

## THE UNDESERVING GRACE OF GOD TO ALL MANKIND

Last week we studied The Holy Law of God, tonight we'll consider God's Grace.

We will see a distinction up front between an ACT of grace and the DISPENSATION of grace. Webster's 1828 dictionary defines 'grace' as:

*Favor, good will, kindness, the free, unmerited love of God.*

The word 'grace' appears 170 times in the Bible. The first mention of the word 'grace' in the Bible is in Genesis 6:8, when God gave grace to NOAH. Let's read:

**Gen 6:5-9** And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

**8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.**

9 These are the generations of Noah:

- Noah was a just man and
- perfect in his generations, and
- Noah walked with God.

Noah had a good resume with God. The rest of mankind was wicked. When God gave Noah grace, it was only for Noah's immediate family. That was Noah and his wife, his 3 sons and their wives. 1 Peter 3:20 says only 8 souls were saved. It was NOT the dispensation of grace - because the rest of the entire world PERISHED in the flood.

**God was not DISPENSING grace to the world of mankind at that time.**  
**His grace was VERY LIMITED .... only a total of 8 people received it.**

Another individual man that God gave grace to was MOSES:

**Exo 33:12-13** And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.

13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

Actually, at THAT time, the nation of Israel received God's grace .... but only

THEM .... NOT the rest of the world. God's grace was broadened from just 8 people ....

to include an entire nation of people .... but it was only ONE nation. **Therefore, it was**

**STILL LIMITED**. Israel was distinct from all the other nations..:

**Exo 33:16** For wherein shall it be known here that **I and thy people have found grace in thy sight?** is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

Next, we'll see that **God gave grace to a man named Gideon**. Gideon delivered the nation Israel from the Midianites by an act of God's grace. Here again, Gideon and Israel only got God's grace. That's different from the dispensation of grace. God was not dispensing grace to ALL men then. The Midianites were KILLED:

**Judges 6:14-23** And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.

16 And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

17 And he said unto him, If now I have **found grace in thy sight**, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

Then God granted Gideon's request and gave him a sign.

Another event when the nation Israel received the grace of God was when they rebuilt their temple and the walls around the holy city Jerusalem:

**Ezra 9:7-9** Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.

8 **And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God**, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.

9 For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but

- hath **extended mercy unto us** in the sight of the kings of Persia,
- to give us a reviving,
- to set up the house of our God, and
- to repair the desolations thereof, and
- to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

In those verses, we see that God's grace

- **was again limited to Israel** .... and
- **it had a TIME LIMIT on it** .... and
- **it was for a SPECIFIC PURPOSE.**

That is NOT the same thing as what the entire world is experiencing today .... in the dispensation of grace.

God's grace used to have 'qualifications' with it. They had to live righteously:

**Psa 84:11** For the LORD God is a sun and shield:  
**the LORD will give grace** and glory:  
 no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

A meek, humble heart was required then. Wise King Solomon wrote:

**Prov 3:34** Surely he scorneth the scorers: but **he giveth grace unto the lowly.**

God reminded Israel of the grace they experienced through his prophet Jeremiah:

**Jer 31:1-4** At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

2 Thus saith the LORD, **The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel,** when I went to cause him to rest.

3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

4 Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin **of Israel**: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.

Let's look and see WHO those people were. We'll find out that it was only 2 men, namely, Joshua and Caleb, that were over 20 years old. All the rest of the people that were 20+ died. They did not get God's grace. **Again there, it was selective.**

Grumbling and complaining against the Lord dis-qualified the Israelites from

God's grace:

**Num 14:26-35** And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,  
 27 How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which **murmur against me**? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.  
 28 Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:  
**29 Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,**  
 30 Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.  
 31 But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.  
 32 But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.  
 33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.  
 34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.  
 35 I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.

Death was a mighty STIFF penalty! Grace was only for the young and 2 faithful men.

According to Prophecy, in the 'Ages to Come,' God will pour out his grace upon Israel:

**Zech 12:9-10** And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.  
 10 And **I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace** and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

That will happen in the future .... after the dispensation of grace comes to a close.

God will turn His attention back to Israel .... when they repent for not recognizing their

Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we move into the 4 gospels, we find just 2 places where grace is mentioned.

Both of them concern Jesus. Even when He was a child under 12 years old, God's grace was upon Him:

**Luke 2:40** And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and **the grace of God was upon him.**

Jesus was full of grace .... and He brought grace to Israel:

**John 1:14-17** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace** and truth.

15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

16 And of his fulness have all we received, and **grace for grace.**

17 For the law was given by Moses, but **grace** and truth **came by Jesus Christ.**

Still then, God's grace was discriminating. Jesus sent His apostles only to Israel:

**Matt 10:5-6** These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

6 **But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

That is WHO Jesus Himself went to. The rest of the world did not get grace:

**Matt 15:24** But he answered and said,

**I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

God's salvation was particularly for His chosen nation, Israel:

**John 4:22** Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for **salvation is of the Jews.**

Now, as we move into the book of the Acts of the Apostles, we find only one mention of God's grace in the EARLY part of the book - and still it was just to those in Israel.

It was the beginning of the Prophecy being fulfilled that we read earlier in Zech. of the pouring out of God's Spirit. We know that because Peter described the events at Pentecost as being the Prophecy Program that had been detailed by the Prophet Joel:

**Acts 2:16-20** But **this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel**;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And **on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit**; and they shall prophesy:

19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

**Acts 3:24-26** Yea, and **all the prophets** from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, **have likewise foretold of these days.**

25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with **our fathers**, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

26 **Unto you first** God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Salvation was to **FLOW THROUGH** Israel. After Israel got it **FIRST** .... they were to spread it to the rest of the world. That was 'Gentile salvation' --- according to Prophecy:

**Isa 60:1-3** Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

It was the same PLAN when, after His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus gave in:

**Mark 16:14-18** Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

And the same message also expressed in:

**Luke 24:47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, **beginning at Jerusalem.**

So here in early Acts period, those prophesied signs **WERE happening**. It is very important to realize that the people they were happening to were Jews from all nations:

**Acts 2:5** And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

We see the miraculous signs, the selling of ALL their possessions, and the pouring out of God's Spirit of grace:

**Acts 4:29-35** And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and **great grace was upon them all.**

34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

It is because of verses like we have used THUS FAR that some people believe in what they have termed God's '**Sovereign Grace**' .... saying that it is LIMITED to certain people. Well, it WAS --- in 'Times Past.' BUT NOW, through the DISPENSATION of GRACE that God committed to the apostle Paul --- **things have changed!** Let's see!

That issue (which is included in doctrines of Calvinism) can be settled by understanding RIGHT DIVISION and the distinctive message that God gave Paul.

NOW in the dispensation of grace, God's grace is seen by everyone.

It is offered to ALL men .... regardless of RACE and without distinction:

**Titus 2:11** For **the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,**

We learn from the epistles written by Paul that NOW God has extended grace to ALL ...

NOT just a selected group, as He did in 'Times Past' for Israel.

We can easily see the contrast between

..... the limited message Christ gave during His earthly ministry:

**Matt 20:28** Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to **give his life a ransom for MANY.**

**Matt 26:28** For this is my blood of the new testament, which is **shed for MANY for the remission of sins.**

..... and the unlimited message Christ gave Paul later:

**1 Tim 2:5-6** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;  
6 Who **gave himself a ransom for ALL, to be testified in due time.**

Don't miss that last phrase ....

that shows the Revelation of the Mystery was revealed progressively.

When people do not rightly divide the scriptures, it is EASY for them to become confused and mixed-up about, not only the grace of God, but any and all teachings.

It is the work of the devil to use God's Holy Word -- divided **WRONGLY** -- to deceive.

We need to examine the claims repeatedly made by Paul about his PERSONAL

ministry that God gave particularly to HIM regarding God's Program of Grace:

**Eph 3:1-9** For this cause **I Paul**, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,  
 2 If ye have heard of **the DISPENSATION of the grace of God which is given ME**  
 to you-ward:  
 3 How that **by revelation he made known unto ME the mystery**;  
 (as I wrote afore in few words,  
 4 Whereby, when ye read,  
 ye may understand **MY knowledge in the mystery** of Christ)  
 5 **Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now**  
**revealed** unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;  
 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his  
 promise in Christ by the gospel:  
 7 Whereof **I was made a minister**,  
 according to **the gift of the grace of God given unto ME**  
 by the effectual working of his power.  
 8 **Unto ME**, who am less than the least of all saints, **is this grace given**, that **I** should  
 preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;  
 9 And to make **all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery**, which **from the**  
**beginning of the world hath been hid in God**, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Paul had a UNIQUE commission from God ... to preach the DISPENSATION of grace:

**Rom 15:15-16** Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in  
 some sort, as putting you in mind, **because of the grace that is given to ME** of God,  
 16 That **I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles**, ministering the  
 gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified  
 by the Holy Ghost.

Paul warns us to be cautious about building on the 'mystery revelation' God gave him:

**1 Cor 3:10** According to **the grace of God which is given unto ME, as a wise**  
**masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation**, and another buildeth thereon.  
 But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

We are to defend and confirm the gospel of grace that Paul preached:

**Phil 1:7** Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my  
 heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel,  
ye all are partakers of my grace.

It is imperative that we are CLEAR on 'THAT PARTICULAR gospel' that Paul preached:

**Gal 1:6-7** I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the **grace of Christ** unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Ga 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

It is Satan's plan of evil to trick people with RELIGION:

**2 Cor 11:4** For if he that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive **another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Paul would not be saying that it's okay to listen to or be patient with someone preaching another Jesus, or another spirit, or another gospel. We know that because we just read in Galatians that he said 'anyone doing that .... let him be accursed.'

ALSO, there is another incident in Galatians where some people were trying to get them to live and function under the law, and Paul did NOT allow it:

**Gal 2:4-5** And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who **came in privily to spy out our liberty** which we have in Christ Jesus, **that they might bring us into bondage:**

5 To whom we gave place by subjection, **NO**, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

When Paul realized the ERROR they were teaching, he put a STOP to it!

Paul had a SPECIFIC message from God, a dispensation of grace, to give out:

**Gal 2:1-2** Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

2 And I went up by revelation, and **communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles**, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

Some folks claim they know about God's grace --- They may even attend a church with the word 'GRACE' in its name --- but if they do not understand right division --- then they surely have a warped, WRONG view of the grace of God in THIS present age:

**Col 1:5-6** For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven,  
whereof ye heard before in the **word of the truth of the gospel**;  
6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and **knew the grace of God IN TRUTH**:

In the same way that we could 'know about animal sacrifices' .... we know that God required them in the PAST .... but if we said that sacrificing animals was STILL in operation today --- it would NOT be true.

We would be bringing a TRUTH out of 'times past' --- and forcing it in 'today' --- and that would be WRONG.

That is why 2 Tim. 2:15 says to 'rightly divide' the word of truth!

We need to recognize that the commandment to sacrifice animals is NOT for OUR obedience in the dispensation of grace - though it is none-the-less TRUE!

Paul was deeply concerned about the TRUTH of the gospel of grace!

We're saved (Eph. 2:8) and justified (Titus 3:7) by it, and we'll be judged by whether or not we CONTINUE in 'THAT' gospel that Paul preached' -- otherwise, we're building on the WRONG foundation .... NOT the one that Paul laid (as we already read in 1 Cor. 3).

It would be like helping someone build a house. If we got a hammer and nails and began framing up the walls without following the blueprint --- we'd put them in the WRONG place and our work would have to be torn down to our shame!

**2 Tim 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God,  
**a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,**  
**rightly dividing the word of truth.**

It may be TRUTH .... but if it is not the 'truth for today' .... then we will be embarrassed:

**Col 1:21-27** And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled  
 22 In the body of his flesh through death,  
 to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: *(that is, so we won't be ashamed for not following the revelation of the mystery God gave to Paul)*  
 23 **IF ye continue in the faith** *(be careful to keep this thought in mind to connect it)*  
 grounded and settled, *(that is, being established and stable)*  
 and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel,  
 which ye have heard, *(heard through Paul, that is)*  
 and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; *(it went to ALL)*  
**whereof I Paul am made a minister;** *(that is, HERE is where the thought connects .... IF we continue in the faith whereof Paul was made a minister. that is, IF we build on the foundation Paul laid, which is found in Rom. 16:25 - the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery)*  
 25 Whereof **I am made a minister,**  
**according to the dispensation of God which is given to me** for you,  
 to fulfil the word of God;  
 26 **Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations,**  
**but now is made manifest to his saints:**  
 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of **the glory of this mystery**  
**among the Gentiles;** which is Christ **in you,** the hope of glory:

Now, rather than 'limited' grace, we are living in a time when ALL grace is available to us. It is NOW limitless and timeless and non-discriminating:

**2 Cor 9:8** And **God is able to make ALL grace abound toward you;**  
 that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

Are we able to measure all grace?

**Eph 4:7** But unto every one of us is given grace  
 according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Keep this next passage in mind, as we follow it with Romans chapter 5. We will compare being 'in Adam' with being 'in Christ':

**1 Cor 15:21-22** For since by man came death,  
 by man came also the resurrection of the dead.  
 22 For as in Adam all die,  
 even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Now let's go to Romans to tie these thoughts together:

**Rom 5:15-18** But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. *(that is, because of Adam's sin -- ALL men were 'automatically' born being sinners .... but the free gift is different -- 'But NOT as the offence', so also is the free gift' -- in this way: it does NOT 'automatically' justify ALL men --- but it DOES justify 'ALL men that BELIEVE it')*

For if through the offence of one many be dead, *(that is, the 'many' that remain dead are those people 'still in Adam' who do not believe the gospel to be saved)*

**much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace,**

which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. *(that is, the 'many' that believe the gospel of grace to be saved -- THEY are the ones that benefit from it.)*

16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: *(here again, like vs. 15 began, the free gift is different from the offence to condemnation.*

for the judgment was by one to condemnation, *(that is, in Adam, all die)*

but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. *(that is, in Christ, 'all those who believe' are justified)*

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one;

much more they which **receive abundance of grace**

and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; *(that is, ALL men -- every person ever born in the entire human race, except for Christ)*

even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. *(that is, the free gift is AVAILABLE to ALL .... because Jesus Christ died to pay for the sins of the ENTIRE human race)*

God placed **the SINS of the whole world** on Christ:

**2 Cor 5:18-19** And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that **God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them;** and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Now it is our JOB to tell everyone, everywhere, that Christ died for their sins, was buried, and rose again the 3rd day (1 Cor. 15:3-4), so that they can be saved from the condemnation of their sins:

**2 Cor 5:20-21** Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin;

that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

What a RELIEF and COMFORT to know these things!

We should be MOTIVATED to tell others!

In Adam, we got death .... the Holy LAW of God condemns us to death because we all have sinned:

**1 Cor 15:56** The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

**Rom 6:23** For the wages of sin is death;  
but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

But because of God's grace to ALL of mankind (in that, He paid the debt of sin for every person by Christ's death on the cross), in Christ, anyone and everyone who believes the gospel will be made alive:

**Rom 5:20** Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound.  
But where sin abounded, **grace did much more abound:**

Never before Paul was that message preached!

Now, we'll move on through our Bible, to look at the subject of grace, in the Ages (or Days) to come.

The epistle to the Hebrews is just that .... it is the epistle to the Hebrews (Israel, the Jews). **So we have to be careful as we take information from it, that we do not take instruction from it.** That being said, this next verse explains to them .... that Christ died for all men's sins:

**Heb 2:9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels  
for the suffering of death,  
crowned with glory and honour;  
**that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.**

In Paul's letter to the Galatians, we find that James, Peter, and John agreed to CONFINE their ministry to the circumcision (that's Israel):

**Gal 2:9** And when **James, Cephas, and John**, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and **they unto the circumcision.**

So when we read the epistles written by James, Peter, and John, we must remember WHO they wrote to:

Here in James, we find 2 issues about grace:

- 1) That God gives grace 'in portions' (not 'all at one time')
- 2) That God gives grace to the humble (like we read in the book of Psalms)

**James 4:6** But he giveth **more grace**.

Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but **giveth grace unto the humble**.

In Peter's epistle, the Jewish believers of 'that age' are having to hang on through the END of the Great Tribulation period for some 'long-awaited' grace:

**1 Peter 1:9-10** Receiving the END of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, **who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:**

**1 Peter 1:13** Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and **hope to the END for the grace that is to be brought unto you** (*WHEN will they get it?*) **at the revelation of Jesus Christ;** (*WHEN Christ returns to the earth*)

That is ALSO the time that Israel will have their sins removed:

**Acts 3:19-20** Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, **WHEN the times of refreshing shall come** from the presence of the Lord;  
20 **And he shall send Jesus Christ,** which before was preached unto you:

Yes, the 'Little Flock' of believers in Israel, must undergo much suffering:

**1 Peter 5:10** But the **God of all grace**, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after that ye have suffered a while**, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

**Matt 24:13** But he that shall **endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

Peter also says the same thing James did about grace:

**1 Peter 5:5** Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and **giveth grace to the humble.**

We did not deal with every aspect of grace, but hopefully, a logical and reasonable explanation has been given .... so that you may understand how the dispensation of grace is DIFFERENT from grace that God gave in 'Times Past' .... and from grace that God WILL give in the 'Ages to Come.'

This is David Dowell, saying, "Grace and peace to you, and think about it!"