

This Is Amazing Grace; Romans 5:8-11

I. Grace

- A. Amazing — causing great wonder or surprise, astonished, astounded ¹
- B. Grace — practical application of goodwill, (a sign of) favor, gracious deed/gift, benefaction ²
- C. God's grace is amazing, astounding, astonishing and we should be in great wonder of the goodwill, favor, gracious deed/gift He has given to us

II. The Fathers

A. Cain

1. Cain murdered his brother because Abel gave a better offering than him
2. Under the Mosaic Law a murderer was to be put to death after standing in judgment
3. Numbers 35:20–21 (ESV); ²⁰ And if he pushed him out of hatred or hurled something at him, lying in wait, so that he died, ²¹ or in enmity struck him down with his hand, so that he died, then he who struck the blow shall be put to death. He is a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when he meets him.
4. God showed Cain much grace
5. Genesis 4:9–13 (ESV); ⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?” ¹⁰ And the Lord said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” ¹³ Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear.

B. The Amorites

1. Inhabitants of the land of Canaan
2. God promised the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants
3. All the nations in the land of Canaan served idols — some, like Molech, required human sacrifice (children)
4. Leviticus 18:21 (KJV 1900); And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through *the fire* to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I *am* the Lord.
5. God would tell Israel to destroy these nations
6. Genesis 15:14–16 (ESV); ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”
7. God's grace extended to the Amorites for over 400 years

C. God's grace is seen clearly as He dealt with the nations through the Fathers

III. The Law

- A. Exodus 20:2–3 (ESV); ² “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ “You shall have no other gods before me.
- B. God gives Israel a specific law for a purpose — Israel is supposed to follow, to obey it
 1. Judges 2:11–13 (ESV); ¹¹ And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. ¹² And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their

¹ William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1079.

² Ibid

fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger. ¹³ They abandoned the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth.

2. Judges 2:18 (ESV); Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them.

C. God extended His grace to Israel over and over and over again

IV. The Christ

A. Ephesians 1:3–8 (ESV); ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

1. God chose us before he set the foundations of the world — before creation!
2. He is omniscient which means He knew we would sin
3. Knowing we would sin, He knew we would need a savior
4. Isaiah 6:8 (ESV); And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”
5. I imagine the scene playing out before the foundations of the world in much the same way
6. God, knowing we are going to sin, asking the question, “Whom shall I send to be the savior of mankind?” — and Jesus answering, “Here I am! Send me.”
7. God, knowing that there would on be a remnant of people on the earth that would choose Him over Satan, righteousness over evil, sacrifices His one and only, unique, Son — This is amazing grace!

B. From the time Jesus could understand, He knew He was headed to the cross

1. Luke 2:49 (ESV); And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”
2. These are the first recorded words of Jesus — and they show us His unique relationship to the Father
3. Even given an opportunity to stop salvation, Jesus chose to continue — to complete God’s will
4. Matthew 26:53–54 (ESV); ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”

C. This is amazing grace!

V. Amazing Grace

- A. Jesus’ love and sacrifice broke the power of sin and darkness
- B. Jesus’ love adopts us as sons and daughters
- C. Jesus’ love rules our hearts and minds
- D. This is Amazing Grace!