

# God's Grace in Every Book of the Bible

## ***The Old Testament***

**Genesis** shows God's grace to a universally wicked world as he enters into relationship with a sinful family line (Abraham) and promises to bless the world through him.

**Exodus** shows God's grace to his enslaved people in bringing them out of Egyptian bondage.

**Leviticus** shows God's grace in providing his people with a sacrificial system to atone for their sins.

**Numbers** shows God's grace in patiently sustaining his grumbling people in the wilderness and bringing them to the border of the promised land not because of them but in spite of them.

**Deuteronomy** shows God's grace in giving the people the new land 'not because of your righteousness' (ch. 9).

**Joshua** shows God's grace in giving Israel victory after victory in their conquest of the land with neither superior numbers nor superior obedience on Israel's part.

**Judges** shows God's grace in taking sinful, weak Israelites as leaders and using them to purge the land, time and again, of foreign incursion and idolatry.

**Ruth** shows God's grace in incorporating a poverty-stricken, desolate, foreign woman into the line of Christ.

**1 & 2 Samuel** show God's grace in establishing the throne (forever—2 Sam 7) of an adulterous murderer.

**1 & 2 Kings** show God's grace in repeatedly prolonging the exacting of justice and judgment for kingly sin 'for the sake of' David. (And remember: by the ancient hermeneutical presupposition of corporate solidarity, by which the one stands for the many and the many for the one, the king represented the people; the people were in their king; as the king went, so went they.)

**1 & 2 Chronicles** show God's grace by continually reassuring the returning exiles of God's self-initiated promises to David and his sons.

**Ezra** shows God's grace to Israel in working through the most powerful pagan ruler of the time (Cyrus) to bring his people back home to a rebuilt temple.

**Nehemiah** shows God's grace in providing for the rebuilding of the walls of the city that represented the heart of God's promises to his people.

**Esther** shows God's grace in protecting his people from a Persian plot to eradicate them through a string of 'fortuitous' events.

**Job** shows God's grace in vindicating the sufferer's cry that his redeemer lives (19:25), who will put all things right in this world or the next.

**Psalms** shows God's grace by reminding us of, and leading us in expressing, the *hesed* (relentless covenant love) God has for his people and the refuge that he is for them.

**Proverbs** shows us God's grace by opening up to us a world of wisdom in leading a life of happy godliness.

**Ecclesiastes** shows God's grace in its earthy reminder that the good things of life can never be pursued as the ultimate things of life and that it is God who in his mercy satisfies sinners (note 7:20; 8:11).

**Song of Songs** shows God's grace and love for his bride by giving us a faint echo of it in the pleasures of faithful human sexuality.

**Isaiah** shows God's grace by reassuring us of his presence with and restoration of contrite sinners.

**Jeremiah** shows God's grace in promising a new and better covenant, one in which knowledge of God will be universally internalized.

**Lamentations** shows God's grace in his unfailing faithfulness in the midst of sadness.

**Ezekiel** shows God's grace in the divine heart surgery that cleansingly replaces stony hearts with fleshy ones.

**Daniel** shows God's grace in its repeated miraculous preservation of his servants.

**Hosea** shows God's grace in a real-live depiction of God's unstoppable love toward his whoring wife.

**Joel** shows God's grace in the promise to pour out his Spirit on all flesh.

**Amos** shows God's grace in the Lord's climactic promise of restoration in spite of rampant corruption.

**Obadiah** shows God's grace by promising judgment on Edom, Israel's oppressor, and restoration of Israel to the land in spite of current Babylonian captivity.

**Jonah** shows God's grace toward both immoral Nineveh and moral Jonah, irreligious pagans and a religious prophet, both of whom need and both of whom receive the grace of God.

**Micah** shows God's grace in the prophecy's repeated wonder at God's strange insistence on 'pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression' (7:18).

**Nahum** shows God's grace in assuring Israel of good news' and 'peace,' promising that the Assyrians have tormented them for the last time.

**Habakkuk** shows God's grace that requires nothing but trusting faith amid insurmountable opposition, freeing us to rejoice in God even in desolation.

**Zephaniah** shows God's grace in the Lord's exultant singing over his recalcitrant yet beloved people.

**Haggai** shows God's grace in promising a wayward people that the latter glory of God's (temple-ing) presence with them will far surpass its former glory.

**Zechariah** shows God's grace in the divine pledge to open up a fountain for God's people to 'cleanse them from sin and uncleanness' (13:1).

**Malachi** shows God's grace by declaring the Lord's no-strings-attached love for his people.

## ***The New Testament:***

***Matthew*** shows God's grace in fulfilling the Old Testament promises of a coming king. (5:17)

***Mark*** shows God's grace as this coming king suffers the fate of a common criminal to buy back sinners. (10:45)

***Luke*** shows that God's grace extends to all the people one would not expect: hookers, the poor, tax collectors, sinners, Gentiles ('younger sons'). (19:10)

***John*** shows God's grace in becoming one of us, flesh and blood (1:14), and dying and rising again so that by believing we might have life in his name. (20:31)

***Acts*** shows God's grace flooding out to all the world--starting in Jerusalem, ending in Rome; starting with Peter, apostle to the Jews, ending with Paul, apostle to the Gentiles. (1:8)

***Romans*** shows God's grace in Christ to the ungodly (4:5) while they were still sinners (5:8) that washes over both Jew and Gentile.

***1 Corinthians*** shows God's grace in favoring what is lowly and foolish in the world. (1:27)

***2 Corinthians*** shows God's grace in channeling his power through weakness rather than strength. (12:9)

***Galatians*** shows God's grace in justifying both Jew and Gentile by Christ directed faith rather than self-directed performance. (2:16)

***Ephesians*** shows God's grace in the divine resolution to unite us to his Son before time began. (1:4)

***Philippians*** shows God's grace in Christ's humiliating death on an instrument of torture—for us. (2:8)

***Colossians*** shows God's grace in nailing to the cross the record of debt that stood against us. (2:14)

***1 Thessalonians*** shows God's grace in providing the hope-igniting guarantee that Christ will return again. (4:13)

***2 Thessalonians*** shows God's grace in choosing us before time, that we might withstand Christ's greatest enemy. (2:13)

***1 Timothy*** shows God's grace in the radical mercy shown to 'the chief of sinners.' (1:15)

***2 Timothy*** shows God's grace to be that which began (1:9) and that which fuels (2:1) the Christian life.

***Titus*** shows God's grace in saving us by his own cleansing mercy when we were most mired in sinful passions. (3:5)

***Philemon*** shows God's grace in transcending socially hierarchical structures with the deeper bond of Christ-won Christian brotherhood. (v. 16)

**Hebrews** shows God's grace in giving his Son to be both our sacrifice to atone for us once and for all as well as our high priest to intercede for us forever. (9:12)

**James** shows us God's grace by giving to those who have been born again 'of his own will' (1:18) 'wisdom from above' for meaningful godly living. (3:17)

**1 Peter** shows God's grace in securing for us an unfading, imperishable inheritance no matter what we suffer in this life. (1:4)

**2 Peter** shows God's grace in guaranteeing the inevitability that one day all will be put right as the evil that has masqueraded as good will be unmasked at the coming Day of the Lord. (3:10)

**1 John** shows God's grace in adopting us as his children. (3:1)

**2 & 3 John** show God's grace in reminding specific individuals of 'the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever.' (2 Jn 2)

**Jude** shows God's grace in the Christ who presents us blameless before God in a world rife with moral chaos. (v. 24)

**Revelation** shows God's grace in preserving his people through cataclysmic suffering, a preservation founded on the shed blood of the lamb. (12:11)