

Grace (Genesis 6:8)

Genesis 6:8 “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”

Author David Shipman asks a pertinent question and gives us a decisive response in his book, *Grace: The Power of Heaven*: “Is it possible that not grasping a concept could hinder us from receiving what God has for us? I would say, ‘Absolutely!’”

Shipman contends that “If we do not accurately understand what God has provided for us, we can cause destruction to manifest in our lives.” And he cites Hosea 4:6, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee...”

The word *grace* appears many times in the Bible. It is a word that should be considered important. It is also a foundational theme that appears in the KJV 39 times in the Old Testament and a predominant theme that appears 131 times in the New Testament.

To ensure an Apostolic biblical definition of *grace* and to ensure that there is not a trinitarian salvational bent on the theme of *grace*, the exegete must use a contextual definitional approach. The first instance of the word *grace* is in Genesis 6:8, “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”

So Noah found *grace*, but did he find *grace* like a man happens to stumble upon a valuable coin or object? This would mean that he came across *grace* by accident or incidentally. Or did Noah receive *grace* because he was living for God and operating in a biblically specified way (faith) so that God could provide *grace* that imparts “*provision*” and “*ability*” to fulfill God’s plan?

Romans 5:2 “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Shipman says, "As we read through the story of Noah, we find that Noah didn't just find favor in God's eyes, but this favor also brought provision and ability to Noah. A plan of God, the ability of God, and the knowledge of God was given to Noah to escape impending destruction. This same theme is carried into every other place we find the grace of God."

Joseph Benson's Commentary says the following, "*Noah found grace*—That is, he obtained mercy and favour; for although he was by nature corrupt and sinful, he had been renewed in the spirit of his mind, and by repentance and a lively faith, had *obtained witness that he was righteous*. This vindicates God's justice in his displeasure against the world, and shows that he had examined the character of every person in it, before he pronounced it universally corrupt; for, there being one good man, he smiled upon him."

Does God Bless Righteousness and Obedience? Does it Generate Grace?

Genesis 7:1 "And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation."

Genesis 7:5 "And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him."

Is there a bestowing or blessing of *grace* upon those that practiced *righteousness*? Noah was *righteous*, while the world was wicked, corrupt, and violent before God. Noah found grace because he was looking in the right places. His contemporaries found judgment because they were looking in the wrong places.

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalm 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalm 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalm 1:4 The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Faith and *Righteousness* and one's *Attitude* (we must be humble) lead or proceed towards more *grace*. *Grace* enables, equips, and provides for life's difficulties and tribulations. As destructive as the global flood was, Noah, because of his faith and righteousness, was favored by God to receive the plans of the ark that saved his entire family. God can also equip us and provide us with the plan or answers to life's dilemmas so we, too, can bless our families with the blessings that grace provides.

Hebrews 11:7 “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”

James 4:6 “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”

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.”

Although *grace* “...hath appeared to all men”, thankfully, Noah found it and kept it. He did not frustrate or fail the *grace* of God.

Hebrews 12:15 “Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.”

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