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Was Grace New in the New Testament?

It has been said that there was no grace in the Old Testament (TANAKH) and that grace did not come until Jesus, His Hebrew name being Yeshua, in the New Testament. We wanted to see if grace really was something new that we were suddenly under and that it wasn't available to those in the TANAKH. So we just did a quick review of each book of the Torah to see if we could find even one instance of there being grace.

For more on what grace is, please see our teachings titled, "[The Hebrew Root of Grace](#)" and "[Grace, Faith & Obedience](#)".

GENESIS

Genesis 6:5-8

Then the LORD (YHWH) saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD (YHWH) was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD (YHWH) said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found **grace** in the eyes of YHWH.

Notice verse 8, Noah found grace in the eyes of YHWH. Already, in Genesis chapter 6 we find grace from our Creator to those who follow Him. In fact, Abraham was considered righteous, and this was before Yeshua and the "Mosaic Law" was handed down.

This is the word used for "grace"

H2580 – **נַדֵּח** and it means to find, grace, favor, or goodwill in someone's eyes, kindness, and comes from the root word for graciousness.

To be fair, the Septuagint uses this word

G5485- **χάρις** meaning graciousness, of a manner or act of grace. Dodson defines it as "grace, favor, kindness - grace, as a gift or blessing brought to man by Jesus Christ"

Is the definition of grace different in Genesis than it is in the New Testament? Did YHWH change His measuring stick? No, it cannot be because YHWH does not change.

Numbers 23:19 (ESV)

God is not man, that he should lie,
or a son of man, that he should change his mind. ...

Malachi 3:6 (ESV)

For I the LORD (YHWH) do not change...

James 1:17 (ESV)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

So whatever was considered grace in the Old Testament is the same thing that is considered grace in the New Testament.

Noah was considered righteous, he obeyed the Most High; he was a type and shadow of Yeshua.

So we already have grace in the Old Testament. With that grace came the salvation of Noah and his family; it is a shadow of what was to come. In these verses we also have evidence that our righteousness is based upon our obedience. We see YHWH saved those who followed Him, He chose to save His people here in Genesis. Now let's examine the book of Exodus to see if grace existed in that time.

EXODUS

Exodus 33:12-17

Moses said to the LORD (YHWH), “See, you say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found *favor* in my sight.’ Now therefore, if I have found *favor* in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find *favor* in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found *favor* in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?”

And the LORD (YHWH) said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found *favor* in my sight, and I know you by name.”

Here again in Exodus 33 we find grace given to Moses and the people of Israel. Verses 16 and 17 use the word “favor”, but it is the same Hebrew word “chen” that was used for grace in Genesis 6. It is used 5 times in these verses. Once again the same Greek word to indicate grace here as well.

Moses received grace from the Creator; Israel received grace from YHWH when He went with them. He gave them grace as His presence went with them as He had (and continued to do) when He brought them out of Egypt and into the land He had chosen for them. The exodus itself was also an act of grace; Israel did not deserve to be delivered from slavery, yet YHWH brought them out of it, saving His people.

So far we have seen grace in Genesis and Exodus. By the verses in Genesis alone we could see that grace for YHWH's people was not a new thing. But if that wasn't enough, we have found His grace in Exodus also. At this point we could stop having proven our point, but let's continue on to see where else grace is found in the Torah.

LEVITICUS

The book of Leviticus does not use the word for grace or favor that we could find; this makes sense because the book is primarily written giving instructions for the Levitical priesthood. However, we can see the grace of the Creator in the sacrificial system described.

The sacrificial system was given so our sins can be atoned for, that we could be made clean before our Creator. At the time it was given, the people had a very real, visual, and visceral experience. When it came to the sin sacrifices, the guilty party had to personally kill the innocent animal that was being offered up for their atonement.

Without the sacrificial system, Yeshua could not have later become our atonement. There is grace in lessons learned through the sacrificial process, enabling us to see the penalty for our sins. YHWH was not required to create a system for us to have our sins atoned for; He could have simply slew everyone and given us eternal death as we deserve instead of having made a way to atonement.

On to Numbers.

NUMBERS

Numbers 21:6-9

Then the LORD (YHWH) sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD (YHWH) and against you. Pray to the LORD (YHWH), that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD (YHWH) said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.”

In this particular instance the word for grace or favor is not used, but that doesn't mean it wasn't an act of grace. After yet another episode of Israel complaining against YHWH in Numbers 21, the people are punished with serpents causing many to die. But once again YHWH saved Israel by His grace when He provided Moses a mode of salvation for them. Moses was instructed to create a serpent for the people to look to, if they looked to the method of salvation from the Creator they were saved. Once again, we have salvation by grace, a type of Yeshua, the ultimate example of salvation and God's grace.

Finally, let's look at Deuteronomy.

DEUTERONOMY

Deuteronomy 4:7-8

For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as YHWH our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all

this law that I set before you today?

Deuteronomy 10:15

Yet YHWH set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

“YHWH your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—just as you desired of YHWH your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of YHWH my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And YHWH said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

Because of His love for us, He gives us the gift of grace. Giving us the Torah, His instructions for life is just another example of His grace for us. He desires that we live righteously before Him as a set apart people just as we are called to be.

It was by His grace that He continually provided a way of salvation and answered the cries of Israel for help. He is the almighty Creator of all, He did not need to choose Israel, but he chose Abraham, and through His promise to Abraham he chose Israel. He did not have to do for Israel all that He did. The Creator chose Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; He didn't have to choose them and their offspring, He chose to. He chose to save those people and their descendants over all others through His grace. He even chose the ultimate mode of salvation for the entire world to come through Israel, all by grace.

We started this teaching with the desire to test the idea, proposed by some, indicating that grace was something new in the New Testament. What we found is that grace has existed since the first book of the Bible, Genesis. Noah, Moses, the sacrificial system, and the bronze serpent were all God's provision for salvation; this means they were all types and shadows of Yeshua, they all pointed to Him. While Messiah work was the ultimate gift of grace, it is still the same grace that YHWH's people have always received. How it was physically manifested is all that changed over time.

There are many other instances of grace found throughout the Torah, Writings, and Prophets; we have listed but a few from the Torah. In all of these instances, YHWH provided a way of salvation by His grace, and nothing else. The first four books of the Torah contain types and shadows of Yeshua with the Torah culminating with the promise of Messiah to come in the fifth. The coming of Yeshua is grace without question. The Torah, Prophets, and Writings are full of archetypes of Yeshua, methods of salvation.

Salvation only comes by grace, nothing else. It should be clear the idea that grace did not come until the New Testament and embodiment of Yeshua is false, a deception, or at least a misunderstanding. Grace has been from the beginning, just as it was ordained for Messiah to be slain (YHWH's plan for salvation) from before the foundation of the world. One has but to simply read the Scripture to see it.

We hope that this teaching has blessed you.

Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testevereything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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