

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Glen Weber's Sermon on April 26, 2015
"Grace of God in the Old Testament"**

[In today's sermon, Senior Pastor Glen Weber shows us the grace of God in the Old Testament and how God's grace has never changed, but once Jesus came grace is expressed in a different way.]

Notes:

Introduction:

- Many believe "God's grace was not released until Jesus died on the cross."
- Is that true?

- "The Old Testament is all about law and the New Testament all about grace."
- Is that true?

- We sometime have the mistaken notion that the OT is only about law.
- When we take the view, we then read the OT with a slanted view of God.

Common misconceptions:

- It is a common view that the God of the OT is an angry, mean God who enjoys killing people – especially Israel's enemies.
- That same view holds that Jesus came to be the "loving God" who gets between us and that "angry God" through His death on the cross.

- Some even teach that the angry God killed Jesus on the cross to assuage His anger against humanity.
- Is this all correct?

Back to the future to Mt. Sinai:

- In Exodus 32, Moses has received the 10 Commandments on the mountain.
- But when he comes back down, the people have built a golden calf & are worshipping it.
- Moses is so upset with the Israelites that he breaks the two stone tablets.
- And God sends a plague as punishment for their sin.

Ex. 33:1, Then the Lord said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.'

- God tells Moses to lead the people to the promised land of Abraham.

3) Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way."

- But God tells Moses that He won't go with them because He is so upset with them.

4) When the people heard these distressing words, they began to mourn and no one put on any ornaments. 5) For the Lord had said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites, 'You are a stiff-necked people. If I were to go with you even for a moment, I might destroy you. Now take off your ornaments and I will decide what to do with you.'"

- The people mourned because they wanted God to go with them.

The Tent of Meeting:

7) Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp.

- The cloud would come down and God would meet Moses as one speaks with his friend (vs 11).
- Joshua, who loved the presence of God, would stay behind in the tent even when Moses left the tent of meeting.

Moses' discussion with God:

Ex. 33:12, Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' 13) If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

- Moses asks God to "teach me your ways" so that he can lead the people in a godly way.

14) The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

- The Lord says that His Presence will be with Moses.

15) Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."

- Moses tells the Lord that unless He would go "with us", Moses wasn't going to move.

16) How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

- Moses knew that the Presence of the Lord was the evidence that Israel was His chosen people.

17) And the Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

- Since the Lord is pleased with Moses and knows him by name, He will go with them.

One of the greatest requests in the Bible!!

18) Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

- God responds to this unusual request by Moses by saying:

19) And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

- The Lord offers to cause ALL of His goodness to pass in front of Moses and that He will proclaim His name to Moses.
- God is also telling Moses that His nature is to have mercy and compassion on Israel in spite of their sinful ways.

20) But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

- Moses, being in human flesh, is NOT allowed to see God’s face.
- Rev. 1:16 tells us what the face of God is like – “His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.”

21) Then the Lord said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. 22) When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

- Moses is told to hide in the cleft in the rock.

23) Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”

- The Lord will let Moses see His back.

The 2nd giving of the Law:

Ex. 34:1, The Lord said to Moses, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. 2) Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain.

So, Moses carves out two more tablets of stone and carries them up the mountain to meet the Lord once more.

Exodus 34:5, Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord.

- The Lord descends in the cloud, stands with Moses and proclaims His name.
- The Lord is here defining Himself before Moses!!
- At the burning bush, the Lord told Moses His name – I Am – which is His self-existent being.

- Now God is going to reveal more about who He is.

6) And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love (Hebrew - chesed) and faithfulness,

- The Lord passes by Moses declaring His character and person.
- In Hebrew this can be translated, “Yahweh proclaimed.” Yahweh is merciful and gracious.
- Some scholars believe Yahweh can mean “Savior.”
- Before writing the 10 Commandments again, God wants to establish in Moses’ heart the His character who forgives Israel for what they have just done, as well as being the God who is gracious.

Grace in the Old Testament:

- Here God expresses His grace – the Hebrew word “chesed.”

Ex 34:6, And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love (chesed) and faithfulness, 7) maintaining love (chesed) to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished (doesn't take away the consequences); he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

- Twice in these two verses, the word “chesed” is used
- It is also used 245 times in the Old Testament and is often translated:
 - Steadfast love, loving kindness, mercy, faithfulness, loyalty
- Many translated it for the same word as “grace” in the NT.

8) Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.

- In response to what has just said, Moses bows to worship Him.

9) “Lord,” he said, “if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance.”

- He then requests the Lord’s “favor” by asking the Lord to go with them.

10) Then the Lord said: “I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the Lord, will do for you.

- The Lord makes a covenant with Moses saying that He will also do things that have “never been done before” for Israel.
- The blessings of God continue.

- 11-26) The Lord lays out the covenant and then has Moses write it down.

Joe Tkach – Weekly Update – Sept 18, 2013:

It is often stated that the old covenant is “law” while the new covenant is “grace.” Though this shorthand way of thinking is not totally inaccurate, it can lead to the unfortunate idea that law and grace are totally at odds. But what we see in Scripture is that the old covenant was not graceless and the new covenant is certainly not lawless. Instead, what we find are two forms of God’s one gracious covenant with the Old Testament presenting the promise (pointing to Christ) and the New Testament presenting its fulfillment in Christ. Each of these has its particular form of obedience corresponding to its particular form of covenantal grace.

Concluding comments:

- The Lord’s character and heart and the covenant He made with Israel are all expressions of God’s grace.
- What He does – even in destroying enemies – is done in a fulfillment of the covenant He has made with Israel.
- God’s grace has never changed, but once Jesus came the Lord’s grace is expressed in a different way.
- Grace and obedience are a part of both covenants.
- Understanding the gracious God of the Old Testament helps us keep a proper focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus during the “Easter season” between Easter and the Ascension, which we celebrate in a few weeks.
- Jesus sacrifice and resurrection was a manifestation of the grace of God which has always been a part of God’s nature.

Closing Prayer