

GRACE GAZETTE

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Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Hebrews 12:12-13

THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE

And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent. Matthew 27:51

The whole creation by the LORD was set in motion for the purpose of glorifying HIS NAME while demonstrating the grace of GOD to sinners. HE promised that the woman would bear a SEED which would bruise Satan's head. And all of HIS subsequent dealings with men testified of this TRUTH. Sin was present in the Earth because of man's disobedience, yet at the same time all things are ordained by GOD to fulfill that one purpose. HE would demonstrate HIS displeasure with the sin of men and the results of that displeasure when HE destroyed the inhabitants of Earth in the days of Noah. *"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." (Gen 6:5-8)*

Many years later the LORD called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees through his father, Terah. Then upon Terah's death the LORD called Abram out of Haran, where he had settled, to go to the land of Canaan which HE promised to give to Abram and his SEED. (see Gal.3:16) As Abram dwelt in Canaan, the LORD spoke to him these words, *"For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever." (Gen 13:15)* This was a unilateral declaration by the LORD. Abram had nothing to do with receiving this blessing. Rather it was bestowed upon him according to the purpose and grace of GOD. The LORD blessed Abram to demonstrate the glory of HIS holy NAME in this act of kindness and grace.

We can see that the LORD has always separated the precious from the vile. (see Lev.10:10; Ezek.44:23) We first see that principle in action when the LORD drove Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. They, being sinners, could not occupy this place. Then over time we see HIM calling out a people in Jacob (i.e., Israel) and making a difference between them and the rest of the world. HE showed this first by blessing Jacob while rejecting Esau. (see Rom.9:11-13) This was symbolically manifested as Jacob gained the birthright and Esau was stripped of it, selling it for a mess of pottage. All of this was done in order that the LORD might demonstrate that HE alone would determine upon whom HE would place HIS blessings. *"For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt." (Deut 7:6-8)*

This declaration was made by the LORD to Moses that he might remind the nation of Israel that the only reason that they were chosen by HIM was simply because HE loved them and not because of any good thing which HE saw in them. This is the demonstration of that same principle which Paul spoke of to the Romans: *"For there is no respect of persons with God." (Rom 2:11) "All have sinned and come short of the glory of GOD." (Rom.3:23)* Moses, himself, was an example of this very principle since he came from the house of Pharaoh to lead the nation of Israel out of that bondage. Moses was not seeking the LORD when the LORD called unto him in the desert. Rather the LORD had brought Moses to the backside of the

desert, in order to speak to HIM from the BURNING BUSH. HE appointed a reluctant and unbelieving Moses to be the one who would deliver Israel and receive HIS Law written in tables of stone.

There was a mystery which was hidden in the LORD's choosing of Israel as HIS favored people. With the unfolding of the Gospel, we now see the LORD's ultimate purpose in setting aside this carnal nation of Israel as HIS chosen people. Paul writes of it to the Ephesians as he explains how and why the LORD sent him with the Gospel *"How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel." (Eph 3:3-6)*

The LORD raised up Israel and continually stood by her, even in times of her chastening, that HE might demonstrate HIS love, not simply to a carnal nation but rather using that relationship to illustrate HIS eternal love and choice of a people in CHRIST JESUS from before the foundation of the World. As we see clearly set forth in the Gospel of the glory of CHRIST, that *"He is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."* (Rom 2:28-29)

The true election of grace has been the same in all ages but is now clearly seen in the unfolding of the Gospel as CHRIST has come to put away their sin, Jew and Gentile alike. *"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us." (Eph 2:11-14)* Even now there is a "remnant" yet to be gathered in of Jews and Gentiles.

When the LORD commissioned the Tabernacle and then the Temple, HE directed there to be a "curtain" (i.e.; veil) that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Sanctuary. No one could go in there but the High Priest, once a year on the Day of Atonement. It was a dark and mysterious place. And every time that the High Priest made an offering for sin, no sin was ever put away, but a reminder of sin was given. However, when CHRIST came as that PERFECT SACRIFICE, HE forever settled that debt and purchased eternal redemption for HIS people. *"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." (Heb 9:11-12)* The power of the Law to condemn the sons of GOD was forever taken away. *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (Gal 5:1)* *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." (Rom 8:2-3)*

When the LORD had breathed out HIS last breath then this veil of separation was opened signifying that CHRIST had made the way into the holiest place open to those whose sins HE atoned for. *"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others." (Heb 9:24-25)* *"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Heb 9:28)* *"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." (Heb 10:19-24)*

Sin is that which has separated men from GOD and was the reason that there was a veil in the Tabernacle and the Temple. CHRIST has borne the sin of an unworthy rabble. We have no plea before the throne of GOD, except that this is true. But knowing that HE has entered into the very presence of GOD as our GREAT HIGH PRIEST over the household of GOD we rejoice, calling upon HIS NAME and are ever thankful that HE has broken this veil. Do you know and love this GREAT HIGH PRIEST? mam