

First Light Herald

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Receive Grace and See Glory

By Jeff Welter

Rom 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Gen 15:6 And he (Abraham) believed in the LORD; and he (God) counted it to him for righteousness.

Abraham saw God as good, his opinion of God was a good one. David's opinion of God was that He was a good God. A God that would not impute David's sin to him, but show mercy and grace is good! David believed that God would not leave his soul in hell, (Paradise) in the belly of the earth. Yes Abraham and David as well as many others had a good opinion of God.

God has crowned us in the body of Christ with glory and honor that should show forth in praise, honor and glory. So we too must value what God has done correctly and see Him as good and our opinion of Him should be a good one.

God has made us a kingdom of kings and priests. The picture we have of this is found in the Old Testament where we see types and shadows of things to come.

In Leviticus 27:1-8

Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: When a man consecrates by a vow certain persons to the LORD, according to your valuation, 3 if your valuation is of a male from twenty years old up to sixty years old, then your valuation shall be fifty shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary. 4 If it is a female, then your valuation shall be thirty shekels; 5 and if from five years old up to twenty years old, then your valuation for a male shall be twenty shekels, and for a female ten shekels; 6 and if from a month old up to five years old, then your valuation for a male shall be five shekels of silver, and for a female your valuation shall be three shekels of silver; 7 and if from sixty years old and above, if it is a male, then your valuation shall be fifteen shekels, and for a female ten shekels. 8 But if he is too poor to pay your valuation, then he shall present himself before the priest, and the priest shall set a value for him; according to the ability of him who vowed, the priest shall value him.

The Lord spoke to Moses, Moses represents the law. The law bends for no man, ever. It is a set of perfect rules with judgment to follow. No man could keep this perfect law until Jesus. When Jesus kept all these perfect rules He qualified as the spotless Lamb of God worthy to be sacrificed for all mankind. After his sacrifice the death, burial and resurrec-



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Special points of interest:

- Weapons of our warfare:
1. Casting down imaginations
 2. Praying in the spirit
 3. Calling those things which be not as though they were
 4. Love, which never fails
 5. Cast care on Lord
 6. Think on the word and lovely things
 7. Submit to God
 8. Resist the devil and his works

Grace and Glory.....continued

tion of Jesus freed God's hand of judgment based on this perfect law and enabled Him to receive sinners and make them righteous in His eyes. The law shows no mercy but because of Jesus God can still be a perfect righteous God in showing mankind mercy. The law judges us on our strength; the law assesses a value to us based on our strength; the law cannot give mercy.

Leviticus 27:1-8 God speaks the law to the law giver, Moses. Each person that comes to that law is given a value he must pay according to the spoken law. In Leviticus 27:8 if a person is too poor according to the law's valuation of him, then that person shall present himself to the priest. The priest is a representative of the grace of God. Jesus died and rose again as our High Priest. The law demands that you pay when you come to the Lord and you must pay what the law demands. But if you cannot pay what the law demands you are sent to the priest and he sets an amount of his own on you and it is determined by grace. Stop messing around with the law; it will never change its demands. Go to the Priest and let Him set a value on you. Our High Priest set a value on us that He paid for us who could not pay what the law demanded. The payment was made at the cross. We have value to God now and we can and should be, as priests, seeing that value and walking in the value of what The High Priest gave us. No, we were not worthy for everything God did for us, but we have worth/value because Jesus paid the ultimate price for us. We as a kingdom of priests should see the value The High Priest Jesus placed on us and agree and it **shall stand**.



*Leviticus 27: 14 And when a man shall sanctify his house to be holy unto the LORD, then the priest shall estimate it, whether it be good or bad: as the priest shall estimate it, so **shall it stand**.*

Jesus the Priest valued the poor leper and touched him saying, "Be cleansed" and immediately the leprosy left him and he was clean. The Law of Moses did not allow that man to even be in a public place, but the Priest full of grace and mercy gave him a value of His own.

The Pharisees valued themselves according to the Law of Moses and would not present themselves to the Priest, Jesus, and because of it could not receive anything from Jesus the graceful Priest of God. We must come to Jesus as sinners in need of His grace as our High Priest, then as The High Priest He puts His value on us as He sees, not according to the Law of Moses.

1 Samuel 1:9-18 So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. 11 Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head." 12 And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. 13 Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 14 So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!" 15 But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. 16 Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now." 17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him." 18 And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

"...as the priest shall estimate it, so shall it stand." Lev. 27:14

Grace and Glory.....continued

Eli declared as priest in verse 17 that Hannah, which by the way means grace, would receive whatever she had asked of God. Well, she did and Samuel was born and she gave him to God. Hannah also had more children after that. Our High Priest makes sure we receive whatever we ask in faith as well. Jesus is the High Priest of our confession. We only believe and He does all the rest.



John 5:2-9 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. 5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" 7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." 8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.



The lame man needs God's grace, the pool's actions are a picture of the law, Jesus said nothing about the pool or offered to stay and help him in quickly when the angel appeared. No, Jesus asked him if he wanted to be made well, then basically hearing that the man could not pay what the law/pool was demanding said, "Get up, pick up your bed and walk." Immediately the man was made whole by the Priest of God full of Grace setting a value on him not according to the law's demands.

"And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked." John 5:9

As a side note; this type and shadow that we have just seen is found in the 27th chapter of Leviticus, the last and final chapter of the Law of Moses. The book of the Law has been closed to us by our High Priest and grace is there for us to walk in now. Start walking!

Understanding the Temptation of Christ

Before you read this I suggest you read Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12, 13 and Luke 4:1-13. These references are where you will find the temptation of the Lord. Why read them? Because we are daily tempted and the Lord was tempted in all the same ways we're tempted BUT he remained sinless. There is nothing more frustrating that sinning when you've resolved NOT TO. So in order to exercise our senses to discern between good and evil and NOT sin, it might serve us well to see just what the enemy used against a sinless one to get him to sin. The really exciting part we want to remember is that Yeshua/Jesus didn't fall! In 2 Peter we're told we can be just like him and never fall! That is SO very exciting to me. I'm not into sports, but I am a goal setter and love to achieve goals. This is one worth shooting for!

2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall...

There are many words before and after these that you need to meditate upon as well. I give you this reference for you

Understanding the Temptation of Christ.....continued

to know where to begin. The search for understanding and receiving revelation from God is a continual one. It's not one where you get understanding and then quit. You must keep on keeping on.

I began this study in Luke 4 so I shall share what I "saw" when I studied it there. I don't pretend to know all there is to know about this section of scripture, but I will share some of the things that the Lord showed me as I studied. First notice that Yeshua said to the adversary as he tempted him, "It is written", "It is written" and then "It is said". He began addressing the temptor by saying, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." The bread he spoke of was the written word. The word of God he mentioned is the word he **heard** was from the Spirit of God. Remember, he had only JUST been baptized in the Holy Spirit. Not only that, but Yeshua/Jesus was the word made flesh or the word lived out in flesh. Before his baptism in the river Jordan he had walked according to the written word or the Torah. Now he was being led of the Spirit! That's how we were and are! We began as babes desiring the sincere written word of God. Then once we received the Holy Spirit we could be led by the Spirit rather than try to live by the letter of the law! Hearing the Spirit is far easier than trying to live by the letter of the law.



Have you ever read a legal contract created by "lawyers"? They are expert at wording things in such a way that you can hardly figure out what's being said. Now God didn't give the law so we'd be confused, but how do you know when to put what part of the law to work in any given situation? It's impossible for us! Also, there are so many people out there telling so many different stories about the same thing. I prefer to trust God who has a much better vantage point than any human.



Having your faith proved isn't a bad thing. God caused the Lord to be led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. God doesn't tempt, but He does have faith in His faith. He knows it is strong enough to stand up against a fallen angel.

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

James 1: 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh (employs) patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

God wants us to be mature, faithful and well equipped children. Yacov (Yeshua's half brother and the writer of James) knew this and these three verses paint the wonderful picture of God's will in the midst of temptation.

The next thing I saw in Luke 4 was that the first temptation was to get the Lord OFF of his new foundation of hearing God's voice. We have a tendency to focus on the natural and miss the spiritual. The enemy wanted the Lord to focus on himself and his hunger, but at the root of the adversary suggesting Yeshua make the stone (law) be his bread was the enemy attempting to get the Lord to forsake the Holy Spirit. (The enemy loves to do the old switheroo thing. Look at this hand while the other one is headed for your wallet or your throat.) Once again remember that BEFORE his temptation, Yeshua had completely depended on the Torah for his direction. He was now being led by the Holy Spirit. Now for those of you who are freaking out thinking that I'm saying he had forsaken the written word I say, "Phooey"! Would the Holy Spirit of God ever lead Yeshua **away** from God's will? NO! We're told to try the spirits. That means we weigh the spoken word we hear against the written word. Yeshua knew the Torah intimately as he IS/WAS/and FOREVER WILL BE the word made flesh. He knew himself! We are much less in tune with God and much less in tune with the written word, so we must use our bibles when we hear a voice giving us ideas and commands. It doesn't take long, but it does take diligence and fortitude to know the written scriptures in order that we are able to measure what we're hearing.

The Temptation of Christ.....continued

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Hebrews 5: 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.



For his next trick the adversary was working to get the Lord to fall for ruling lower kingdoms. He was asking him to sell his birthright for natural power. Yeshua is all about the kingdom of heaven. All he taught and lived on earth was the kingdom of heaven (God's perfect will). The enemy has **us** so focused on this world and the rulers of the day, it's no wonder we rarely see the kingdom of heaven. It takes childlike faith to enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:2) We're constantly grasping for control on this planet and in so doing we miss entering into the kingdom of our God and our Father on a daily basis. We try to "save" ourselves and end up losing our lives. If we trusted the Lord, we'd know he has already "saved" us and therefore our lives ARE safe.

I love it when the Lord told the enemy to get out of his face. He didn't send the enemy to the abyss or any such place, but put him where he belonged. He set things in order in his soul by saying, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and HIM only shalt thou serve." He didn't have any aspirations for the kingdoms of this world even though the enemy tempted him with them. He kept his focus on the kingdom of God! He also knew that the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our God. Why try to take what is freely given to you? Patience and long suffering were the fruits he relied on.

Last but not least the Lord addresses this final "wilderness" temptation. He would be tempted more throughout the next three and a half years, but here he put an end to the plans of the adversary. We see the Lord hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit. "It is said" is his response to the suggestion that he kill himself. The devil is always about tempting us to give up and throw ourselves off some high precipice. It seems like such an easy answer when in the face of some huge natural disaster. Suicide is never an answer when we get in a hard place. The Lord would eventually lay down his life for us, but NOT until it was within God's perfect will and that means His timing. God had spoken for 4,000 years just how things were to be. His word is always good. The Lord wasn't about to step out and do his own thing at this time or EVER. He goes from "It is written" to "It is said" and that is so exciting to me. There truly is NOTHING hidden which won't be made manifest.

"...try the spirits whether they are of God..." 1 John 4:1

I love the progression of understanding and authority at work here as one kingdom and one covenant gives way to a higher one! This is going to take some work for you to see, so please read and then meditate on the three verses in red (the Lord's words) so you can see the good, the acceptable and then the PERFECT will of God at work in the Lord. Also, we see the transfer of one covenant pass its baton to a stronger one.

*Luke 4:4 "And Jesus answered him, saying, "It is **written**; that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (rhema or utterance) of God."*

*Luke 4:8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, "Get thee behind me, satan: for "It is **written**, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."*

The Temptation of Christ.....continued

Luke 4:12 And Jesus answering said unto him, "It is **said**, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Ok, first we see the Lord use the first covenant, the torah-"It is written" and then quote the scripture reference. Second we see the Lord using authority to address the enemy and put him in his place, but still he is using the written word or torah. Lastly we see him hear the Father's voice by the Holy Spirit and the shift has begun! "It is said". Who said what? Of course there is no one there but Yeshua, the adversary and the Precious Holy Spirit! He was lead there by the Holy Spirit and now he is hearing the VOICE of God! Awesome! Yeshua/Jesus had seen us from the letter of the law to the law of the Spirit of life in Christ (The Anointing by the Holy Spirit). The beginning of new things was ushered in when he said, "It is said"!



I wanted to share this with you because God shared it with me. We try to defeat the enemy with the law that he uses to defeat us. We are supposed to be using the law of faith, or the law of the SPIRIT of life in Christ Jesus. Hearing God is vital to be able to defeat the enemy's ongoing attempts to tempt us to sin. Today anything which is not of faith is sin. If we refuse to hear God we can NOT walk in faith. If we don't walk in faith the condemner will make sure and ram us with the law and the Old Testament or old covenant. The new covenant is written on our hearts as we hear and obey God by His Holy Spirit.

Even in telling you this I know the condemner is at work. Just know that while you are learning HOW to walk this way God is gently leading you. He doesn't see us as fully mature sons, but as tiny babes. Allow yourself grace as you learn to hear HIS voice and obey!

ING



No that isn't a typo; I meant to write it just that way. Ing is a suffix that takes a verb from infinite to action. The verb to be with -ing added becomes be-ing. To be is infinite, but add -ing and you have something being.

*Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing**ing**, and hearing**ing** by the word of God.*

We think wrong. We are so influenced by the world's way of thinking that when God tells us something we trump His commands with something we heard some "professional" person tell us. Why we allow a human idea or opinion to supersede the Creator is beyond me, but we do.

Faith comes from the heart or the spirit of man. It is sown in our hearts as seeds or the word. The written word is the seed, but the seed isn't the plant. I know that's a natural picture, but it is how Yeshua/Jesus portrayed the kingdom principles to us. The word is seed. It has everything needed to produce a desired thing. For instance, a marigold seed isn't the whole marigold but the blueprint for that marigold. Sown in the ground the seed dies and then sloughs it's outer shell and the life in the DNA of that seed begins to produce the beginnings of a marigold. If we were to see the marigold sprout coming up we wouldn't pluck it and say, "That's not a marigold." No, we know that given the appropriate amount of time the seed will produce a plant. So it is with the word of God. A word about healing or prosperity sown in our hearts (by hear-ING) causes the seed to begin the process of life. The seed dies (looks like nothing is happening) and then it begins to sprout. First there is the "blade, then the ear and then the full corn in the ear" see Mark 4:28.

When you are looking for answers in the word of God you need to REMEMBER that faith comes by HEAR-ING, not having heard one time. Consider this: You planted a garden last year and harvested it. You then ate the vegetables from

that garden. Can you reap a harvest without planting it again? NO. So when you find something that brings you faith don't just read it once, read it over and over. The newsletters we write are full of good seed with as little fluff as possible. You get enough junk food from TV, movies, magazines and everyday gossip. We want you to be filled and refilled until you produce the kingdom of heaven from your own hearts and also bear MUCH fruit! If you hear yourself utter these words, "Oh, I know that" stop what you're doing, repent (change your mind) and realize you've just fallen for pride. There is no way anyone of us can ever know more than the God of heaven. He has filled His words with living faith. It can be used over and over, but it must be sown. That is why you can read something a thousand times and then one day swear someone wrote something new in your bible. The word is ALIVE just like the seed you sow in your garden. It doesn't look alive (like the little carrot seed) and it surely doesn't look like a carrot but it is! Sow it over and over! Add ING to your hear and you'll be hearing and faith will come from your heart.



Prayer for the Body



The Lord has really convicted me to begin again in earnest intercession for the Body. Along with prayer He has encouraged me to begin confessing certain things for the Body. If we look back at the beginning of the book of Acts we see that the Body at that time was in ONE ACCORD in the upper room. I believe they were praying and confessing the word in unity. Here is a prayer or work of confession I have been speaking over the Body. We encourage you to add it to your confession time. Remember, Yeshua/Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. Paul prayed a similar prayer over the Ephesian believers as well as

the Colossians.

Heavenly Father, We pray for the Body of Christ and desire that we would be filled with the knowledge of God's will and spiritual understanding. That we would walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience, and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which has made us able to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.

The communication of our faith is effective by acknowledging every good thing which is in us in the Anointed Yeshua/Jesus.

We have peace because we are in the Anointed Yeshua/Jesus.

We walk in love so we cover a multitude of sins. We walk in love, led by the Holy Spirit so we never fail in what God sends us to do.

We are sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise in Yeshua/Jesus.

God is working in us both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure. Amen

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed. Prayer Meeting	Thu	Fri	Sabbath
We'll be meeting in Gardendale for all the Odessa	Meetings for the time being. Please make a note.	1	2 No meeting Enjoy the holidays!	3	4 Happy Independence day.	5
6	7 Lovington 7-9PM 2227 E. Waters-Hebisons	8	9 Odessa 7-9PM 14630 N. Hollyhock #35	10	11 Hobbs 7-9PM Doc Dean's	12 Roswell 2-4PM
13	14	15	16 Odessa 7-9PM 14630 N. Hollyhock #35	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Odessa 7-9PM 14630 N. Hollyhock #35	24 Hobbs 7-9PM Doc Dean's	25	26
27	28	29	30 Odessa 7-9PM 14630 N. Hollyhock #35	31	For questions call Jeff at 432-770-4775.	For prayer call 432-550-7642.