

Have You Heard? God's Grace Was Extended At Garden of Eden
By David R. Kenney

Some think grace is only found in the New Testament, but the Greek word translated grace, *charis*, is used to translate the Hebrew term *chen* in the Septuagint. Grace is God's action toward mankind to restore their relationship. Are there examples in the Old Testament of when God took action to restore the relationship? Absolutely! This is seen as early as the Garden of Eden.

Recall both Adam and Eve had disobeyed God by eating the fruit of the tree that was forbidden (Genesis 3:6). Both disobeyed God's clear command (Genesis 2:16-17). Was there punishment for this transgression? Absolutely, they were driven from the garden and access to the Tree of Life (Genesis 3:22). Did God attempt to restore the relationship with them after they had damaged it? Yes. Recall that while Adam and Eve made clothing of leaves, God prepared them tunics of skin to wear. Was this merely a fabric choice? No. God specified that life was in animals (Genesis 1:30) and explained through Moses that this life was in the blood (Genesis 9:4). The sacrifice of the animals' blood was a covering for their sins and the skins were a covering for their bodies.

God manifested grace toward Adam and Eve even after their sin is seen in Eve's comments during the birth of her children. At Cain's birth, Eve said "*I have gotten a man from the LORD.*" (Gen 4:1b, NKJV), and at Seth's birth she said "*For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.*" (Gen 4:25b, NKJV). So we see that that Adam and Eve still had a relationship with God. God had not abandoned them. The continuation of this relationship by God was an act of His grace. The fact that He continues to love and care is amazing!

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