

The School of Biblical Law

Introduction to Law and Grace

Lesson Twenty-Two: "The Giving of Mercy, Part II"

God favors man by giving him a covenant, which contains the terms or laws that God expects the covenant man to obey. Broken covenant laws release sanctions. God made provision within the structure of the covenant for the penalty to be imputed to a substitute. The giving of the covenant and the provision of the substitute reveals God's love to His own. Within the context of covenant, God's love is expressed in grace, compassion, and mercy.

1. The following three Hebrew words identify the manner in which God relates to those in covenant with Him:
 - Grace: Hebrew verb *hanan* (Strong's #2603) and adjective *hannun* (Strong's #2587), meaning grace or favor. The Greek counterpart is *charis* (Strong's # 5485).
 - Pity or Compassion: Hebrew verb *raham* (Strong's #7355) and adjective *raham* (Strong's #7349), meaning compassion and pity. The Greek equivalents are *oikterio* (#3627) and *splanchnon* (#4698)
 - Mercy: Hebrew noun *hesed* (Strong's #2617) based upon root *hasad* (Strong's 2616), meaning mercy or loving kindness. The Greek comparable word is *eleos* (Strong's #1656).

2. Love favoring is grace.

Grace "distinctly means what is expressed when one turns to another with a beaming, welcoming smile." (Andrews, Rex: *What the Bible Says About Mercy*)

Grace is the smiling face of God toward us in favor. (Gen. 18:3; Ex. 12:36; II Sam. 15:25)

3. Love reaching is compassion. (Ps. 11:4; Jer. 12:15)

4. Love supplying is mercy.

Mercy is that which love does in filling any need.

- Mercy gave redemption: Ps. 130:7-8; Ps. 102:13
- Mercy protects and preserves: Ps. 61:7
- Mercy heals: Mt. 20:30

5. The face of God's love was veiled in the Old Covenant but fully revealed in the new.

- Ex. 33:18: "And he (Moses) said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory." (also note – Ex. 33:19-23; 34:5-7)
- II Cor. 3:13: "And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished."
- II Cor. 4:6: "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

In the Old Covenant, there was favor and there was mercy; but the fullness of it could not be seen because it was veiled in shadows and types. But when the word became flesh, "we beheld his glory . . . full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14). The fullness of God's willingness to favor man could be made manifest because the fullness of the provision or the mercy had been made available. The New Covenant is a better covenant based upon better promises and a covenant of grace because grace could come to full measure once mercy came to full measure.