

Incredible Undeserving Mercy & Grace

Genesis 35:1-29

“Chapter 34 does not mention God, and is full of lust, murder, deceit, and wretchedness – but this chapter [35] is filled with God. His name appears ten times, plus once as God Almighty, El Shaddai, plus eleven times in the names Bethel and Israel. The contrast is striking, as it always must be in the life of a believer living out of the will of God, and again when he returns to the will of God.”
(Donald Grey Barnhouse)

“The Christian debt has been paid by the death of Christ. the law of God and the justice of God have been fully satisfied. The debt of our sins has been marked ‘Paid in Full!’ God is satisfied and so are we. We have peace with God, and we are delivered from a guilty conscience (Romans 5:1, Hebrews 10:22).

We are brought into God’s Kingdom by grace; we are sanctified (the process of growing in our faith to become more like Christ) by grace; we receive both temporal and spiritual blessings by grace; we are motivated to obedience by grace; we are called to serve and enabled to serve by grace; we receive strength to endure trials by grace; and finally, we are glorified by grace. The entire Christian life is lived under the reign of God’s grace.

What then, is the grace by which we are saved and under which we live? Grace is God’s free and unmerited favor shown to guilty sinners who deserve only judgment. It is the love of God shown to the unlovely. It is God reaching downward to people who are in rebellion against Him.” Jerry Bridges

- I. *Since the fall of man, the basis of salvation has always been the death of Christ. No one, either prior to the cross or since the cross, would ever be saved without that one pivotal event in the history of the world. Christ’s death paid the penalty for past sins of Old Testament saints and future sins of New Testament saints. The requirement for salvation has always been faith. The object of one’s faith for salvation has always been God. The psalmist wrote, “Blessed are all who take refuge in him” (Psalm 2:12). Genesis 15:6 tells us that Abraham believed God and that was enough for God to credit it to him for righteousness (see also Romans 4:3-8). The Old Testament sacrificial system did not take away sin, as Hebrews 10:1-10 clearly teaches. It did, however, point to the day when the Son of God would shed His blood for the sinful human race... Prior to Moses, no Scripture was written, but mankind was responsible for what God had revealed. Throughout the Old Testament, believers came to salvation because they believed that God would someday take care of their sin problem. Today, we look back, believing that He has already taken care of our sins on the cross (John 3:16; Hebrews 9:28). (gotquestions.org) We live under the protective covering of God’s grace as believers who have been saved by grace (Eph. 2:8-9). His undeserving grace and mercy will never be removed from us till the day he takes us from this world to be with Him forever and ever. Maranatha!*

Gen. 34:35-40

2 Cor. 6:17-18

Isa. 43:25

Gal. 1:3-5

- II. The devastating consequences of sin left Jacob a broken man. His choice to place himself and his family outside of the will of God led to a series of sinful events that included rape, murder, and pillage. Though undeserving of mercy and grace in every way, God did not leave him alone in his hopelessness and despair. Instead, He lovingly put Jacob's eyes back on Him. It's hard to understand why, but who can understand why He would love us the way He does. That's grace, and praise God we are a part of it. The decision Jacob made after God spoke to him speaks of a man who knew that the only place to seek forgiveness, mercy, grace, and renewal was before the throne of God. The first step Jacob took to restore his relationship with God Almighty was **repentance**. Jacob knew that the only way to deal with the incredible tragedy that took place at Shechem, was to humble himself before the Lord and cry out for forgiveness. The next step was for him and his household to separate themselves from the world's ungodly influence by casting away their idols, by changing their approach to life, and by setting their affections back on God and His covenant promises to them.

Gen. 35:1-7

Rom. 5:17

James 4:4-6

Col. 3:1-10

1 Jn. 3:1-3

Grace - charis (khä'-rēs) *good will, loving-kindness, favour - Of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues (Lexicon :: Strong's G5485)*

- III. The record of Jacob's life closes with the reassurance of God Almighty's covenant promises coming through him. Once again, it speaks of the power of grace overcoming the power of sin. Yet, God's grace did not necessarily spare him from the difficulties of living in a fallen world. Jacob, who is now officially called Israel (God prevails), would still suffer loss and the hurt of being sinned against by yet another son. Boice summarizes Jacob's life this way, *"Notice that Jacob almost did not make it. He had the seeds of failure built in. He had made so many mistakes in his life that if he had ended up a wretched, miserable, complaining old man, we would have said 'Well, that is what we would expect. It is the fruit of years of disobedience.' But God is great, and by God's grace and power Jacob made it. God called him back from sin, reestablished him in fellowship, and blessed his later years, so that they far surpassed anything in his youth. Let God do that with you. Wherever you are, whatever your age, begin with God now and allow him to build into you those experiences of his grace that will make you a source of blessing in your later years."*

Gen. 35:8-29

Rom. 15:4

1 Chron. 5:1

yisrā'ēl Israel = God prevails

Bethel = "house of God"

Allon Bachuth = "oak of weeping"

El Shaddai = God Almighty

ben-'ōnî = "son of my sorrow"

Benjamin = "son of the right hand"