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A History Lesson

by Dr. Art Mathias, PhD

Modern grace teachings are not new, history is repeating itself.

The common themes in what is being called modern or hyper-grace are: all our past present and future sins are automatically forgiven by what Jesus did on the cross and there is nothing that we need to do; when we accept Jesus we are automatically 100% new creations, fully sanctified and holy; obedience to the Word is equated with legalism; the Tanakh (Old Testament) is discounted; we have new freedoms under grace; the Torah and Tanakh (Old Testament) are not compatible with grace (New Testament) - they are mutually exclusive; law verses grace is taught instead of law and grace.

Here is a brief history of the Bible for the purpose of exposing satan's work. In Genesis 2 and 3 we find satan tempting Eve. The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus, The Word told Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the

(Continued)

In this New, or better said, Renewed Covenant The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus again provided a way to His true freedom. He said that He would write His Ketubah or Torah on their hearts. So in addition to giving His Words in writing He was placing it or making it available in our hearts. This is the same as He did for Abraham in the sand and stars and circumcision. He does not want us to forget that He loves us and only wants the best for us; that His Words are life and health. This is also why He instituted Passover, Pentecost, Trumpets and Tabernacles, so that we would rehearse what He has done and will do and thus never forget. His death on the cross sealed this Renewed Covenant and cancelled the "get" or divorce. That is what The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus was referring to when He said "it is finished" on the cross.

But once again satan is tempting just like he did with Eve, Adam, Cain, Abraham, and Israel. The adversary is again saying that The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus is only withholding something good; He does not really have your best interest at heart; He is only bringing legalism and bondage with all His silly rules; after all they were only for the Jews, not you; that true freedom is not found in obedience to Him; that He has changed in this dispensation. Paul warned the gentiles in Romans about this same temptation when they were bragging about their "freedoms". Paul taught all the

knowledge of good and evil. But Satan says "why not, God is only withholding something good from you. He does not want you free but in bondage to His legalistic rules." Eve forgot that Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus' Words were light to her path and health to her bones and then ate. Adam did not protect Eve (Numbers 30) and then chose to eat also so this became the sin of one man Adam (Romans 5:16). Then Adam blamed The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus for giving him Eve. God responded in grace with skin to cover their nakedness. Sin entered into the world or mankind.

Cain also decided to worship God in his own way with a sacrifice of vegetables instead of what God required. Again Cain demanded freedom from the bondage of Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus' legalistic rules. The book of Jude refers to this as the way of Cain. Cain then murdered his brother.

Abraham had trouble believing the promises or covenant that The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus had made with him. God reminded him with the illustration of the sands of the sea but Abraham forgot. Then God reminded him with the illustration of the stars of the heavens, but Abraham forgot and did it his way with Hagar and Ishmael. Which has resulted in continual war with their descendants, the Arabs and their many pagan religions (including Islam). The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus responded by once again renewing His Covenant with circumcision to remind Abraham of His Covenant promise.

The people continued in disobedience that eventually led them to be slaves in Egypt. Once again in a display of His Grace, The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus delivered His people from the "freedom" that satan offered. The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus led the 600,000 Israelites and the mixed multitude who also wanted The Messiah to celebrate Passover where they all became "native born" and were all called "Israel" from then on. (Ex. 12) Then He led them all to Mt. Sinai. At Sinai The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus proposed to all the people and offered them a Ketubah or wedding covenant. (Ex. 19) This Ketubah or wedding covenant is called the Torah or the first five books of the Bible or the Law of Moses. All of the people said "we will" or "I do" three times to the people, Jews and Gentiles, that there is only one LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus and that there is only one set of rules or in other words only one Covenant, one method of salvation (faith) for all. (Romans 3:29) But many people have not listened to Paul or The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus and have once again bought into the lie that we do not need to obey His Covenants; that His Words are only legalism and bondage and are somehow inferior. In His love, grace and mercy each of His Covenants contain more and more instructions because He only wants the best for us. The Renewed Covenant has twice as many positive and negative commands as the Mosaic Covenant or Torah. In mankind's continual disobedience we still need His Words to light our path and bring health to our bodies. Many people today have thrown out so much of the Bible that they have no idea what good and evil really are.

In Luke 24 The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus appeared to His disciples after the resurrection when they did not believe what the prophets spoke (vs 25) and taught them. Beginning with Moses (The Torah) and all the Prophets and Writings (The Tanakh or Old Testament) what He had written about Himself. (Vs. 27) And their eyes were opened and they knew Him. (vs. 31). What did Jesus reveal to them? All the Words that He wrote and the Word in the Tanakh about the Messiah—Himself! He opened the Tanakh to them. (Vs. 32)

Then He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Vs. 44-47 NIV)

When The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus "fulfilled" the LAW or Tanakh or Old Testament He did this by completing all the prophesies about Himself. He did not abolish or do away with His Word. He established it further by completing the prophecies.

We need to remember that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1) And that "The Word became flesh (The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus) and made his dwelling among us… (John 1:14)

The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus The Word was in the very beginning, in Genesis 1. He was not surprised by mankind's sin. The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus and His Word, which is Himself, was before sin and The Word will be here forever. Remember when you discount any portion of The Word you are really discounting The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus Who is the Word, Who never changes.

marriage proposal and its conditions. The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus' people are always ident ified as those who do His Words. At this point a legal marriage took place but it was not yet consummated.

In His grace and mercy The Torah contained many more instructions about and from The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus and His will and love for His people. He included His instructions to help the people remember that His Word was a light to their path and health to their bones; that in His Words they would find true freedom. But once again most of the people were disobedient to the Ketubah or Torah and violated its terms. The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus issued a "get" or divorce.

In Jeremiah 31:31 The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus responded in grace and mercy and offered once again to renew His covenant. The Hebrew word translated as "new" (Chadashah) means to "renew". A covenant is not a legal document that has a beginning and an end. A covenant has a beginning but never and end. The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus illustrated this with the covenant of salt or friendship. Those that entered into this covenant shared their salt and would remain friends until each grain of salt, even those that they ate, would be returned to the original owner, which is impossible. Covenants are added to each other and help explain each other. They never end.

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True grace and mercy and freedom are only found in obedience to The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus. Many of today's grace teachings actually teach disobedience. You see history repeats and repeats until we really get to know The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus.

Is it time to pray and repent for anyway that we have discounted The Word and disobeyed The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus?

Is it also time to ask The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus to open our eyes and our minds so that we too may be able to fully understand the Word just like He did in Luke 24 for His disciples?

May The LORD God, Jehovah-Elohim-Jesus
Bless and keep you!



Dr. Art Mathias

Author of:
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