

The Eternal Principles of God in Dealing with Man

- I. Introduction:
 - a. Three eternal principles characterize God's dealing with man in every age:
 - i. Grace
 - ii. Faith
 - iii. Obedience
 - b. True of All Three Dispensations
 - i. Patriarchal
 - ii. Jewish
 - iii. Christian
- II. Patriarchal age
 - a. Adam and Eve
 - i. **(Gen 1:27)** "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."
 - 1. Created in the image of God
 - ii. **(Gen 2:8)** "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed."
 - iii. **(Gen 2:15)** "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."
 - 1. Put man in a the garden of Eden and gave him a job
 - iv. **(Gen 2:16-17)** "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."
 - 1. Gave them a Law
 - 2. Acts of Grace
 - v. **(Gen 3:1-6; 22-24)** "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat... ...And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims,

and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

1. Faith and Obedience was required – Punished because of the lack thereof

b. Noah

- i. (**Gen 6:8**) “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”
 1. Grace was extended to him
- ii. He had to believe this Grace
 1. (**Heb 11:7**) “By **faith** Noah, **being warned of God** of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”
- iii. (**Gen 6:22**) “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”
 1. He Obeyed

c. Abraham

- i. Great Promises came to him through grace.
- ii. He had to believe
 1. (**Heb 11:17-19**) “By **faith** Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”
- iii. He had to Obey
 1. (**Gen 22:1-14**)

III. Examples under the Jewish Law

a. Deliverance of the children of Israel

- i. (**Ex 3:8-10**) “And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.”
 1. Act of God’s grace
 2. Moses had to believe and obey

b. Looking on the brazen serpent

- i. (**Num 21:8-9**) “And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he **looketh** upon it, **shall live**. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and **put it upon a pole**, and it came to

pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he **beheld** the serpent of brass, **he lived.**”

1. God’s grace – Command so that they could be healed – The Plan
2. They had to believe the plan and obey

c. Naaman

- i. (2 Kings 5)
- ii. (2 Kings 5:10) “And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, **Go and wash in the Jordan seven times**, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou **shalt be clean.**”
 1. God provided the cure – act of Grace
- iii. (2 Kings 5:11-14) “But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.”
 1. Naaman had to believe and obey

IV. Examples under the Christian Dispensation

- a. God’s Grace has come in the form of teaching
 - i. (Titus 2:11-12) “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
- b. The word of Grace
 - i. (Acts 20:32) “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”
- c. God’s grace can be received in vain
 - i. (2 Cor 6:1) “We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”
 - ii. Some can receive Grace and it not save them.
- d. People on Pentecost
 - i. (Acts 2) – Grace was given to them – murderers
 - ii. They believed
 1. (Acts 2:37) “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”
 - iii. They Obeyed

1. (**Acts 2:41**) “Then they that gladly **received** his word were **baptized**: and the same day there were **added** unto them about three thousand souls.”
- iv. Bible uses the term ‘believe’ in regards to belief and obedience
 1. (**Acts 2:44**) “And all that **believed** were together, and had all things common;”
 - a. Who were those that believed?
 - i. Those that received his word and were baptized
- e. Eunuch
 - i. (**Acts 8**)
 - ii. It was grace that brought Philip to preach to him
 1. (**Acts 8:27-29**) “And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.”
 - iii. He believed and obeyed
 1. (**Acts 8:35-39**) “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him **Jesus**. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, **here is water**; what doth hinder me to be **baptized**? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down **both into the water**, both Philip and the eunuch; and he **baptized him**. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”
- f. Paul
 - i. Grace was bestowed on him
 1. (**1 Cor 15:10**) “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”
 - ii. He Believed
 1. (**Acts 9:6**) “And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”
 - iii. He Obeyed

1. (**Acts 26:19**) “Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:”
2. (**Acts 22:16**) “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
3. (**Acts 9:18**) “And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.”

V. The Eternal Principles of God in Dealing with Man

- a. Grace
- b. Faith
- c. Obedience