

GRACE 2

1. Definition:

- A. Hebrew word HEN in the Septuagint (LXX) means that a stronger person comes to the aid of a weaker person who is in trouble. The stronger person acts out of free will, not out of guilt or obligation to help out the other person.
- 1) Genesis 32:5, Jacob and Esau (Jacob is the stronger one).
 - 2) Ruth 2:2, 10, 13, Ruth and Boaz (Boaz is the stronger one).
 - 3) Genesis 37:25, Joseph (stronger) and the Egyptian (weaker).
 4. 1 Samuel 12:22, 20:3, David to Saul and Jonathan.
 5. Esther 8:5, Queen Esther to the King (weaker in viewpoint) while Esther is stronger in divine viewpoint.
 6. God supplies strength to help the weak through the principle of grace. Genesis 39:21; Exodus 3:21; 11:3.
- B. In the Old Testament God showed grace action towards Noah by singling him out for survival. Noah was a positive man to Bible doctrine and the Lord's will and God chose to honor Noah's positive volition, Genesis 6:8.
- 1) God finds great pleasure and receives glory when He is able to deliver or promote a faithful believer.
 - 2) Grace finds objects of blessings in the human race when believers continue to be faithful and obedient to God's holiness.
- C. Moses knew how to tap the grace resources of God in prayer by reminding God of His election of Israel. Moses was being tested in his leadership to prove his humility.
- 1) Exodus 33:12-17, God showed Moses grace of "favor" for passing his tests and honoring the Lord rather than going with the human tendency of revenge.
 - 2) Leadership has to be objective about people and base his daily

service upon the character of God. If he gets his eyes on people and their unfaithfulness then he will lose the grace perspective and want them “all killed.” This was the test of Moses.

D. The postponement of the 4th and 5th cycle of discipline upon a nation in history is considered a gracious act of God.

1) 1 Kings 21:29; 2 Kings 10:30, 14:26; 2 Kings 13:23.

E. All life upon planet earth is sustained by the gracious power of God every day, Genesis 8:21-22.

F. Summary:

1) Grace is all that God can do for the nation Israel and Gentiles on the basis of the future work of Christ.

2) Grace is known as “favor” in the Old Testament.

3) Grace means that someone stronger is aiding the weaker.

4) Under Grace in the Old Testament God spares a believer from judgment historically, nationally, individually.

5) Obedience and faithfulness to the Law in Israel were prerequisites of blessing in Old Testament.

6) Moses gives us an idea of grace in the Old Testament when he sets aside his personal anger with the Jews and considers God’s overall plan for Israel, God’s character of faithfulness and God’s reputation.

PRINCIPLE: Grace looks to protect God’s character first by putting aside personal grudges, revenge ideas, and vendettas.

7) Life itself is a gracious act of the Lord for all creatures.

2. Jesus teaches that grace takes on some different characteristics in the Gospels, John 1:17, “grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

A. Jesus demonstrated the principle of grace by healing the sick, helping the weak, teaching doctrine to the ignorant ones.

- 1) Matthew 11:5, 28-30, Jesus promises the ill and lame, the spiritually deficient ones a rest from their sufferings if they will identify with Him as their Savior.
- 2) Mark 20:26 ff, Luke 15, demonstrate forgiveness of those who have strayed from truth and been under discipline. It takes grace orientation to receive them back into your home.
- 3) Matthew 20:1-16, Jesus teaches the grace principle of rewards in the kingdom of God. The believer must learn to orient to God's standard of living, not what the lusts of men dictate.
- 4) Luke 13:6-8, Jesus taught that all men need to hear the gospel and not to withhold it from someone just because he is evil. A tree without nourishment of the gospel will not produce fruit.
- 5) Luke 7:36-50, Christ shows the principle of grace forgiving the woman who had many sins. She was forgiven much, therefore she demonstrated much relief and love for the Lord. She was not to be criticized for her actions, even if others did not understand what she was doing. Her worship glorified God!

PRINCIPLE: Grace allows the freedom of all men to worship the Lord.

- a) Application of truth to your life is essential for your worship.
 - b) You may apply something different than others but there is to be no criticism.
 - c) Warning: This does not mean to condone heresy, legalism, lasciviousness, apostasy such as the charismatics display.
- 6) Luke 4:22 says that Jesus taught with words of grace and did edification as in Ephesians 4:29.
3. In the book of Acts, grace enables the apostles to carry out their ministries successfully.
 - A. Acts 6:8, 11:23; 14:26, 18:27.
 - B. In Acts 18:27 the gospel is called the "word of grace" for it enables

mankind to believe in Christ as Savior.

- C. In Acts 20:32 the gospel is able to build up believers in truth.
- D. In Acts 2:47; 4:33 the believer has favor, or grace, with men and is able to influence them for Christ because God has promoted that believer in this area. There are at least three principles that pertain to this area of thought.

PRINCIPLE: In a ministry to others if God does not promote you then forcing it will only cause problems.

PRINCIPLE: If God does not put His seal of grace approval on your ministry then you will not be able to extract grace production from it.

PRINCIPLE: If God does not sow a ministry for you then you will not reap one. God has to promote you into a ministry He has prepared or else it is not grace.

- 1) The believer must sort out the difference between grace and legalism.
- 2) The only way for this to happen is through doctrine intake and growth to occur.
- 3) A believer must understand that salvation has nothing to do with his efforts.
- 4) When a believer understands salvation then he will understand the Christian life does not depend on works either. It depends upon grace techniques to produce divine good.
- 5) God wants to promote the believer to be like His Son, Jesus Christ.

Phase 1 salvation—imputed righteousness makes us higher than the angels, like Christ is, positionally.

Phase 2, growth—experiential sanctification means the believer grows in doctrine and grace understanding in time, thus separating himself from world viewpoint.

Phase 3, ultimate sanctification, makes us physically superior to angels in our resurrection bodies.

- 6) Under grace you don't have to be an "achiever," rather you must learn to stay a "willing recipient of grace." This is covered in detail in Galatians 2:21; 5:1-6.
- 7) Those who try to impress God with their knowledge end up in academic reversionism which separates a man from God in his thinking, 2 Corinthians 1:12; 1 Corinthians 1:30.
- 8) The Christian way of life is a life of blessings by grace alone. We cannot earn or deserve blessings, 2 Corinthians 6:1-9; Romans 5:2; John 1:16, for the plan is anchored in Christ, not in man's abilities.
 - a) It is God's total plan, Romans 8:28.
 - b) However, God allows men to work grace works through their spiritual gifts and the filling of the Holy Spirit, Romans 12:6 ff; 1 Corinthians 12:9. God tells you what to do, you do not have the freedom to "blaze your own trail."
 - c) The believer becomes disoriented to grace when he tries to do things in the flesh (carnality, on his own), Hebrews 12:15. A believer in reversionism cannot do the will of God for he goes into legalism. Galatians 5:4, "fallen from grace."

4. God's divine attitude for blessing the believer is expressed in Isaiah 30:18. He is waiting for the believer to gain capacity for blessings. He waits and waits as we grow into maturity.

- A. Verse 18, "And therefore Jehovah waits," CHAKAH, Piel Imperfect – Indicates that Jehovah is not being gracious to Israel for they will be under Discipline until they change their attitude about the Lord and His prophet Isaiah. The Lord wants to bless them but this verse is a threat that no blessing will come until they change their attitude towards Bible doctrine and the communicator of the Lord.

"...to show grace to you and therefore He will be exalted to have mercy on your for Jehovah is a God of justice, happinesses are those who wait for Him." ("wait" is CHAKAH, Qal Active Participle, means simple action which is a way of life for the positive growing believer. He does not take things into his own hands but rather knows how to wait for God's answers through prayer and study of Truth).

- B. As long as the believer refuses to grow spiritually, and come to obey the Lord's doctrines then there will be the withholding of grace blessings in his life.
 - 1) Lack of happiness in the soul which is part of being out of fellowship with the Lord.
 - 2) Emotional revolt of the soul disorients the believer to the reality of life, which is Bible doctrine.
 - 3) While the believer is out on their own in carnality, emotional revolt or reversionism, then there is no hope of happiness.
- 5. Grace begins in salvation for the believer, Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:2; 5:20; 4:4; Psalm 103:8-12.
- 6. Grace continues in the believer's life as he learns to follow God's laws.
 - A. Prayer, Hebrews 4:16.
 - B. Suffering, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.
 - C. Growth, 2 Peter 3:18.
 - D. Stability in life, 1 Peter 5:12.
 - E. Method of operation, Hebrews 12:28.
 - F. Producing divine good, 1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 6:1.
- 7. Grace must be understood in giving to the local church, 2 Corinthians 8-9.
- 8. Implications of grace:
 - A. If God is perfect, and He is, then His plan is perfect.
 - B. A perfect plan can only originate from a perfect God.
 - C. If a man tries to add to God's perfect plan it is no longer perfect.
 - D. A plan is no stronger than its weakest link, therefore God does not base the success of His plan on man. Man is the weak link in all things.
 - E. Grace excludes human activity, human good, human ability and human

talent.

F. All legalism and human good are the enemies of grace for human good and legalism are associated with pride.

9. Failure to think in a grace:

A. Eternal Security – failure to accept this doctrine

B. Claiming that one's sufferings are greater than grace.

C. Emotionalism – claiming that speaking in tongues is something that some or all must do as part of one's spiritual life or growth.

D. Pride of "feeling" righteous because of being involved in religious rituals, a church movement, or some religious tradition.