

The Story Of Grace

(1) Chosen By Grace

**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANING UP A MESS
THAT'S SO BIG YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN?**

Genesis 6:5-6...

The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.

TWO IMPORTANT THINGS...

The SELECTION...

Genesis 12:1...

*The Lord had said to **ABRAM**, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.*

A Three-Fold PROMISE...

Genesis 12:2-3...

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis... 15:1-2...

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." But Abram said, "Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Genesis 15:4...

Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir."

Genesis 15:5...

He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars – if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Genesis 15:6...

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

*At that **VERY MOMENT**... the **LORD** established an **IMPORTANT PRECEDENT**...*

A RIGHTEOUS STANDING WITH GOD COMES THROUGH FAITH!

Genesis 16:1-2...

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Genesis 22:2...

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love - Isaac - and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

Genesis 22:5...

*He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then **WE** will come back to you."*

Genesis 22:7...

*Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "**but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?**"*

Genesis 22:8...

*Abraham answered, "**God himself will provide the lamb** for the burnt offering, my son."...*

Genesis 22:10-13...

Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

GOD HAD PROVIDED A LAMB!

*Another **GRACE-saturated Response** from a **GRACE-giving God!***

IN ABRAHAM...** God established the **RELATIONAL GROUND RULES** for **ALL MANKIND...

A RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD COMES THROUGH FAITH IN THE PROMISES OF GOD!

HE INITIATED A RELATIONSHIP!

GOD GAVE** him what he **NEEDED MOST** and **DESERVED THE LEAST...

FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD!

James 2:23...

*And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham **believed** God, and it was credited to him as **righteousness**," and he was called **GOD'S FRIEND**.*

*When the **ONE TRUE GOD** initiated **HIS RELATIONSHIP** with **MANKIND** – it **DIDN'T** begin with a **COMMAND...** it **BEGAN** with an **INVITATION...** **WILL YOU TRUST ME?***

Romans 4:13,16...

*(13) It was not through the **law** that Abraham and his offspring received the **promise** that he would be heir of the world, but through the **righteousness** that comes by **faith**.*

*(16) Therefore, the **promise** comes by **faith**, so that it may be by **GRACE** and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring - not only to those who are of the **law** but also to those who have the **faith** of Abraham. He is the father of us all.*