

So far we have taken a look of Redemptive History through the accounts from Genesis. The Patriarchs in Genesis teach us much about God's kind predisposition toward man. Let us take a look at their lives.

Adam

Prefigured the coming Second Adam.

⁴⁵ So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. 1 Cor 15:45-49, NIV.



The first Adam was spiritually alive and without sin – he could have communion with God but he was created from the dust. The second Adam, Jesus Christ is the incarnate Son of God from heaven – He was without and *knew no sin*. The first Adam though a living being – that is, he was physically and spiritually alive sinned but became spiritually dead – **he took spiritual life away from mankind**. The **second Adam** without sin and knowing no sin, **gives spiritual life to mankind**.

Today's application: Although we were spiritually dead in the first Adam, we have received spiritual life from the second Adam, Jesus Christ. This happens when we come to Him in faith, receiving Him as our personal

Savior. As ambassadors for Christ, we participate in Jesus Christ's life-giving when we communicate the Gospel.¹ Every time a sinner comes to Christ in faith in His finished work on the cross, we have been partners in this process.² Here's another thought: stop kidding ourselves about our personal righteousness. We inherited a sin nature from the first Adam and will always be tempted from that. However, we do have the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ (see next topic). We should always be aware of our personal sins and be ready to avenge the sin nature by confessing our sins to our Heavenly Father³ and doing battle with the thoughts in our souls that wage war with the Lord's truth.⁴

Abraham: prototype of Justification by faith.

And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. Genesis 15:6, KJV.

¹ [2 Cor 5:20](#)

² Read [Ephesians 2:16-22](#).

³ [1 John 1:9](#)

⁴ [2Cor 10:3-6](#)

For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Romans 4:3, KJV.

Was Abraham the first righteous man? No. Abraham was especially blessed for his belief because God had a special plan for his life - to be the progenitor of an entire race - the race from whom Jesus Christ would come. There are many blessings associated with Abraham's faith in Jehovah. It is not, however, the scope of this lesson to cover them. Suffice it to say that Adam was made righteous, Noah was made righteous, Job, a contemporary of Abraham was made righteous ([Job 1:8](#)) - in fact, all the righteous of the Old and New Testament period have been made righteous the same way. Faith in the Lord results in the imputation of His righteousness because we have none of our own. It is just this is the first time this wonderful process / result had been spelled out.

When God disclosed to Abram (that was his former name) His wonderful plan – that he would father a great nation – Abram should have been totally floored - but he wasn't. Listen to Paul:

¹⁸ Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. ¹⁹ And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: ²⁰ He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹ And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. ²² And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Romans 4:18-22, KJV.

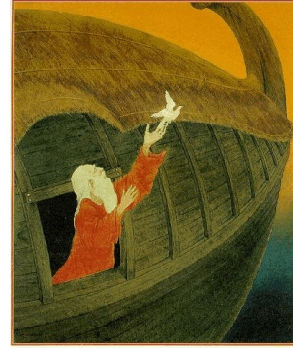
Today's application. We are justified by faith in Jesus Christ. His righteousness is *imputed* to us – as a result, when God looks at us He sees righteousness – the righteousness of His beloved Son. As previously mentioned, we should have no illusions about how 'nice' a person we are – we are still sinners who needs Christ's righteousness imputed to us because we have believed on Him.

³ For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. ⁴ Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. ⁵ But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. ⁶ Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, ⁷ Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. ⁸ Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. Romans 4:3-8 (KJV).

This is a wonderful message for today's sin-sick sinner. There is so many opportunities for a wayward sinner to debauch himself, especially in today's world. The abusive use of drugs is a prime example of how a man can completely ruin himself. When Jesus Christ touches a life there is complete forgiveness *and* deliverance from sin.

Noah

Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. “We continue with our tracing of God's plan of redemption and pick up on the second division of Genesis - the Patriarch, Noah. Noah found grace in the LORD's eyes. As a result Noah and his family was saved from the flood of God's judgement. From this we have the survival of mankind.



Other examples of those finding God's grace. The phrase to find grace in one's eyes is an Old Testament concept that bears tracing.

- Abraham found grace in Jehovah's eyes. This was evident while he was communing with Jehovah.⁵ This is a remarkable passage where Jehovah was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah and so Abraham's nephew Lot. This portion of scripture shows the remarkable closeness between the two, Abraham and Jehovah (Gen 18:3-33).
- Moses was like a close friend to Jehovah - Jehovah spoke to Moses face to face as a friend for he had found grace in Jehovah's eyes ([Exod 33:11-14](#)).
- Esther found grace in the king's eyes and became his wife ([Esther 2:17](#)). When she came for an unannounced visit to the king, she found favor in his eyes and as a result of this did not die for transgressing a law that would have called for her death ([Esther 5:2](#)).
- Ruth found grace in the eyes of Boaz and was cared for ([Ruth 2:2, 10](#)) and eventually became his wife.

To find grace in one's eyes meant to find favor and by extension, prosperity, security, status. There were no forms of welfare in Old Testament times as we have in modern times and many, especially women, were dependent on this graciousness for their very survival. **The Westminster Confession that grace is the Unmerited Favor of God is certainly accurate but if we were to follow the principle of finding grace in God's eyes throughout the Old Testament it would take upon itself much richer meaning.”⁶**

Today's application. There is a lot of guilt and loneliness going around today. Much of mental illness can be traced to the overwhelming effect of guilt in the life of a sinner. The sinner today is left with a sense of complete abandonment – to be recognized by God as a recipient of God's Grace is the greatest treasure of all.

Jacob:

(Jacob, the Deceiver Becomes a Changed Man).

The practice of biblical times was that the eldest son would receive the blessing of the patriarch to carry on the family name and inherit the family wealth. However, when it came to Isaac's eldest son Esau, that was not to be the case. Instead, Jacob received the blessing of Isaac through deception. The first event of note was that Esau did not hold his role of the eldest son in

⁵ [Genesis 18](#)

⁶ From http://www.w1vtp.com/gospel_of_genesis.htm

much esteem and traded his birthright for a bowl of stew ([Gen 25:27-34](#)). The issue was not merely one of material inheritance. Esau was, by his own choice, to be the unregenerate brother while Jacob, though a deceptive man, was, through the grace of God, to be the regenerate one. So we read that it was God Himself who chose Jacob to be the inheritor of Isaac over Esau because He "hated" Esau and loved Jacob ([Rom](#)



[9:13](#)). The issue was not that God was arbitrary in His preference between the twins, Esau and Jacob, but that this love / hate relationship and resulting blessing grew out of God having fellowship with Jacob the regenerate one.

The final event that resulted in Jacob's place as the inheritor of Isaac's family was the truly deceptive act of fooling his father, Isaac into thinking that he was Esau. Strange account of the plans of man being made to conform to the plans of God, indeed. We can read of this account in [Genesis 27](#). As a result of this deceptive act Jacob the inheritor became a fugitive of sorts but non-the-less did obey his father and eventually avoided marrying a Canaanite. Here is Jacob's final blessing upon Jacob:

¹ So Isaac called for Jacob and blessed him and commanded him: "Do not marry a Canaanite woman. ² Go at once to Paddan Aram, to the house of your mother's father Bethuel. Take a wife for yourself there, from among the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. ³ May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. ⁴ May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as an alien, the land God gave to Abraham." Gen 28:1-4, NIV.

Today's application. God does not pick the refined, the pretty or the self-righteous. Rather He seeks out sinners:

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10 (KJV). See the whole story by reading vs' 1-10.

Paul says that: ²⁶ *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: ²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence.*³⁷ So there is hope for the unlovely, the crude, one who has been brought low by the ravages of sin. I'm thankful for that.

Joseph

Finally there is a wonderful comparison between Joseph, Savior of Israel, and

⁷ 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (KJV)

Jesus Christ.⁸ Although there is no direct correlation between Joseph and Jesus Christ, the parallel is striking. Let's take a look at the similarities.

1. Joseph was beloved of his father.

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. (Genesis 37:3, NIV)

2. Joseph was favored greatly by his father, Israel. To show his favor Joseph received a robe of many colors, rich in design. Jesus is the beloved of the Father.

Jesus was greatly favored by the Heavenly Father. He received glory from heaven.

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17.

The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.

[John 3:35](#).

These statements of the Father's love for the Son speaks of Jesus Christ in His union as the unique God / Man - it includes His humanity.

3. Joseph was hated by his brothers.

When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. Genesis 37:4.

Compare this with Jesus Christ:

But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.' (John 15:25). See also Psalm 69:4. ***"They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away."*** The hatred for Jesus by the Jews was and is today most unreasonable. I recently heard a converted Jew share that while she was involved with the New Age movement she had no problem from her parents - the moment she turned to Christ as Messiah her parents disowned her.

4. Joseph: his superiority claims led to his rejection by his brothers ([Gen 37:8](#)).

His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. (Genesis 37:8). Prophetic: for both Joseph and Jesus. Read Luke 19:14. ***"But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us."*** This was a parable regarding the Jews' rejection of Jesus as their reigning King. Pilate picked up on this issue - read [John 18:33, 39, 40](#). Read this amazing dialogue; when Pilate presented

⁸ Genesis 31:2 - 50:26. A Parallel between Joseph and Jesus Christ.

Jesus as a choice to be released according to a custom of the day this was their response;

¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour."Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. ¹⁵ But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. (John 19:14, 15).

5. Joseph's brothers conspired to kill him.

But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. Genesis 37:18.

Isn't the parallel amazing? Read on. When his brothers saw him coming they plotted to kill him. The same thing happened to Jesus:

³ Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴ and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. (Matthew 26:3-4).

The whole drama of the two events is so compelling - we must read with amazement how the LORD must have seen to it that there was plenty of evidence for especially the Jews to read in the book of the Law. Jesus, the Son of God the Messiah was the object of hatred so much so that the Jews decided that the only solution for their "problem" of Jesus was to kill him.

6. Joseph, in intent, was "slain" by his brothers (Gen 37:24) .

²⁴ and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. Genesis 37:24.

Compare this passage with one that applies to Jesus Christ:

³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁶ And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. ³⁷ Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. (Matthew 27:35-37, NIV).

7. Joseph was a blessing to Egypt (a gentile nation) and gained a gentile bride (Gen 41:1-45).

Joseph was a blessing to Egypt - he provided the means for economic prosperity for Egypt even during famine. Jesus Christ is a blessing to the gentile nations today in that during the Church age He is calling gentiles to Himself. Gentile nations receive God's blessing during this time of world-wide evangelism.⁹

Jesus Christ: Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself.

¹⁵ The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: ¹⁶ " 'After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, ¹⁷ that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles

⁹ [Acts 17:24-28](#)

who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things'¹⁸ that have been known for ages. Acts 15:14-18

Jesus Christ: He will be a blessing in the future - as prophesy tells to all nations - see Rev. 22:2-3:

² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. (NIV).

Regarding the gentile bride of Joseph - Christ will have the church - His Bride:

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. Eph 5:25-27 (NIV).

Today's application. There is blessing without measure when we come to Christ. For the first time we are beloved of God – and that is of infinite value. No one wants to be without value – no one wants to be dishonored. God showers His love on the sinner comes to Christ.

⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (KJV).

All these accounts occurred before the Grand account of the Redemption of Israel from Egypt. Genesis gives an account of the lives of the Patriarchs who were favored by God to be the recipient of His redemptive plan. Genesis is truly the protocol of God's favorable disposition toward man. Genesis is truly the Gospel albeit prototype that shows that there is, indeed, good news for man no matter where he is in the strata of sinfulness. God can pick any man up from the miry entrapment of sin:

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. ² He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. ³ And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. ⁴ Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. Psalms 40:1-4 (KJV).

Amen.