1:6, 11	25:8	9:14, 15, 17-19	2:17
9:16, 17, 32	30:27, 28	Hosea	3:16
Job	37:26	5:15	Philippians
1:6	40:28	6:1	2:5-11
2:1	42:14	7:2	Hebrews
7:17	43:10	11:1, 3, 4, 8, 9	1:1, 2
28:23, 24	45:18	13:11	10:13
31:4	46:9-11	14:4	Revelation
36:26	48:16	Joel	1:4, 8
38:4	49:15, 16	2:12-14, 18	8:1
Psalms	55:8, 9	Amos	22:10
7:11	57:11, 15	9:4, 8	
18:6	60:10	Jonah	
25:6, 7, 10	65:19	1:2, 6	
30:5	Jeremiah		
	4:4		
	8:18		

God Changes His Mind

Though these instances of God's changing his mind are translated in different ways, they are all rendered from the same Hebrew word, נָחַם ([nakham](#)), meaning to change the mind, to be penitent, comforted, or eased. The translation of the word is given in italics.

Genesis 6:6-7

⁶The LORD *was sorry* that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

⁷The LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for *I am sorry* that I have made them."

Exodus 32:12, 14

¹²"Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, 'With evil intent He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your burning anger and *change Your mind* about doing harm to Your people.

¹⁴So the LORD *changed His mind* about the harm which He said He would do to His people.

Numbers 23:19

"God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should *repent*;
Has He said, and will He not do it?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

Deuteronomy 32:36

"For the LORD will vindicate His people,
And will *have compassion on* His servants,
When He sees that their strength is gone,
And there is none remaining, bond or free.

Judges 2:18

When the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was *moved to pity* by their groaning because of those who oppressed and afflicted them.

1 Samuel 15:11, 29, 35

¹¹"I *regret* that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands " And Samuel was distressed and cried out to the LORD all night.

²⁹"Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or *change His mind*; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."

³⁵Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death; for Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD *regretted* that He had made Saul king over Israel.

2 Samuel 24:16

When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD *relented* from the calamity and said to the angel who destroyed the people, "It is enough! Now relax your hand!" And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

1 Chronicles 21:15

And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but as he was about to destroy it, the LORD saw and *was sorry* over the calamity, and said to the destroying angel, "It is enough; now relax your hand." And the angel of the LORD was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Psalms 90:13

Do return, O LORD; how long will it be?
And *be sorry for* Your servants.

Psalms 106:45

And He remembered His covenant for their sake,
And *relented* according to the greatness of His lovingkindness.

Psalms 110:4

The LORD has sworn and will not *change His mind*,
"You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek."

Psalms 135:14

For the LORD will judge His people
And will *have compassion on* His servants.

Jeremiah 4:28

"For this the earth shall mourn
And the heavens above be dark,
Because I have spoken, I have purposed,
And I will not *change My mind*, nor will I turn from it."

Jeremiah 15:6

"You who have forsaken Me," declares the LORD,
"You keep going backward
So I will stretch out My hand against you and destroy you;
I am tired of *relenting!*"

Jeremiah 18:8, 10

⁸if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will *relent* concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it.

¹⁰if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will *think better* of the good with which I had promised to bless it.

Jeremiah 20:16

But let that man be like the cities
Which the LORD overthrew without *relenting*,
And let him hear an outcry in the morning
And a shout of alarm at noon;

Jeremiah 26:3, 13, 19

³Perhaps they will listen and everyone will turn from his evil way, that I may *repent* of the calamity which I am planning to do to them because of the evil of their deeds.'

¹³"Now therefore amend your ways and your deeds and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will *change His mind* about the misfortune which He has pronounced against you.

¹⁹"Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him to death? Did he not fear the LORD and entreat the favor of the LORD, and the LORD *changed His mind* about the misfortune which He had pronounced against them? But we are committing a great evil against ourselves."

Jeremiah 42:10

'If you will indeed stay in this land, then I will build you up and not tear you down, and I will plant you and not uproot you; for I will *relent* concerning the calamity that I have inflicted on you.

Ezekiel 24:14

"I, the LORD, have spoken; it is coming and I will act I will not *relent*, and I will not pity and I will not be sorry; according to your ways and according to your deeds I will judge you," declares the Lord GOD."

Hosea 11:8

How can I give you up, O Ephraim?
How can I surrender you, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart is turned over within Me,
All My *compassions are kindled*.

Hosea 13:14

Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol?
Shall I redeem them from death?
O Death, where are your thorns?
O Sheol, where is your sting?
Compassion will be hidden from My sight.

Joel 2:13, 14

¹³And rend your heart and not your garments "
Now return to the LORD your God,
For He is gracious and compassionate,
Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness
And *relenting* of evil.

¹⁴Who knows whether He will not turn and *relent*
And leave a blessing behind Him,
Even a grain offering and a drink offering
For the LORD your God?

Amos 7:3, 6

³The LORD *changed His mind* about this.
"It shall not be," said the LORD.

⁶The LORD *changed His mind* about this.
"This too shall not be," said the Lord GOD.

Jonah 3:9, 10

⁹"Who knows, God may turn and *relent* and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish."

¹⁰When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God *relented* concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.

Jonah 4:2

He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who *relents* concerning calamity.

Zechariah 8:14

"For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Just as I purposed to do harm to you when your fathers provoked Me to wrath,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and I have not *relented*,'"