



Amazing Grace and God's Law

Truth about the age of grace

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The hymn “Amazing Grace” is probably the most well known anthem of Christianity. The song was written by the captain of a slave-trading ship named John Newton. After his conversion, Newton left the horrible seas and eventually joined forces with a member of the European parliament to end slavery. Newton was successful, as a bill written by his partner William Wilberforce was passed to outlaw slave trade in 1807.

Heavenly amazing grace had taken the wretch of a sinner like John Newton and transformed his life.

“Grace” is unmerited or undeserved favor. Though “grace” is often the subject of Sunday sermons, the term is usually misunderstood and misrepresented. Psalm 89:2 states that the world was formed upon the foundation of grace. The Hebrew word used in this verse and throughout the Old Testament for “grace” or “mercy” is “chesed.” This term appears over 240 times in the Old Testament to explain how the Creator relates to His creation. Grace is not a New Testament idea! Somehow, it has become a mainstream Christian belief that God has changed to now accept people through grace when they were once accepted by obedience to the Law of Moses. The God of grace has been incorrectly portrayed as dealing with people differently at different times. This demonic idea insinuates that what was wrong to do during the “dispensation of the law” is no longer a sin because Christians are now “under grace.” The doctrine of “dispensationalism” was made

popular by the Scofield Reference Bible and is now ingrained in the mind of most church leaders. The word “dispensation” appears only four times in the KJV and never to infer that there are different periods of God’s temperament. The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary says, “The modern theological use of the term is not in Scripture.” There is no such thing as an “age of grace” or the “dispensation of grace.”

Noah, Abraham, Moses and others all found “chesed” or “grace” in the eyes of the LORD. Their belief was accredited to them as righteousness. From creation, salvation has always been “by grace through faith,” Ephesians 4:23. Those who put their trust in the Mighty One of Israel during Old Testament times were granted eternal life through chesed. The Law of Moses was not given as an instrument of salvation. Obedience to the Biblical commands cannot redeem anyone. The Law of Moses was given by the Almighty to explain how a person should relate to Him and other people. The Law defines sin and sets a standard for righteous behavior. According to Romans 3:23, a person who sins is under the death penalty of sin until the gift of amazing grace is accepted. This means that the entire world is “under the law” until they accept the Creator’s chesed and are then placed “under grace.” A person is saved by grace through faith in the shed blood of Messiah and then should live a life of obedience to the Law. “Sin shall not have dominion over you because you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Heaven forbid!” - Romans 6:14-15.

Grace doesn’t replace the Law. The Law doesn’t replace grace. The two work together to transform lives. The amazing grace that changed the life of John Newton is still available today. The lost can be found and the blind can see if a person will accept grace and then live in righteousness.