

# The Gospel of Grace

*As Seen in The Old Testament*

*From Everlasting to Everlasting*

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### Forward

## To the Church and to All Men

Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. God shows great concern for the people he created.

The Old Testament is filled with many examples of God showing mercy. He is filled with loving kindness, yet when men continue to reject him and worship False Gods, they will find that judgment awaits them.

The father pities his children that are weak in knowledge, and teaches them;

He pities them when they are froward, and bears with them;

He pities them when they are sick, and comforts them;

He pities them when they are fallen, and helps them to rise;

He pities them when they have offended, and, upon their submission,

And forgives them;

He pities them when wronged, and rights them:

Thus the Lord pities those that fear him.

Grace if found from everlasting to everlasting.

- **Grace in the Old Testament**

## **Chapter 1**

### **God Delays his Punishment.**

#### **2 Kings 13:22-23**

Now Hazael king of Aram had oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. But the LORD was gracious to them and had compassion on them and turned to them because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them or cast them from His presence until now.

God is displeased at the sins of his own people; and no man shall be protected in disobedience, by his office, his nearness to God, or any services he has done for him. God warns all whom he employs, strictly to observe their orders

### **God Renews the Covenant with Abram**

#### **Genesis 17:1-8**

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, as for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

The covenant was to be accomplished in due time. The promised Seed was Christ, and Christians in him. And all who are of faith are blessed with faithful Abram, being partakers of the same covenant blessings. In token of this covenant his name was changed from Abram, "a high father," to Abraham, "the father of a multitude." All that the Christian world enjoys, it is indebted for to Abraham and his Seed.

The covenant of grace is from everlasting in the counsels of it, and to everlasting in the consequences of it.

## **God Renews His Promise**

### **Exodus 6:2-8**

And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the Lord: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them.

And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers. And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant.

Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for a heritage: I am the Lord.

## **Chapter 2**

### **God Renews His Promise**

Moses had been expecting what God would do; but now he shall see what he will do.

God would now be known by his name Jehovah, that is, a God performing what he had promised, and finishing his own work.

God intended their happiness: I will take you to me for a people, a peculiar people, and I will be to you a God.

More than this we need not ask, we cannot have, to make us happy. He intended his own glory:

Ye shall know that I am the Lord. These good words, and comfortable words, should have revived the drooping Israelites, and have made them forget their misery; but they were so taken up with their troubles, that they did not heed God's promises.

### **Exhortations and Cautions Further Enforced**

#### **Deuteronomy 8:17-18**

"Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

To broken-hearted souls alone the Saviour is precious indeed. Nothing can render the most suitable outward and inward trials effectual, but the power of the Spirit of God. See here how God's giving and our getting are reconciled, and apply it to spiritual wealth. All God's gifts are in pursuance of his promises. Moses repeats the warning he had often given of the fatal consequences of forsaking God. Those who follow others in sin, will follow them to destruction.

### **Exhortation to Trust the Messiah**

#### **Isaiah 55:1-3**

"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?"

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance. "Incline your ear and come to Me Listen that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, According to the faithful mercies shown to David.

It is good for those privileged by the new birth, to consider that they were shapen in sin. This should cause low thoughts of ourselves, and high thoughts of Divine grace. It is the greatest comfort to be made serviceable to the glory of God.

The more holiness men have, and the more good they do, the more gladness they have. Let us seriously reflect upon our guilt. To do so will tend to keep the heart humble, and the conscience awake and tender. They make Christ more precious to the soul, and give strength to our attempts and prayers for others.

### **A Parable Showing the First Low Estate of the Jewish Nation, Its Prosperity, Idolatries, and Punishment**

#### **Ezekiel 16:1-8**

Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, And say, Thus saith the Lord God unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite.

And as for thy nativity, in the day thou was born thy navel was not cut, neither was thou washed in water to supple thee; thou was not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.

None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou was cast out in the open field, to the loathing of thy person, in the day that thou was born.

And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou was in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou was in thy blood, Live.

I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou was naked and bare.

Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou became mine.

In this chapter God's dealings with the Jewish nation, and their conduct towards him, are described, and their punishment through the surrounding nations, even those they most trusted in.

This is done under the parable of an exposed infant rescued from death, educated, espoused, and richly provided for, but afterwards guilty of the most abandoned conduct, and punished for it; yet at last received into favour, and ashamed of her base conduct

### **David Renew His Request for Health and Comfort**

#### **Psalm 86:15**

But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

We may expect comfort from God, when we keep up our communion with God. God's goodness appears in two things, in giving and forgiving. Whatever others do, let us call upon God, and commit our case to him; we shall not seek in vain.

### **Chapter 3**

#### **The Faithful Lament their Calamities.**

## Lamentations 3:22

The LORD'S loving kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail.

The prophet relates the gloomier and discouraging part of his experience, and how he found support and relief. In the time of his trial the Lord had become terrible to him.

It was an affliction that was misery itself; for sin makes the cup of affliction a bitter cup. The struggle between unbelief and faith is often very severe. But the weakest believer is wrong, if he thinks that his strength and hope are perished from the Lord.

## **God's Judgments**

### Joel 2:13

And rend your heart and not your garments "Now return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil.

There must be outward expressions of sorrow and shame, fasting, weeping, and mourning; tears for trouble must be turned into tears for the sin that caused it.

But rending the garments would be vain, except their hearts were rent by abasement and self-aborrence; by sorrow for their sins, and separation from them.

There is no question but that if we truly repent of our sins, God will forgive them; but whether he will remove affliction is not promised, yet the probability of it should encourage us to repent.

## **Remembrance of the Passover**

### Exodus 33:19

And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."

The Israelites must keep the feast of unleavened bread. Under the gospel, we must not only remember Christ, but observe his holy supper.

Do this in remembrance of him. Also care must be taken to teach children the knowledge of God. Here is an old law for catechising.

It is of great use to acquaint children betimes with the histories of the Bible. And those who have God's law in their heart should have it in their mouth, and often speak of it, to affect themselves, and to teach others.

**Enticers to do evil were to be put to death.**

### **Deuteronomy 13:17-18**

"Nothing from that which is put under the ban shall cling to your hand, in order that the LORD may turn from His burning anger and show mercy to you, and have compassion on you and make you increase, just as He has sworn to your fathers, if you will listen to the voice of the LORD your God, keeping all His commandments which I am commanding you today, and doing what is right in the sight of the LORD your God.

Moses had cautioned against the peril that might arise from the Canaanites. Here he cautions against the rise of idolatry among themselves. And it would be a proof of sincere affection for God, that, notwithstanding specious pretenses, they should not be wrought upon the forsake God, and follow other gods to serve them.

Those who, through grace, have turned to God themselves, should do all they can to bring others to him. Numbers will be scorners, but some will be humbled and benefited; perhaps where least expected.

The rich mercy of God is the great argument by which to enforce repentance; the vilest who submit and yield themselves to the Lord, seek his grace, and give themselves to his service, shall certainly be saved.

Oh that messengers were sent forth to carry these glad tidings to every city and every village, through every land!

### **Hezekiah's Passover**

#### **2 Chronicles 30:9**

"For if you return to the LORD, your brothers and your sons will find compassion before those who led them captive and will return to this land For the LORD your God is gracious and compassionate, and will not turn His face away from you if you return to Him."

Those who, through grace, have turned to God themselves, should do all they can to bring others to him. Numbers will be scorers, but some will be humbled and benefited; perhaps where least expected.

The rich mercy of God is the great argument by which to enforce repentance; the vilest who submit and yield themselves to the Lord, seek his grace, and give themselves to his service, shall certainly be saved.

## **Chapter 4**

## **Ezra Implores God's Blessings**

### **Ezra 8:22**

For I was ashamed to request from the king troops and horsemen to protect us from the enemy on the way, because we had said to the king, "The hand of our God is favorably disposed to all those who seek Him, but His power and His anger are against all those who forsake Him."

When entering upon any new state of life, our care should be, to bring none of the guilt of the sins of our former condition into it. When we are in any peril, let us be at peace with God, and then nothing can do us any real hurt.

All our concerns about ourselves, our families, and our estates, it is our wisdom and duty, by prayer to commit to God, and to leave the care of them with him.

We should decline advantages which are within our reach, lest we should cause others to stumble, and so our God be dishonored. Let us ask wisdom of God, that we may know how to use or to refuse lawful things

.

**The Lord will restore the fortunes of Jacob.**

### **Ezekiel 39:25**

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for my holy name.

The Lord shall have mercy on the whole house of Israel, by converting them to Christianity, and when they shall have borne the shame of being cast off for their sins, then the nations shall learn to know, worship, and serve him. Then Israel also shall know the Lord, as revealed in and by Christ. Past events do not answer to these predictions. The pouring out of the Spirit is a pledge that God's favour will continue.

**The Promise of Reconciliation**

## **Hosea 2:19**

"I will betroth you to me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in lovingkindness and in compassion,

In the days of the apostles, and the future general conversion of that nation; and believers are enabled to expect infinitely more tenderness and kindness from their holy God, than a beloved wife can expect from the kindest husband. When the people were weaned from idols, and loved the Lord, no creature should do them any harm. This may be understood of the blessings and privileges of the spiritual Israel, of every true believer, and their partaking of Christ's righteousness; also, of the conversion of the Jews to Christ.

### **Jonah Repines at God's Mercy**

#### **Jonah 4:1-2**

But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.

It is to his sparing, pardoning mercy, we all owe it that we are out of hell. He wishes for death: this was the language of folly, passion, and strong corruption. There appeared in Jonah remains of a proud, uncharitable spirit; and that he neither expected nor desired the welfare of the Ninevites, but had only come to declare and witness their destruction. He was not duly humbled for his own sins, and was not willing to trust the Lord with his credit and safety.

In this frame of mind, he overlooked the good of which he had been an instrument, and the glory of the Divine mercy.

### **God Triumphs over His Enemies**

#### **Micah 7:18-20**

Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot Yes, You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. You will give truth to Jacob and unchanging love to Abraham, Which You swore to our forefathers from the days of old.

. When God forgives sin, he takes care that it never shall be remembered any more against the sinner. He casts their sins into the sea; not near the shore-side, where they may appear again, but into the depth of the sea, never to rise again.

All their sins shall be cast there, for when God forgives sin, he forgives all.

He will perfect that which concerns us, and with this good work will do all for us which our case requires, and which he has promised.

These engagements relate to Christ, and the success of the gospel to the end of time, the future restoration of Israel, and the final prevailing of true religion in all lands. The Lord will perform his truth and mercy, not one jot or tittle of it shall fall to the ground: faithful is He that has promised, who also will do it

## **God Will Restore His People**

### **Zechariah 10:6**

"I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, And I will bring them back, Because I have had compassion on them; And they will be as though I had not rejected them, For I am the LORD their God and I will answer them.

Here are precious promises to the people of God, which look to the state of the Jews, and even to the latter days of the church. Preaching the gospel is God's call for souls to come to Jesus Christ. Those whom Christ redeemed by his blood, God will gather by his grace. Difficulties shall be got over easily, and effectually, as those in the way of the deliverance out of Egypt. God himself will be their strength, and their song. When we resist, and so overcome our spiritual enemies,

then our hearts shall rejoice.

## **God Cares for His People**

### **Malachi 3:17**

"They will be mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare my own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."

Even God's children stand in need of sparing mercy. All are righteous or wicked, such as serve God, or such as serve him not: all are going to heaven or to hell. We are often deceived in our opinions concerning both the one and the other; but at the bar of Christ, every man's character will be known. As to ourselves, we have need to think among which we shall have our lot; and, as to others, we must judge nothing before the time.

## **Gracious offers of Pardon and Peace**

### **Isaiah 55:7**

Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

Here is a gracious offer of pardon, and peace, and of all happiness. It shall not be in vain to seek God, now his word is calling to us, and his Spirit is striving with us. But there is a day coming when he will not be found. There may come such a time in this life; it is certain that at death and judgment the door will be shut. There must be not only a change of the way, but a change of the mind. We must alter our judgments about persons and things. It is not enough to break off from evil practices, we must strive against evil thoughts. To repent is to return to our Lord, against whom we have rebelled.

## **Chapter 5**

## Promises in Keeping the Precepts

### Leviticus 26:9

'So I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will confirm my covenant with you.

These great and precious promises, though they relate chiefly to the life which now is, were typical of the spiritual blessings made sure by the covenant of grace to all believers, through Christ.

1. Plenty and abundance of the fruits of the earth. Every good and perfect gift must be expected from above, from the Father of lights.
2. Peace under the Divine protection. Those dwell in safety that dwell in God.
3. Victory and success in their wars. It is all one with the Lord to save by many or by few.
4. The increase of their people. The gospel church shall be fruitful.
5. The favour of God, which is the fountain of all good.
6. Tokens of his presence in and by his ordinances. The way to have God's ordinances fixed among us, is to cleave closely to them.
7. The grace of the covenant.

All covenant blessings are summed up in the covenant relation, I will be your God, and ye shall be my people; and they are all grounded upon their redemption.

Having purchased them, God would own them, and never cast them off until they cast him off.

**Forgotten People shall be restored**

### **Jeremiah 32:40-41**

"I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me. "I will rejoice over them to do them good and will faithfully plant them in this land with all My heart and with all My soul.

We have no reason to distrust God's faithfulness and constancy, but only our own hearts. He will settle them again in Canaan. These promises shall surely be performed. Jeremiah's purchase was the pledge of many a purchase that should be made after the captivity; and those inheritances are but faint resemblances of the possessions in the heavenly Canaan, which are kept for all who have God's fear in their hearts, and do not depart from him.

### **Hobab Entreated for Moses**

### **Numbers 10:29**

Then Moses said to Hobab the son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, "We are setting out to the place of which the LORD said, 'I will give it to you'; come with us and we will do you good, for the LORD has promised good concerning Israel."

Moses invites his kindred to go to Canaan. Those that are bound for the heavenly Canaan, should ask and encourage their friends to go with them: we shall have none the less of the joys of heaven, for others coming to share with us.

It is good having fellowship with those who have fellowship with God. But the things of this world, which are seen, draw strongly from the pursuit of the things of the other world, which are not seen.

Moses urges that Hobab might be serviceable to them. Not to show where they must encamp, nor what way they must march, the cloud was to direct that; but to show the conveniences of the place they marched through, and encamped in.

It well consists with our trust in God's providence, to use the help of our friends.

## **Chapter 6**

## Give Praise to God for Deliverance

### 2 Samuel 22:28

"And you save an afflicted people; but your eyes are on the haughty whom you abase.

This chapter is a psalm of praise; we find it afterwards nearly as [Ps 18](#).

They that trust God in the way of duty, shall find him a present help in their greatest dangers: David did so. Remarkable preservations should be particularly mentioned in our praises. We shall never be delivered from all enemies till we get to heaven.

God will preserve all his people, [2Ti 4:18](#).

Those who receive signal mercies from God, ought to give him the glory. In the day that God delivered David, he sang this song. While the mercy is fresh, and we are most affected with it, let the thank-offering be brought, to be kindled with the fire of that affection. All his joys and hopes close, as all our

## Gracious Promises to the Gentiles

### Isaiah 49:8

Thus says the LORD, "In a favorable time I have answered you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you; and I will keep you and give you for a covenant of the people, To restore the land, to make them inherit the desolate heritages;

The Father is the Lord, the Redeemer, and Holy One of Israel, as sending the Son to be the Redeemer.

Man, whom he came to save, put contempt upon him. To this he submitted for our salvation.

He is a pledge for all the blessings of the covenant; in him God was reconciling the world to himself. Pardoning mercy is a release from the curse of the law; renewing grace is a release from the dominion of sin: both are from Christ.

## **God Threatens the Enemies of Israel.**

### **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.

In this world of sin and sorrow, ending soon in death and judgement, how foolish for men to glory in their knowledge, health, strength, riches, or in any thing which leaves them under the dominion of sin and the wrath of God!

And of which an account must hereafter be rendered; it will but increase their misery. Those are the true Israel who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Let us prize the distinction which comes from God, and will last forever. Let us seek it diligently.

## **God knows those who take Refuge in Him**

### **Nahum 1:7**

The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

The anger of the Lord is contrasted with his goodness to his people. Perhaps they are obscure and little regarded in the world, but the Lord knows them.

The Scripture character of Jehovah agrees not with the views of proud reasoners. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is slow to wrath and ready to forgive, but he will by no means acquit the wicked; and there is tribulation and anguish for every soul that doeth evil: but who duly regards the power of his wrath?

## **God Will Pour Out the Spirit of Grace**

### **Zechariah 12:10**

"I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

In his second coming he will complete their destruction, when he shall put down all opposing rule, principality, and power; and death itself shall be swallowed up in that victory.

The Holy Spirit is gracious and merciful, and is the Author of all grace or holiness. He, also, is the Spirit of supplications, and shows men their ignorance, want, guilt, misery, and danger.

At the time here foretold, the Jews will know who the crucified Jesus was; then they shall look by faith to him, and mourn with the deepest sorrow, not only in public, but in private, even each one separately.

There is a holy mourning, the effect of the pouring out of the Spirit; a mourning for sin, which quickens faith in Christ, and qualifies for joy in God.

## **In Great Kindness, the Lord Did Not Forsake Them**

### **Nehemiah 9:16-20**

But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments,

And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsook them not.

Yea, when they had made them a molten calf, and said, this is thy God that brought thee up out of Egypt, and had wrought great provocations;

Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsook them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go.

Thou gave also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheld not thy manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst.

The dealings of the Lord showed his goodness and long-suffering, and the hardness of their hearts. The testimony of the prophets was the testimony of the Spirit in the prophets, and it was the Spirit of Christ in them. They spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, and what they said is to be received accordingly. The result was, wonder at the Lord's mercies, and the feeling that sin had brought them to their present state, from which nothing but unmerited love could rescue them.

## **God Preserved Job's Spirit**

### **Job 10:12**

'You have granted me life and lovingkindness; and your care has preserved my spirit.

Job seems to argue with God, as if he only formed and preserved him for misery. God made us, not we ourselves. How sad that those bodies should be instruments of unrighteousness, which are capable of being temples of the Holy Ghost! But the soul is the life, the soul is the man, and this is the gift of God.

If we plead with ourselves as an inducement to duty, God made me and maintains me, we may plead as an argument for mercy, Thou hast made me, do thou new-make me; I am thine, save me.

## **Chapter 7**

### **The Lord Was With Joseph While in Jail.**

### **Genesis 39:20-21**

So Joseph's master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail. But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.

God designed to open the way to Joseph's honour. Joseph was owned and righted by his God. He was away from all his friends and relations; he had none to help or comfort him; but the Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy.

Those that have a good conscience in a prison, have a good God there. God gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison; he trusted him to manage the affairs of the prison. A good man will do good wherever he is, and will be a blessing even in bonds and banishment.

### **Moses Desires to See the Glory of God.**

#### **Exodus 33:12-13**

Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people!' But You Yourself have not let me know whom You will send with me Moreover, You have said, 'I have known you by name, and you have also found favor in My sight.' "Now therefore, I pray you, if I have found favor in your sight, let me know your ways that I may know you, so that I may find favor in your sight Consider too, that this nation is your people."

Moses is very earnest with God. Thus, by the intercession of Christ, we are not only saved from ruin, but become entitled to everlasting happiness. Observe here how he pleads.

We find grace in God's sight, if we find grace in our hearts to guide and quicken us in the way of our duty. Moses speaks as one who dreaded the thought of going forward without the Lord's presence.

God's gracious promises, and mercy towards us, should not only encourage our faith, but also excite our fervency in prayer.

### **The Blessings on the Twelve Tribes**

### Deuteronomy 33:23

Of Naphtali he said, "O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, And full of the blessing of the LORD, Take possession of the sea and the south."

This prayer is a prophecy that God will keep up a ministry in his church to the end of time.

The tribe of Benjamin had their inheritance close to mount Zion. To be situated near the ordinances, is a precious gift from the Lord, a privilege not to be exchanged for any worldly advantage, or indulgence.

We should thankfully receive the earthly blessings sent to us, through the successive seasons.

But those good gifts which come down from the Father of lights, through the rising of the Sun of righteousness, and the pouring out of his Spirit like the rain which makes fruitful, are infinitely more precious, as the tokens of his special love.

The precious things here prayed for, are figures of spiritual blessing in heavenly things by Christ, the gifts, graces, and comforts of the Spirit.

### **The Lord Raised up Judges for Israel**

### Judges 2:18

When the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed and afflicted them.

The Israelites were not thoroughly reformed; so mad were they upon their idols, and so obstinately bent to backslide.

Thus those who have forsaken the good ways of God, which they have once known and professed, commonly grow most daring and desperate in sin, and have their hearts hardened.

Their punishment was, that the Canaanites were spared, and so they were beaten with their own rod. Men cherish and indulge their corrupt appetites and passions; therefore God justly leaves them to themselves, under the power of their sins, which will be their ruin.

### **The Lord Visited Hannah**

#### **1 Samuel 2:21**

The LORD visited Hannah; and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters and the boy Samuel grew before the LORD.

**God will help us in our callings.**

#### **1 Kings 3:6**

Then Solomon said, "You have shown great lovingkindness to your servant David my father, according as he walked before you in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward you; and you have reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that you have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

God, in like manner, puts us in the ready way to be happy, by assuring us we shall have what we need, and pray for. Solomon's making such a choice when asleep, and the powers of reason least active, showed it came from the grace of God.

Having a humble sense of his own wants and weakness, he pleads, Lord, I am but a little child. The more wise and considerate men are, the better acquainted they are with their own weakness, and the more jealous of themselves. Solomon begs of God to give him wisdom.

## **Chapter 8**

### **The House of God is adorned**

#### **Ezra 7:27-28**

Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to adorn the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, and has extended lovingkindness to me before the king and his counselors and before all the king's mighty princes

Thus I was strengthened according to the hand of the LORD my God upon me, and I gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.

Two things Ezra blessed God for:

1. For his commission. If any good appear in our hearts, or in the hearts of others, we must own that God put it there, and bless him; it is he that worketh in us, both to will and to do that which is good.

2. For his encouragement: God has extended mercy to me. Ezra was a man of courage, yet he ascribed this not to his own heart, but to God's hand.

If God give us his hand, we are bold and cheerful; if he withdraw it, we are weak as water. Whatever we are enabled to do for God and those around us, God must have all the glory.

### **Nehemiah's request to the king**

#### **Nehemiah 2:8**

and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which is by the temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go " And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me.

Nehemiah prayed to the God of heaven, as infinitely above even this mighty monarch. He lifted up his heart to that God who understands the language of the heart.

Nor should we ever engage in any pursuit in which it would be wrong for us thus to seek and expect the Divine direction, assistance, and blessing.

There was an immediate answer to his prayer; for the seed of Jacob never sought the God of Jacob in vain.

## **An Answer of Peace**

### **Psalm 6:9**

The LORD has heard my supplication, The LORD receives my prayer.

What a sudden change is here! Having made his request known to God, the psalmist is confident that his sorrow will be turned into joy.

By the workings of God's grace upon his heart, he knew his prayer was accepted, and did not doubt but it would, in due time, be answered. His prayers will be accepted, coming up out of the hands of Christ the Mediator.

The word signifies prayer made to God, the righteous Judge, as the God of his righteousness, who would plead his cause, and right his wrongs. A believer, through the blood and righteousness of Christ, can go to God as a righteous God, and plead with him for pardon and cleansing, who is just and faithful to grant both.

**He does not perceive the majesty of the Lord.**

### **Isaiah 26:10**

Though the wicked is shown favor, He does not learn righteousness; He deals unjustly in the land of uprightness, and does not perceive the majesty of the LORD.

The intention of afflictions is to teach righteousness: blessed is the man whom the Lord thus teaches.

But sinners walk contrary to him. They will go on in their evil ways, because they will not consider what a God he is whose laws they persist in despising. Scorners and the secure will shortly feel, what now they will not believe, that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God.

**When in Distress, He entreated the Lord.**

### **2 Chronicles 33:12**

When he was in distress, he entreated the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

To look upon ourselves and each other as the Lord's people, should make us earnest in the discharge of our duty both to God and man. Thus was this happy revolution brought about, and the people rejoiced. When the Son of David is enthroned in the soul, all is quiet, and joyful.

### **Through Compassion, my transgression if blotted out.**

#### **Psalm 51:1**

Be gracious to me, O God, according to your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of your compassion blot out my transgressions.

David, being convinced of his sin, poured out his soul to God in prayer for mercy and grace. Whither should backsliding children return, but to the Lord their God, who alone can heal them? He drew up, by Divine teaching, an account of the workings of his heart toward God. Those that truly repent of their sins, will not be ashamed to own their repentance. Also, he instructs others what to do, and what to say.

### **God's judgment against the enemies of the church**

#### **Isaiah 33:2**

O LORD, be gracious to us; we have waited for You Be their strength every morning, our salvation also in the time of distress.

Here we have the proud and false destroyer justly reckoned with for all his fraud and violence. The righteous God often pays sinners in their own coin. Those who by faith humbly wait for God, shall find him gracious to them; as the day, so let the

strength be. If God leaves us to ourselves any morning, we are undone; we must every morning commit ourselves to him, and go forth in his strength to do the work of the day. When God arises, his enemies are scattered.

## **Moses Prays for Fallen Israel**

### **Exodus 32:11**

Then Moses entreated the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your anger burn against your people whom you have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"

God expresses the greatness of his just displeasure, after the manner of men who would have prayer of Moses could save them from ruin; thus he was a type of Christ, by whose mediation alone, God would reconcile the world to himself.

Moses pleads God's glory. The glorifying God's name, as it ought to be our first petition, and it is so in the Lord's Prayer, so it ought to be our great plea. And God's promises are to be our pleas in prayer; for what he has promised he is able to perform.

See the power of prayer. In answer to the prayers of Moses, God showed his purpose of sparing the people, as he had before seemed determined on their destruction; which change of the outward discovery of his purpose, is called repenting of the evil.

## **Chapter 9**

### **Solomon's Prayer**

### 1 Kings 8:28-30

"Yet have regard to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant prays before You today; that Your eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place of which You have said, 'My name shall be there,' to listen to the prayer which Your servant shall pray toward this place.

"Listen to the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; hear in heaven your dwelling place; hear and forgive.

In this excellent prayer, Solomon does as we should do in every prayer; he gives glory to God. Fresh experiences of the truth of God's promises call for larger praises. He sues for grace and favour from God.

The experiences we have of God's performing his promises, should encourage us to depend upon them, and to plead them with him; and those who expect further mercies, must be thankful for former mercies. God's promises must be the guide of our desires, and the ground of our hopes and expectations in prayer.

### **The Lord Listened to Jehoahaz's Prayer**

### 2 Kings 13:4

Then Jehoahaz entreated the favor of the LORD, and the LORD listened to him; for He saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Aram oppressed them.

It was the ancient honour of Israel that they were a praying people. Jehoahaz, their king, in his distress, besought the Lord; applied himself for help, but not to the calves; what help could they give him? He sought the Lord. See how swift God is to show mercy; how ready to hear prayer; how willing to find a reason to be gracious; else he would not look so far back as the ancient covenant Israel had so often broken, and forfeited.

**God is a Mighty and Awesome God.**

### Nehemiah 9:32

"Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness, Do not let all the hardship seem insignificant before You, Which has come upon us, our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers and on all Your people, From the days of the kings of Assyria to this day.

The dealings of the Lord showed his goodness and long-suffering, and the hardness of their hearts. The testimony of the prophets was the testimony of the Spirit in the prophets, and it was the Spirit of Christ in them.

They spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, and what they said is to be received accordingly. The result was, wonder at the Lord's mercies, and the feeling that sin had brought them to their present state, from which nothing but unmerited love could rescue them. And is not their conduct a specimen of human nature?

### **For Help in Affliction**

#### **Psalm 25:16**

Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

The psalmist concludes, as he began, with expressing dependence upon God, and desire toward him. It is good thus to hope, and quietly to wait for the salvation of the Lord. And if God turns to us, no matter who turns from us.

He pleads his own integrity. Though guilty before God, yet, as to his enemies, he had the testimony of conscience that he had done them no wrong. God would, at length, give Israel rest from all their enemies round about. In heaven, God's Israel will be perfectly redeemed from all troubles.

### **Chapter 10**

#### **Prayer at an acceptable time.**

### **Psalm 69:13**

But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD, at an acceptable time; O God, in the greatness of your lovingkindness, Answer me with your saving truth.

Whatever deep waters of affliction or temptation we sink into, whatever floods of trouble or ungodly men seem ready to overwhelm us, let us persevere in prayer to our Lord to save us. The tokens of God's favour to us are enough to keep our spirits from sinking in the deepest outward troubles.

### **Prayer for the Sanctuary.**

### **Daniel 9:17-19**

“So now, our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his supplications, and for your sake, O Lord, let your face shine on your desolate sanctuary.” O my God, incline your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. “O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people are called by your name.”

The desolations of the sanctuary are grief to all the saints. Here is an earnest request to God to restore the poor captive Jews to their former enjoyments. O Lord, hearken and do. Not hearken and speak only, but hearken and do; do that for us which none else can do; and defer not. Here are several pleas and arguments to enforce the petitions. Do it for the Lord Christ's sake; Christ is the Lord of all. And for his sake God causes his face to shine upon sinners when they repent, and turn to him.

### **An Exhortation to Repentance**

### **Hosea 14:2**

Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all iniquity and receive us graciously, that we may present the fruit of our lips.

Israel is exhorted to return unto Jehovah, from their sins and idols, by faith in his mercy, and grace through the promised Redeemer, and by diligently attending on his worship and service. Take away iniquity; lift it off as a burden we are ready to sink under, or as the stumbling-block we have often fallen over. Take it all away by a free and full forgiveness, for we cannot strike any of it off. Receive our prayer graciously. They do not say what good they seek, but refer it to God

### **In Wrath, Remember Mercy**

#### **Habakkuk 3:2**

LORD, I have heard the report about You and I fear O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years, In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.

The word prayer seems used here for an act of devotion. The Lord would revive his work among the people in the midst of the years of adversity.

This may be applied to every season when the church, or believers, suffer under afflictions and trials. Mercy is what we must flee to for refuge, and rely upon as our only plea. We must not say, remember our merit, but, Lord, remember thy own mercy.

### **The Ministry of Angels**

#### **Zechariah 1:12**

Then the angel of the LORD said, "O LORD of hosts, how long will you have no compassion for Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, with which you have been indignant these seventy years?"

The prophet saw a dark, shady grove, hidden by hills. This represented the low, melancholy condition of the Jewish church. A man like a warrior sat on a red horse, in the midst of this shady myrtle-grove.

Though the church was in a low condition, Christ was present in the midst, ready to appear for the relief of his people. Behind him were angels ready to be employed by him, some in acts of judgment, others of mercy, and others in mixed events.

Would we know something of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, we must apply, not to angels, for they are themselves learners, but to Christ himself.

He is ready to teach those humbly desirous to learn the things of God. The nations near Judea enjoyed peace at that time, but the state of the Jews was unsettled, which gave rise to the pleading that followed; but mercy must only be hoped for through Christ.

**Matthew 11:28**  
**Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,**  
**and I will give you rest.**



To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

**References:**

Verse Concept: Matthew Henry's Concept Bible Commentary