

MSB235

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

Otis Q. Sellers, Founder - David R. Hettema, Director

THE PROCESS OF GRACE

By Mike Walko

A process is a course with an end in view. This writer believes that the God of the Bible is continuously in process. That is, His eternal state is never static, but rather, it is always a dynamic progression toward the realization of a goal.

God began His process of dealing with man by making covenants first with individual men and then with His chosen people. Some examples of this are in the following Scriptures:

The Lord had said unto Abram, 'Get thee out of thy country, and from the kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all the of the earth be blessed' (Gen. 12:1-3).

Another statement of God is: **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 to thee, and to thy seed after thee, all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep My covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. This is my covenant, which ye shall**

keep, between Me and you and thy seed after thee: Every man child among you shall be circumcised (Gen. 17:7-10).

And another statement by God is; **These are the words of the covenant, which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the Children of Israel in the land of Moab, beside the covenant which He made with them at Horeb (Dent. 29: 1). God's new covenant would be inaugurated by the Messiah, the Holy One of Israel. Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and the house of Judah (Jer. 31:31).**

We are currently living in the Dispensation of the Grace of God. Paul says, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward (Eph. 3:2). God is now showing nothing but grace to the nations. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men (Titus 2: 11). Grace is defined as a love and favor that is undeserved. God is both actively and passively working this grace in the lives of all men and especially those linked to Him by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Genesis 21:33 says, And Abraham planted a grove in Beer-sheba, and called there on the name of the Lord, the everlasting God. The word "everlasting" here is from the Hebrew word *a/am*, which appears throughout the Hebrew Old Testament. For example, The Lord shall reign forever and ever (Ex. 15:18), and Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: the scepter of thy kingdom is a right scepter (Psa. 45:6). The Greek New Testament equivalent of *a/am* is *aion*. Like *a/am*, *aion* connotes the idea of ever "flowing out." God says, For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour My Spirit upon thy seed, and My blessing upon thine offspring (Isa. 44:3). He also says, But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream (Amos 5:24). Thus God can flow out as water--whether in His Spirit, righteousness and even grace. Paul says, For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast (Eph. 2:8-9). He is a "flow-er" whether in salvation, divine generation or His Kingdom. The word *aion* is the root name of many rivers, throughout Europe. Examples of this are the Avon in England, the Arono in Spain, and the Aune in Italy.

By flowing out in grace, God is working out His purpose and design on the primary elements of our lives when our faith is in Him. We thereby attain a value we did not enjoy before. In this interactive process, even God

experiences a greater value. Not only the creation, but the creator profits from this exchange. This is especially true of the believer's salvation, which depends not only upon God's active grace, but also on the individual's free acceptance of it. Paul says, That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him: in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: that we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ (Eph. 1:10-12). Paul also says, Wherefore my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure (Phil. 2:12-13). This process will be completed when the Lord fulfills all prophecy regarding the nation Israel and the nations of the world.

Some people may object: "How can God attain greater value if He is already perfect? Is not Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8)?" The answer is, Yes, the Lord is perfect in His character: it cannot be improved upon. Likewise, His wisdom, knowledge and love are boundless; they cannot increase. In Himself, God is always absolutely the same. His creation of this world and things in it, however, makes it possible for Him to have new, more intense experiences of His perfection. God was not forced to create. He is object enough for His own knowledge and love. But as Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). God's infinite wisdom and love motivated and guided His decision to give existence to billions of persons on earth, therefore resulting in billions of new beings who become objects for that wisdom, knowledge and love. Creation thus adds a new dimension to God's experience of His perfect attributes. Furthermore, by freely coming to know and love both themselves, each other and God, these billions of persons, having been made in His image, can share His life of wisdom, knowledge and love. God's creation is the source of more intense enjoyment of His perfections than would be possible had He not been the creator.

God owes nothing to anyone for this intensification of His own experience of Himself. Nothing can surpass God in wisdom, knowledge and love--- except God Himself. Nothing can give God greater enjoyment than Himself. He brings this about by creating other persons and pursuing their friendship and love.

Through this pursuit, the life of The Eternal God has become a self-surpassing dynamic state. In Luke we have this record, Then He took unto Him the twelve, and said to them, Behold we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished (Luke 18:31). Jesus, thus, reveals to the disciples the things that the Lord would soon endure and accomplish in Jerusalem. Paul says in Hebrews, For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified (Heb. 10:14). When someone accomplishes and perfects something, he achieves a greater value. This can be said of God and man as well.

The Old Testament prophets predicted many things about the life of the Messiah, the central figure of the Bible. Some of these are:

- . He would be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14)
- . He would be born in Bethlehem of Judea (Micah 5:2)
- . He would live righteously according to the law (Isa. 53:1-12)
- . He would be raised from the dead (Ps. 16:10)

All of these events were future when the prophets wrote about them. When God, in Christ, brought these things to pass in New Testament times, He became greater face to face with His creation by earning a more excellent name than the angels. As Paul says, **Being made so much better than the angels, . . . For unto which of the angels said He (God the Father) at any time, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee? And again, I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?** (Heb. 1:4-5).

The Lord has worked His purposes and design in His people, and through the Gentile nations when punishing Israel, through the process of time. Down through the centuries he has granted them gifts at different times, but always in keeping with the current dispensation. For example, the Acts period was a time of the manifest gifts of the Holy Spirit. They included healing, prophecy, and foreign languages. Today, however, the works of the Lord are in secret. Still, in His grace, He endows all peoples with talents in music, art, sports, and science. These talents are not like the gifts of the Acts Period because they must be developed by disciplined attention. Anyone in any field can serve mankind for God if they put their faith in the Lord Jesus and let the divine generation of the Holy Spirit work through them. But we must be well schooled in His Word, and hold His name in highest reverence.

When the Kingdom of God is manifested on earth, all of God's people, those alive and those raised to life, will be able to trace out the wonderful designs that His grace had woven into their lives in the dispensation of grace. They will serve God and honor the God of every grace as the Kingdom takes over the whole earth. . . . for when Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness (Isa. 26:9). May that Kingdom come soon and the nations learn His ways to peace and righteousness.

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