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# GRACE FOR GRACE

*It seems that grace is a topic that we don't hear a lot of in the modern day body of the Messiah. We hear a lot about the Torah and Torah observance, but very little is said of this subject of "grace." Yet, it is by His grace that we are saved, not by our own Torah observance. Shouldn't we examine this subject of grace a little more thoroughly?*

*By Jerry Healan*

The Apostle John wrote, "And of his fullness have all we received, and **grace for grace**. For the law was given by Moses, **but grace and truth came by Yahshua the Messiah,**" Jn. 1:16-17. What does this mean, "grace for grace?"

I recently heard a dear brother speak of John's statement in these passages in a rather disparaging manner. He said, in effect, I hear Christianity speaking about John 1:16 and grace as if it never existed before. But grace was around before the Messiah and so was the truth. So what is the big deal?

His statement grievously disappointed me and also caused anger and indignation to well up in me. It seems as if the more Torah observant we become, the less we focus on grace. It's almost as if this grace that is extended through Yahshua is a one-time deal similar to baptism. We have repented of our sins, been baptized, had grace extended and now it's up to us to be observant to the commands of the Torah for the rest of our lives.

Yahweh's grace is something that we need every precious moment of our lives. If we utilize the Torah properly, it will bring us to the Messiah causing us to realize our need for Him and His mercy always. The Torah will continually reveal to us how far short we fall in its daily application in our lives. It will reveal our constant need for "grace" if we are to inherit the kingdom of heaven and eternal life. The apostles knew this and wrote about it. We must not neglect the wondrous salvation that has been

extended to us; neither must we neglect this wondrous grace!

## WHAT IS GRACE?

The word "grace" utilized primarily in the Greek of the New Testament is "charis." It is defined as; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude). (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*) It is generally and variously translated into the following words; acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace(-ious), joy, liberality, pleasure, thank(-s, -worthy).

"Charis" (grace) comes from another Greek word "chairō," which is defined as; a primary verb; to be "cheer"ful, i.e. calmly happy or well-off; impersonally, especially as salutation (on meeting or parting), be well. (*ibid*)

The main Hebrew word for "grace" is "chen" (pronounced "khane") and is defined as; from 2603; graciousness, i.e. subjective (kindness, favor) or objective (beauty). (*ibid*) It is generally and variously translated as; favour, grace(-ious), pleasant, precious, (well-)favoured. (*ibid*)

As in the Greek, so in the Hebrew; the Hebrew word for "grace" (chen) is derived from another primitive Hebrew word "chanan" (pronounced "khaw-nan"), which is defined as; a primitive root (compare 2583); properly, **to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior**; to favor, bestow; caus-



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actively to implore (i.e. move to favor by petition). (*ibid*)

Thus, Yahweh purposely named John the Baptist who was to go forth preparing the way for Him that was to come (Yahshua). The name “Yahshua” means “the salvation of Yahweh” or “Yahweh the Savior.” The name “John” comes from “Yehowchanan” which means “Yahweh’s grace” or “Yahweh’s favor,” etc.

Isn’t this interesting that a man named John (Yehowchanan; Yahweh’s grace) is prepared beforehand to announce and prepare the way for a man named Yahshua (Yehowshua; Yahweh’s salvation)!

Grace has to do with mercy, kindness, favor. It has to do with being gracious and merciful. It has to do with the ALMIGHTY YAHWEH bending or stooping in kindness to we who are inferior, in order to bestow mercy, and salvation to us. Otherwise, we will die and remain so forever because we have all sinned and come short of the glory of Yahweh (Ro. 3:23). Sin earns the penalty of death (Ro. 6:23). But grace, mercy, favor, forgiveness and wondrous salvation to eternal life are extended to us through Yahshua the Messiah (same verse)!

### OLD TESTAMENT GRACE

The first place that the word “grace” appears is in the book of Genesis, chapter 6. The descendants of Adam had become so wicked and evil that Yahweh was greatly saddened that he had made man. Therefore, He decreed that He was going to destroy every living thing that lived and moved upon the face of the earth (Gen. 6:5-7). But Noah found “grace” in the eyes of Yahweh (Gen. 6:8). Only one man and his family, eight persons, came under the “grace” of Yahweh at that time. Their lives were spared while all others were destroyed.

Later, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah

became exceedingly wicked in the eyes of Yahweh. He determined to completely destroy them, but one man, Lot and his family found “grace” in the eyes of Yahweh and were spared the destruction that was rained upon the cities and the plain whereon they were built. (Gen. 19)

Still later, the patriarch Joseph, who was hated and despised by his brothers, being sold into slavery in Egypt, experienced the “favor” or “grace” of Yahweh to the point of being raised to second in the kingdom of Egypt immediately under Pharaoh the king.

The Israelites came under bondage to the Egyptians and at the proper time, Yahweh, through His “favor” or “grace,” delivered them from the land of Egypt with a mighty and uplifted hand (Ex. 3:21; 11:3; 12:36, etc.) Moses found such “grace” in the eyes of Yahweh that Yahweh revealed the hiddermost parts of His glory to him (Gen. 33).

Ruth, the Moabitess, experienced “grace” to be able to be married into the Hebrew lineage wherein one of her descendants, David, became king over all Israel, out of whose loins the King of Heaven and earth would also issue forth.

Hannah, in the bitterness of her soul, experienced the grace of Yahweh to be able to conceive Samuel the prophet who later replaced (temporarily) the lineage of Aaron as high priest over the tribes of Israel.

David, the shepherd boy, experienced the grace of Yahweh to eventually be exalted as king over Israel from whose loins the Messiah, the true Anointed One would issue forth.

Yes, the “grace” that we see being experienced in the Old Testament is truly a tremendous “grace,” “mercy,” and “favor” that should cause us to respect and honor with joy and thanksgiving.

### NEW TESTAMENT GRACE



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But what does Peter mean when he writes, “Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the **grace** *that should come* unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of the Messiah which was in them did signify, when it testified before hand the sufferings of the Messiah, and the glory that should follow,” 1 Pet. 1:10-11.

Do you get that? The prophets, even though given the prophecies of the “grace” and salvation, which they were moved by the Spirit to proclaim, were searching diligently, constantly as to exactly when this “grace,” this salvation would appear. They didn’t have a clue! The prophets were inspired to prophesy of a greater and more glorious “grace” than what had been experienced in the days of old!

Those who had experience the “grace” of Yahweh during those times still perished. That “grace” only endured for a moment in time! That “grace” was similar to all “types” that foretold of, or typified the Messiah. The reality that is found in the Messiah Yahshua is so much greater than the type that foretells.

Moses was shown the glory of Yahweh which was so great that his face shown for a good while afterward. He has to place a veil upon his face when he walked among the Israelites so that they couldn’t behold it. But that glory that shown from Moses’ face was to be done away or abolished (2 Cor. 3:7, 13), even as the covenant that was made through him must yield to the far greater covenant which is made with us through Yahshua the Messiah.

Paul declares, “But Yahweh, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

**5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with The Messiah, (by grace ye are saved;)**

**6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in The Messiah Yahshua:**

**7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his **kindness** toward us through The Messiah Yahshua.

**8** For **by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of Yahweh:**

**9** Not of works, lest any man should boast,” Eph. 2:4-9.

The grace of old was generally extended because of the righteous works of those who received it. Noah was perfect in his generations. Lot was a righteous man. Joseph was righteous. The Israelites came under bondage through subtilty. Ruth was selfless and obedient. Moses was obedient. Hannah was unjustly persecuted by her husband’s second wife due to her own childlessness. David was a man after Yahweh’s own heart, etc., etc.

But look at this wondrous and precious “grace” which is extended to us through Yahshua the Messiah. It is a free gift. We have earned death. Yahweh is extending mercy, “grace” to us out of His own free will and love that He has toward us even when we are yet His enemies!

### GRACE FOR GRACE

John says that we have received “grace for grace.” The Greek reads thusly, “charis **anti** charis.” Notice the Greek word “anti.” This Greek word “anti” is defined as; a primary particle; opposite, i.e. instead or because of (rarely in addition to). (*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*) “Anti,” in the Greek, carries the same basic meanings that our English word does. It means to be opposite, against, hostile to, or reverse. For instance, Messiah : Anti-Messiah, or Christ : Anti-Christ.

Under the auspices of the New Testament, we are able to receive grace offered through Yahshua the Messiah instead of the grace of the Old Testament. It is a far greater grace for it endures for all eternity.



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Paul writes, “For the grace of Yahweh that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying unrighteousness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and piously, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great Elohim and our Saviour Yahshua the Messiah;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works,” Titus 2:11-14.

Surely, when we receive this wondrous grace, we should treasure it so much that we will yield unto it and allow it and Yahweh’s Spirit to bring about great changes in our lives. We should walk in newness of life, not in the old sinful nature, but a nature that now causes us to esteem Yahweh, His Son and His ways above all else. We should seek to walk in His righteousness, specifically and especially in the commands of the golden rule which are: to love Yahweh with all our strength, soul, mind and might, and our neighbor as ourselves. In other words, we should walk in the commandments, of Yahweh, especially the ten commandments.

Paul encourages Timothy, “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Sovereign, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the evangel according to the power of Elohim;

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, **not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in the Messiah Yahshua before the world began,**

10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Yahshua the Messiah, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the evangel:

11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles,” 2 Tim. 1:8-11.

How wondrous it is that this grace was already spoken of as factual even before the world began! But the Messiah has walked upon the earth in the last days in order to bring that which was spoken before, into reality.

I think that we can guarantee you that the grace that was experienced by those of old will most happily and gladly be exchanged by them for the wondrous grace that is now extended to us through Yahshua the Messiah.

### TAKE WARNING

The grace that is extended to us at this time is most wondrous indeed. We are cautioned to continue in this grace and faith to which we have been called, for the Scriptures do reveal that we can quench the Spirit, “Quench not the Spirit,” 1 Thes. 5:19. How can we do this? Through neglect, “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Sovereign, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

4 Yahweh also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will?” Heb. 2:1-4.

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery,” 1 Thes. 4:14.

We must be careful not to fall away from the truth, “Therefore leaving the principles



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of the doctrine of The Messiah, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward Yahweh,

2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

3 And this will we do, if Yahweh permit.

4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

5 And have tasted the good word of Yahweh, and the powers of the world to come,

6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of Elohim afresh, and put him to an open shame," Heb. 6:1-6.

Again, we are warned, "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of Elohim, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith Yahweh. And again, Yahweh shall judge his people," Heb. 10:26-30.

We must maintain the faith and grace that has been extended to us. We must continually be renewed by it.

### LOOKING AT THE TYPES

The "types" of grace do teach us of the true grace, which comes through Yahshua the Messiah. Only Noah and his family experienced the original grace because of his righteousness and perfection. The same thing applies to Lot and his daughters. It is through the righteousness and perfection of Yahshua that His family will be able to experience the greater grace extended through Him.

Joseph was a righteous and faithful man to the point that he was raised to be second in power over Egypt. Only Pharaoh was greater in scope and influence. Joseph was a type of Yahshua who is second in power in the kingdom of Heaven. Only the Father Yahweh is greater in scope and influence. Joseph's brethren sacrificed him by selling him into slavery (a type of death). But Yahweh utilized the situation in order to save not only Israel, but much of the rest of the world. Thus, the grace we find in Joseph is a glorious type of the greater grace found in the Messiah. Yahshua came confirm Yahweh's word that He promised to the fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) concerning the family of Israel, but non-Israelites, non-Hebrews can be grafter into the family of Israel also.

### CONCLUSION

The grace that is extended to us under the New Covenant is far, far greater and much more precious and wondrous than the grace that existed in ancient times before and under the Old Testament. The prophets understood this, prophesied about it and searched diligently as to when this much greater grace would come about. Those who experienced grace in olden times, experienced it only for a short period of time, but those who experience the grace offered through Yahshua the Messiah will experience it for all eternity. This is what John meant when he wrote that we have received grace for grace. May Yahweh bless



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you to be able to experience this awesome  
and wondrous grace. HalleluYah!!!!

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