


# **GOD'S AMAZING GRACE:**

**An Introduction to the Book of Jonah**





## **4 Questions to Answer**

- 1. What is grace?**
  - 2. Are there different types of grace?**
  - 3. Why do we need grace?**
  - 4. Is grace enough?**
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- A blue whale tail fluke is visible in the bottom left corner, swimming towards the right. The background is a deep blue ocean with white-capped waves.



**What is Grace?**



**"Grace is God's free and unmerited favor shown to guilty sinners who deserve only judgment. It is the love of God shown to the unlovely. It is God reaching downward to people who are in rebellion against Him."**



**Jerry Bridges,  
*Transforming Grace***





# **What is Mercy? What is Grace?**

- **Mercy is giving someone something they need.**
- **Grace is giving someone something they don't deserve.**



# What About Grace in Ephesians 2:8-9?

- Grace comes from God.
- Grace is not merited.
- Grace is a gift.
- Grace's giver (God) is the object of our boasting.



**"Love that goes upward is worship;  
love that goes outward is affection;  
love that stoops is grace."**



**Donald Grey Barnhouse,  
*Grace Awakening***

# **Are There Different Categories of Grace?**





# **Are There Categories of Grace?**

- **Common (or general) Grace**

**“the form of grace enjoyed by all of humanity, whether they are saved or not”**

**“the grace of God which he gives people innumerable blessings that are not part of salvation”**

# Examples of Common Grace

- Life
- sun rising and sun setting (Matt 5:44)
- rain (Matt 5:45)
- food (Ps 145)
- intelligence (John 1:9)
- knowledge of God (Rom 1:21)
- knowing right from wrong (Rom 2:14-15)
- warnings of judgment
- any activity you enjoy on earth
- human government (Rom 13:1)



# Why is God Gracious to Those Who Hate Him?

- **Common grace can lead people to salvation (II Pet 3:9-10).**
- **Common grace highlights God's mercy.**



# **Are There Categories of Grace?**

- **Common (or general) Grace**
- **Special (or saving) Grace**

**“the form of grace where God removes the power and penalty of sin through Christ’s work and sanctifies us through the Holy Spirit”**



**"God seems to choose those who have been the greatest sinners in order to show them His greatest grace."**



**Brother Lawrence,  
*The Practice of the  
Presence of God***



## 1 Timothy 1:15

*The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."*





# Why Do We Need Grace?



# Why Do We Need God's Grace?

1. Because we think too highly of ourselves
2. To balance out God's judgment
3. We are not gracious enough.



**Is Grace Enough?**



# Background for Jonah

- 9<sup>th</sup> smallest book in the Bible;  
only 48 verses
- The missionary book of the O.T.;  
example of what kind of missionary  
NOT to be
- Narrative about a minor prophet  
and not prophecies about future  
events



# **7 Miracles in Jonah**

- 1. storm (1:4)**
- 2. selection of Jonah by lot (1:7)**
- 3. sudden subsiding of the sea (1:15)**
- 4. fish appearing at right time (1:17)**
- 5. preservation of Jonah in the fish (1:17)**
- 6. ejection from the fish (2:10)**
- 7. plant miraculously growing (4:6)**

# **How Do We Know Jonah is Literal?**

- 1. Jesus refers to it in Matthew 12:39-41.**
- 2. II Kings 14:25 references Jonah as a prophet.**
- 3. Not questioned until 19<sup>th</sup> century**
- 4. Parables don't usually contain these many details.**



# Who Was Jonah?

- From Gath Hepher in Zebulun, north of Nazareth
- A prophet before Jeroboam II (793-753 B.C.), during Assyrian power
- Succeeded Elisha
- A type of Christ



# Some Truths to Consider

1. We can learn how to respond to the sovereign decisions of God.
2. God's grace restores us through confession and repentance.
3. God can use you despite your inadequacies, weaknesses, faults, inabilities, and sins.



## II Corinthians 12:9

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you,  
for my power is made perfect in weakness."*



The Chapter	The Sermon	Running	Saying
Chapter 1	God's Judgment	Running from God	"I won't go."
Chapter 2	God's Forgiveness	Running to God	"I will go."
Chapter 3	God's Salvation	Running with God	"I am here."
Chapter 4	God's Pity	Running against God	"I shouldn't have come."