

# The Doctrines of Grace

## Doctrine 1-The Absolute Sovereignty of God

### Part A/Lesson Eight

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#### Part A- The Character and Nature Of God- continued

#### God is Savior

**Exodus 15:2**

**The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.**

**Deuteronomy 20:4:**

**For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.**

**2Samuel 22:3**

**The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.**

**2Samuel 22:36**

**Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great.**

**2Samuel 22:50&51**

**50** Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD , among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.

**51** He is the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore.

**1Chronicles 16:23**

**Sing unto the LORD , all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation.**

**Psalms 3:8**

**Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.**

**Psalms 9:14**

**That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation.**

**Psalms 13:5**

**But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.**

God being a Savior is *not* a New Testament concept- it's an Old Testament concept. The God of the Bible has always been a God Who saves, and He saves because it is His Nature to do so. All who were in Israel under the Old, or the First, Covenant knew God as Savior. Israel knew God as their Savior. And that was unique to Israel because that was *not* the way it was with the man-made gods of the other false religions. There is only one God- the one true and living God- the eternal God- the God Who is revealed in Scripture- and this God is by Nature- a Savior. The God of the Bible is a saving God.

Another word, a synonym for Savior- is Deliverer. God delivers people from threatening things. Other synonyms for Savior are Rescuer and Healer.

And because God chose to set His Love upon the Jews and give them His Word and law- they knew God was a Savior by Nature. They knew God to be Wise. They knew Him to be Powerful. They knew Him to be Understanding. They knew Him to be Just. And they also knew that by Nature- in contra distinction to all the other false deities of the world – the God of the Bible was a Savior.

**Romans 2:1-4:**

**1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.**

**2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.**

**3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?**

**4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?**

It is God's Nature to deliver men from the consequences of sin- and the Jews understood that. They were reminded of this every time God spoke about the horror of their sin; the frightening Judgment against sin; every time they slew an animal; every time they made an offering; every time they entered into the Temple; every time they prayed- they were reminded that God is by Nature a saving God.

So when the Prophets foretold that God would send them a Deliverer; a Rescuer; a Messiah; and a Savior- the Jews immediately understood it. In fact, David in **Psalm 51** was praying to God about how he had lost the joy because of his disobedience and wickedness, and he says to God,

**"Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation."**

When the angel appeared to Mary- who was probably no older than 15 years- Mary exclaims in **Luke 1:46&47:**

**46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,**

**47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.**

The Bible says that Simeon was another Old Covenant believer- who was a righteous and devout man looking forward to when God would console Israel with the Promised Messiah/Savior. As Mary and Joseph bring their tiny little baby boy into the Temple- Simeon immediately was quickened by the Spirit of God, and he picked up that little baby and rejoiced that God had fulfilled His Promise, and in **Luke 2:29-32** he said,

**29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:**

**30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,**

**31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;**

**32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.**

Finally, the Savior had come! Simeon understood that there was Salvation from God, and that God was a Savior. But he also understood that there was One Who had to come- that there had to be a final spotless, sinless Lamb. God had to provide that final Sacrifice. And when he saw that little baby he said, "*This is it!*"

God showed Himself to be a Savior to Israel two ways:

1. God showed them that He was a Savior- temporally and physically
2. God showed them that He was a Savior- prophetically

God showed to the nation Israel His saving Nature by physically and literally *saving* them, or *delivering* or *rescuing* them from Egypt; out of the Red Sea; out of the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land; and from numerous enemies who hated them and tried to destroy them.

God showed over and over how He delivered or saved His people in a *temporal* and *physical* way. He delivered them from hostile nations; He delivered them from sicknesses; He delivered them from temporal trouble; He delivered them from physical danger; and He delivered them from tangible death.

The fact that there is one single Jew left alive on the earth is testimony to God being a Savior. The Jews have been the most persecuted; the most hated; the most mistreated; the most enslaved group of people in the history of the world. And God has rescued them and saved them and delivered them for thousands of years- which simply gives great Glory to the Sovereign Election of God and the fact that God keeps His Promises and the fact that God is a saving God.

But God also promised that the Old Covenant concept of *temporal* and *physical* Salvation would give way to an infinitely *superior* Salvation under the New Covenant through the Messiah. This kind of saving would be eternal and would not be limited to temporal or physical things. This kind of Salvation would be an eternal rescue from the Wrath of God against their sins.

### **Matthew 1:21**

**And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.**

So under the New Covenant- God took the shadow and sign and symbol of Salvation that had been manifested in a physical and temporal way, and through the Life, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ provided an *eternal* Deliverance; an *eternal* Rescuing; and an *eternal* Salvation of the human soul from the fierce and certain Wrath of an infinitely Holy God against all sin and transgression. And this *eternal* Salvation is not for the Jew only- but also for the Gentile.

#### **Romans 10:9&10**

**9** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

**10** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

#### **Romans 10:12&13**

**12** For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

**13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

But God has chosen to allow this Salvation to come to unworthy sinners by no other means other than through the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **John 14:3**

Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

#### **The Acts 4:10-12**

**10** Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

**11** This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

**12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

From the very moment that Jesus rose from the dead- he became the Sole Salvation of every human on earth- including the Jew- who was commanded to leave and abandon the *partial* and *inferior* Revelation of Salvation through the Old Covenant and come on into the full and Perfect Revelation of Salvation that is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Hebrews 6:1a**

**Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection...**

**Hebrews 10:26**

**For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,**

The glorious Promise of God is that because of the infinite Value of the Life, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ- every single human being (Jew or Gentile) who has been chosen for Salvation from before the foundation of the world will come to Jesus and those who come to Jesus will be saved and all who are truly saved will be kept and all who are kept will enter into Heaven and none of them will be refused- no matter how sinful they have been and no matter how long they have been sinful.

**John 6:37-44**

**37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**

**38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.**

**39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.**

**40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

**41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.**

**42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?**

**43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.**

**44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

**Romans 8:29&30**

**29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

**30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.**

And God has done all of this so that people from every nation on earth will be saved- all to the Glory of God!

**God is Lawgiver and Judge****Genesis 49:9&10**

**9 Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?**

**10** The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

**Isaiah 33:21&22**

**21** But there the glorious LORD will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby.

**22** For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.

**James 4:11&12**

**11** Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

**12** There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

**Deuteronomy 32:36**

**36** For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.

**1 Samuel 2:10**

**10** The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

**Psalms 9:7-8**

**7** But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment.

**8** And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

**Psalms 35:24**

**24** Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me.

**Psalms 50:3-6**

**3** Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

**4** He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

**5** Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

**6** And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.

**Psalms 75:7**

**But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.**

**Psalms 98:7-9**

**7 Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.**

**8 Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together**

**9 Before the LORD ; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.**

**Romans 2:14-16**

**14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:**

**15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)**

**16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.**

**Hebrews 12:22&23**

**22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,**

**23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,**

**The Revelation 20:15**

**And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

Morality, Law and Order, and Government were God's idea- not Man's. God is the One Who established the moral laws by which all men must live, and in His Omnipotence- God *imposed* those moral laws on Man and will hold all people accountable for their obedience and disobedience. According to the Scriptures- Man was not created to be *autonomous* (Greek: *auto*= self + *nomos*= law) or "self-governed", but *theonomos* (Greek: *theos*= God + *nomos*= law) or underneath God's Law.

As Lawgiver and Judge- God is both Holy and Righteous. The Holiness of God refers to His complete Separation from all that is common, profane, or sinful. The Righteousness of God refers to the "rightness" of all God's Works and Judgments. These two Attributes *guarantee* that God's Law will *always* be Appropriate and Right and that His Judgments will *always* be Perfect and Impartial. God will *always* do the Right thing.

God's Judgments are so Pristine in their Purity that even in Judgment- when the secrets of men's hearts will be made manifest- all those who will be condemned by God will agree with the wicked high priest, Eli, who when judged by God for his sin said,

**1Samuel 3:18b**

... It is the LORD : let him do what seemeth him good.

This punishment of all sin is the outward Demonstration of God's Holy and Righteous Anger (Wrath) against all sin and is called, "God's Vengeance".

**Psalms 94:1**

**94 O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself.**

**Isaiah 34:1-8**

**34 Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it.**

**2 For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.**

**3 Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.**

**4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.**

**5 For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.**

**6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea.**

**7 And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness.**

**8 For it is the day of the LORD 's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.**

**Isaiah 35:4**

**4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.**

**Isaiah 61:2**

**2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD , and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;**

**Isaiah 63:3-5**

**3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.**

**4 For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.**



**5** And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.

#### **Jeremiah 50:14-15**

**14** Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD .

**15** Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it is the vengeance of the LORD : take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her.

#### **Jeremiah 51:11**

**11** Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the LORD hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device is against Babylon, to destroy it; because it is the vengeance of the LORD , the vengeance of his temple.

#### **Romans 12:19**

**19** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

#### **2Thessalonians 1:7-10**

**7** And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

**8** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**9** Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

**10** When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

#### **Jude 7**

**7** Even as Sodom and Gomorrhah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

### **The Foundation of God's Law**

Why has God determined some things to be "Right" and other things to be "Wrong." Is God capricious or arbitrary? Is the Law of God nothing more than an arbitrary and random set of rules, or is there a very Good and Important and Wise reason behind all the Commandments and Prohibitions? What is the true Essence of the Law? Here are some things to ponder that may be helpful:

- ✓ Since God is the Owner and Creator of everything- it is proper and correct for Him to establish Order in the Universe- that rightly belongs to Him. Part of

establishing that Order is accomplished by God setting limitations and boundaries on the behavior and the intent of human beings. And since God is Perfect and Righteous and Holy- only God is qualified to Judge, and since He is Omnipotent- only God can enforce His Law.

- ✓ God's Own Personal Purity is the basis of all Law. Therefore that which conforms to that Standard is deemed by God to be "Good" and that which rebels against that Standard is deemed by God to be "Evil". Apart from that one single Perfect Standard- the very concept of "Good" and "Evil" cannot be established, maintained, or comprehended.
- ✓ God's Laws are never arbitrary. They are reflections of His Own Personal Holiness- that are Eternal
- ✓ The true Essence of God's Law is Pure and Perfect Love. All of God's Law is best understood in two Statements made by Jesus:

**Mark 12:29-31**

**29 ... The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:**

**30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.**

**31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.**

It should also be understood that God's Judgment of Man is not unwarranted or cruel- but is the inevitable consequence of His Holy and Righteous Character and a necessary part of His Government. A God Who would not Judge sin would not be Good or Righteous, and a Creation where Wickedness was not restrained and judged would soon self-destruct.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.

## Recap of Lesson Eight

1. True or False- God being a Savior is strictly a New Testament concept \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are other Biblical synonyms for Savior? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What reminded the Old Testament Jew that it was God's Nature to deliver them from the consequences of sin? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does **Luke 1:46&47** tell us about Mary's understanding of Salvation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What was Simeon's consolation? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What does **Luke 2:29-32** tells you about Simeon's understanding of Salvation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What were some of the ways that Israel understood God's saving Nature under the Old (First) Covenant? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What difference in the understanding of Salvation did the New Covenant in Jesus Christ bring? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. In what way was "salvation" limited under the Old Covenant? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. In what way is Salvation limited under the New Covenant? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why is it that God gives Salvation to unworthy sinners through what Jesus did? How are the Acts of Jesus the Source of our Salvation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Explain the phrase in **John 6:37**, "**All that the Father giveth me shall come to me**" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Explain what Jesus meant when He said in **John 6:39**, "**...that of all he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day**" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Explain what the third word in **John 6:44** means in context to people coming to Jesus for Salvation. \_\_\_\_\_

15. According to **John 6:44**- what has to happen for anyone to come to Jesus for Salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What does the word, "**foreknow**" mean in context with the word, "**predestinate**" in **Romans 8:29**? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Explain the four steps listed in **Romans 8:30** in your own words \_\_\_\_\_

18. Who originated Morality; Law and Order; and Government? \_\_\_\_\_

19. How did Man receive the Moral Law of God? \_\_\_\_\_

20. Explain *autonomous* and *theonomos* \_\_\_\_\_

21. How does God's Holiness and Righteousness affect Him as Lawgiver and Judge? \_\_\_\_\_

22. Explain Eli's comment in **1Samuel 3:18b** \_\_\_\_\_

23. What is "God's Vengeance"? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Explain why it is *not* sinful for God to exercise Vengeance when it would be sin for us to do the same \_\_\_\_\_

25. What is the Foundation of God's Law? \_\_\_\_\_

26. According to the Words of Jesus in **Mark 9:29-31**- what is the Essence of God's Law? \_\_\_\_\_

27. Explain how the four helpful items listed on pages 9&10 of this Lesson helped you to understand more about God's Law and Judgment or write your thoughts about this subject that have not been addressed in this Lesson \_\_\_\_\_

