

GRACE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

I. Grace in Adam's life.

- A. We see grace in the life of the first man.
- B. Adam had been blessed with an idyllic place in which to live and a wonderful helpmeet with whom he could spend his life.
 - 1. He lived in the beautiful Garden of Eden.
 - 2. He had a close relationship with God.
- C. We know, however, that Eve and then Adam both sinned and this ruined their relationship with God and caused them to be removed from their home.
- D. Before their removal, however, we see a great example of God's grace in their lives.
- E. Remember that grace is unmerited favor, something someone gets but had done nothing to earn it.
- F. Adam deserved death, because that was the punishment for eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17).
 - 1. However, God extended grace and mercy to them in providing a sacrifice for them.
 - 2. He killed animals for them and, by this, provided clothing for them (Genesis 3:21).
- G. They did not deserve this treatment.
 - 1. They had defied God.
 - 2. They had broken the one prohibition that God had given them.
- H. However, because of God's grace, He allowed them to live and even provided clothing with which to cover themselves.
- I. Then, God showed His grace by giving them a law by which to live in order to maintain the repaired relationship.
 - 1. Through a system of offerings and worship God and man could be united.
 - 2. We see this in the life of Cain and Abel and know God gave them this law because Abel offered by faith (Hebrews 11:4), which comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17).

II. Grace in Noah's life.

- A. The Bible specifically says that Noah found grace in God's eyes (Genesis 6:8).
- B. Noah lived at a time when the world was completely corrupt because of sin (Genesis 6:5).
- C. This did not stop Noah from walking with God (Genesis 6:9).
 - 1. Despite the world around him, Noah was faithful to God in his life.
 - 2. He was not sinless, but he strove to follow the Patriarchal Law as best he could.
- D. Because of this life that he led, God extended his grace to Noah and told him to build an ark to survive the coming flood.
- E. Noah did all that God commanded him to do, which we are told twice (Genesis 6:22; 7:5).

1. Because Noah was human we know he sinned.
 2. Despite his sin, God extended grace to Noah because he lived a life of faith, which was shown in his actions.
- F. Noah continued that life of faith by being obedient to the commands of God concerning the building and populating of the ark.
- G. God could have destroyed man because of sin and started over or given up altogether.
- H. Thankfully, His grace caused Him to look at Noah's life and a man worth saving by grace joined with Noah's faith.

III. **Grace in Abraham's life.**

- A. We get to see grace the first time we meet Abraham.
- B. God reached out to Abraham while he was in a land that had turned to idolatry (Genesis 12:1-3).
1. God graciously made three promises to Abraham with two stipulations.
 2. The three promises were the nation, land and seed promises.
 3. The two stipulations were to leave his home and leave his kinfolk.
- C. Abraham met the first stipulation quickly.
- D. However, it took some time for him to meet the second.
1. When Lot broke away from Abraham is when he met it.
 2. We then see that God reiterated the blessings for the first time since promising them (Genesis 13:14).
- E. God did not have to choose Abraham.
1. Like with Noah's day, God could have given up on the world because of its sin.
 2. We read about the sins of Abraham's day in Romans 1:18f.
 3. Despite the conditions, God still wanted man to be saved and graciously reached out to Abraham in order for His plan to continue.
- F. By God's grace, we can be of the seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:29).

IV. **Grace in David's life.**

- A. David wrote much about the grace of God in the Psalms.
1. The Hebrew word David used was translated mercy, lovingkindness and several other things.
 2. Psalm 17:7; 40:11; 63:3.
 3. This word in Hebrew is the closest to the Greek word translated grace in the New Testament.
- B. We see grace in David's life numerous times, but let's focus on instance found in 2 Samuel 7.
1. In this chapter, David is told that he cannot build a temple to God.
 2. However, he is given a great promise: that there would always be a king on his throne (vs. 11-13).
 3. This of course is a promise of the Messiah.
- C. Notice, though, that God reminded David from where he had come (vs. 8).
1. David did nothing to deserve the throne, but God graciously gave it to him and his seed after him.
 2. He did nothing to merit the Messiah descending from him either.

3. Even David realized he was not worthy because of who he was or what he had done (vs. 18).

D. God's unmerited favor gave the throne and this promise to David.

V. Grace in Hosea's life.

A. Hosea was told by God to marry a woman who would become a harlot.

1. He married a woman named Gomer and they had three children.
2. Two of the children, by their names, seem to have been conceived with another man.
3. She then left her husband and children, only later to be bought for the price of a wounded slave.

B. One might say that grace is nowhere present in this account.

C. We need to understand why God told Hosea to marry Gomer.

1. God was giving Hosea a personal illustration of what Israel was doing to Him.
2. He then showed Hosea how much He loved Israel with these words (2:15-19).

D. God could have cast off Israel completely because of her sins.

1. His grace and mercy was extended to them again so that they could see how much He loved them.
2. The word "lovingkindness" in verse 19 is the same word David used in the Psalms.