**Finding Grace**

**Grace from the Patriarchs**

**Hebrews 4:16** - *Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

3 ways God shows grace to His world

**I. God Makes Gracious Promises Even in the Midst of Human Failure, Misery, and Confusion**

A. The privilege in our creative design

**Genesis 1:26** - *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

B. The failure in the garden

**Genesis 3:1** - *Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?”*

**Genesis 3:15** - *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.*

C. The downward spiral in the family

1. Cain murders his brother – Genesis 4:8

2. Lamech murders a man and then brags about it to his family in a song

**Genesis 4:23** - *Lamech said to his wives, Adah and Zillah, “Listen to my voice, you wives of Lamech, give heed to my speech, for I have killed a man for wounding me; and a boy for striking me…”*

D. The conditions before the flood

**Genesis 6:11** - *Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence.*

E. The pride of man at Babel

**Genesis 11:4** - *They said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”*

**Genesis 11:29-30** - *Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor’s wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah and Iscah. Sarai was barren; she had no child.*

**Acts 16:31** - *They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”*

**2 Peter 1:3-4** - …*seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

**II. God Invites Men and Women to Embrace His Promises by Faith**

A. The three-fold provision of the Abrahamic Covenant

1. Land

**Genesis 12:1** - *Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you…”*

**Hebrews 11:8-10** - *By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

2. Seed

**Genesis 12:2** - *And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great…*

**Hebrews 11:11-12** - *By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.*

3. Blessing

**Genesis 12:2-3** - *And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great…*

**Genesis 12:4** - *So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him…*

**Romans 4:3** - *For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”*

**Romans 4:16** - *For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all…*

B. In your life

What gracious promises is the God of heaven asking you to believe and act on?

1. His promises regarding establishing a relationship with Him

**John 3:16** - *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

2. His promises regarding our daily walk

**Proverbs 3:5-6** - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

3. His promises regarding trials and suffering

**Hebrews 13:5** - *Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,”*

4. His promises regarding your service

**Hebrews 6:10** - *For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.*

**III. Your/Our Faith in God’s Promises is Intended to be a Blessing to the Nations**

A. Stated in the original conversation

**Genesis 12:2-3** - *And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.*

B. A theme throughout Scripture

**Isaiah 49:6** - *He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”*

**Psalm 67:1-2** - *God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us— Selah. That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.*

**Galatians 3:8-9** - *The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the nations will be blessed in you.” So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.*