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THE DOCTRINE OF SURPASSING GRACE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 95
HEBREWS 11:10

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Let's get a corrected translation of verses 8-10.

Verse 8

"By doctrine resident in the soul, when Abraham was called, he obeyed by going out to a place which he was about to receive for an inheritance and he went out not knowing where he was going."

Verse 9

"By means of doctrine resident in the soul, he lived as a temporary resident with reference to the land, as if it were a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, joint heirs of the same promise."

Verse 10

"For he himself kept waiting with anticipation for a city having the foundation whose architect and contractor is the God."

Verse 10 begins with the explanatory use of the particle gar. This little word explains the reason why we have three generations of patriarchs who lived in tents. The fourth generation lived in Egypt. This is the story of living grace which moved on to super grace where they seized and held the high ground. At death they came to the golden drawbridge of dying grace where they saluted and passed over the golden drawbridge into surpassing grace. Next we have the words "he looked" and this is the imperfect, middle, indicative of exdechomai and it means "to anticipate and wait with expectation." This is what we call a progressive imperfect--something that has been going on for a long time and it means in super grace he anticipated surpassing grace. He knew he had a city coming up, as per Revelation 21:2 and 10. He set the pattern and followed the colors to the high ground. He could look over and see it. He anticipated the city while he was living here in time. While he was doing this, he had a whole raft of blessings along the way, spiritual as well as physical blessings. He had temporal blessings and unlimited prosperity. He had something coming that was better than the best. Revelation 21:2 and 10 describe Abraham's city. John saw it and wrote it down. Abraham had an amazing blessing of sexual prosperity, but here is something that is far better than that. So, he has the best, then better than best, then the supreme best.

A Tent And A City

When Abraham saw all this, he lived in a tent. When John saw it, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, he wrote it down in Revelation. So, four men have already seen this city--Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and John the Apostle. The word for "city" is polis and it means a gigantic city, a perfect city located in space. The next words we have are "which hath" and this is a present, active, participle of echo. This is what we call a futuristic present. It is so certain, though it is a future event, it is listed here in the present tense as if it had already occurred. The word "foundation" is in the singular themelios. Now we have two words for the architect and contractor. The word for "architect," "designer" is technites. The word for the builder, the

contractor is demiourgos. So we have "Whose architect and contractor is The God." God is both the architect and contractor and here is one architect and contractor who will always be in business and the thing he builds is perfect and permanent.

1. The city is part of Abraham's eternal inheritance. It is also a part of the inheritance of Isaac and Jacob. It is a gigantic urban complex.
2. It is called the Heavenly Jerusalem in Revelation 21:2 and 10.
3. In order for Abraham to have the city he had to seize and hold the high ground of super grace. He also anticipated it day by day.
4. In this passage we have already seen two things. We saw Abraham's living grace in verse 8. Then in verses 9 and 10 we saw Abraham's surpassing grace. We will see his super grace in verses 11 and 12 and 13 and this goes into dying grace in verses 13 through 16.

Before we go to the doctrine of Surpassing Grace, let's look for a few mementos at the doctrine of super grace.

THE DOCTRINE OF SUPER GRACE

1. General Definition.
Grace is all that God is able to do for man because of the cross and because of his character. The design of the cross is a grace design. (Verses 10-12 of Psalm 103 are indeed great grace verses.)
2. Grace is God's freedom to love the believer in Christ and to express that love in a perfect plan without man being able to earn any of it. True love gives and doesn't know how to do anything else.
3. In eternity past, God found a way to save man and bless him and the key is the cross. The cross sets God free to give and to give without any strings attached.
4. Grace is the plan of God in behalf of man.
5. Grace is the plan, the policy, the function of God's way of operating. God has never had any other plan. It has always been grace.
6. Grace depends on the character and essence of God. Grace depends on who and what God is.
7. Grace is what God can do for man and still be consistent with the essence of his perfect character. Non-meritorious volition is involved here. In grace God does it all.
8. There are five categories of grace.
 - a. Saving grace (Ephesians 2:8-9)
This includes all the Trinity has done to provide salvation. This is the key to all other kinds of grace.

- b. Living grace. This is all the Trinity does to keep the believer alive on the earth. Being alive on the earth is a part of the Angelic Conflict. We are kept alive on the earth for a purpose and that purpose is to have the right attitude toward Bible Doctrine. Divine discipline is for time only.
- c. Super grace. This is God's gift to man.
- d. Dying grace. This is the golden drawbridge provided by God for all super grace believers.
- e. Surpassing grace. This is when we are with God for all eternity.

9. Super grace is a synonym for Christian maturity.

We derive this from James 4:6, "But he gives greater grace (super grace).

Ephesians 1:19, "And what is the surpassing magnitude of his omnipotence upon us."

Ephesians 1:6, "Resulting in the recognition of glory from the source of his grace, from which he has pursued us in the grace of the one having been loved (Jesus Christ)."

There are two paragraphs and your name is on both of them--
Your super grace paragraph.

Your surpassing grace paragraph.

10. Super grace is the objective of the Christian life.

(Ephesians 3:16-19)

"In order that he (God) might give you according to the riches of his glory (the two paragraphs mentioned above) to become strong by means of power (doctrine resident in the soul) through his Spirit with reference to the inner man. (verse 17) That the Christ may be at home in your mind through the doctrine in love after having been rooted. (Verse 18) In order that you all might have the complete ability to comprehend in the company of all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth. (Verse 19) And come to know the surpassing knowledge of the love of Christ, and that you might be filled up with the fullness from God."

Before we give the doctrine of Surpassing Grace, we need to look at the missing link between super grace and surpassing grace.

The Missing Link

1. There is a relationship between super grace blessing in time and surpassing grace blessings in eternity. The great chasm between the two is called the Golden Drawbridge of Dying Grace.
2. The link between maturity in this life and the rewards of eternity are the blessings of dying grace.
3. Dying grace is adequate to bridge the gap between the super grace blessings in time and the surpassing blessings in eternity.
4. This is the principal of going from grace to grace, like in Romans 5:20. Grace is unlimited.

5. Abraham's surpassing grace blessings come to fruition in his heavenly city. The sign of this coming prosperity is living in a tent. Abraham, the millionaire, lived in a tent.
6. The principle of dying grace links the super grace blessings of time with the surpassing grace blessings of eternity. (Heb. 11:13)
7. Dying grace is the provision of God to take us from blessing to blessing.
8. Super grace is the best grace for time.
Dying grace is better.
Surpassing grace is better than the best.
9. The principle is this--you cannot lose with grace. God will never let you lose. (Therefore, don't go into reversionism and look back.) Stay with doctrine and never go negative.
10. It is impossible for God not to keep his word. God can't change his word anymore than he will change his character. You have discovered how he keeps his word in time. Now you will discover how he will keep his word in eternity. That is why Abraham died saluting at one end of the golden drawbridge and on the other end, he entered the city.

THE DOCTRINE OF SURPASSING GRACE

1. Definition

- a. Surpassing grace refers to the special blessings and rewards belonging to the super grace believer in eternity.
- b. In eternity past, under the divine decrees, God designed for every believer two special blessings--one paragraph for time and one for eternity.
- c. The mature believer will receive both personal physical blessings and also great spiritual blessings.
- d. These spiritual blessings include occupation with Christ. Sharing God's happiness. Inner resources of doctrine for adversity and testing.
- e. Temporal blessings include success, money, prosperity, popularity and many kinds of economic and spiritual blessings.
- f. The second paragraph includes the blessings of eternity. Rewards and life with God forever.
- g. For the believer who seizes and holds the high ground of super grace there are special rewards and blessings in eternity.
- h. Surpassing grace comes from a corrected translation of Ephesians 2:7, "In the approaching ages of eternity, he might demonstrate his surpassing grace riches in generosity toward us in Christ Jesus."
- i. This is the ultimate objective of God on the glory road. God has paved this road with his own grace.

2. An Illustration Of This Surpassing Grace Is Abraham's Eternal City.

It is called The New Jerusalem. "According to doctrine resident in the soul, all of these died (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Sarah) not having received the promises (surpassing grace) but

having seen them from a distance, (they saw it from the high ground of super grace) having saluted and embraced, (they saluted at the dying end and they embraced at the eternal end) having acknowledged that they were strangers and transients (passing through types) on the earth."

3. Crowns Are Used To Designate The Surpassing Grace Blessings For Eternity.

a. The Crown Of Life. (James 1:12)

"Blessed is the man who perseveres under testing (things that keep you from Bible class) for having become approved, he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to them constantly loving him (that's holding the high ground)."

(1) This is the believer who stays with doctrine and has maintained the high ground of occupation with Christ.

(2) The only way you can do this is take in doctrine every day. Keep positive volition toward Bible Doctrine all the time.

(3) The crown of life is an eternal reward.

b. The Crown Of Glory. (1 Peter 5:4)

"When the chief shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." (Phil. 4:1, 1 Thess. 2:19 and 20) Do you realize that your faithfulness to this class and your faithfulness in listening may mean the difference in your eternal reward? It may determine whether you wear a crown of glory or not.

c. The crown of righteousness. (Phil. 3:12-14)

Staying on the high ground is what is in view here as Paul presents this glorious crown.

This crown demands that you stay with doctrine and have a positive volition toward doctrine.

This means we will have dying grace on one hand and a crown of righteousness on the other hand.

(2 Tim. 4:7-8)

"I have fought a good fight." That is seizing and holding the high ground.

"I have finished the course." That is when you reach the golden drawbridge. (This is the point where super grace and dying grace kiss.)

"I have guarded the doctrine." This is the only way to stay on the high ground.

Then we have "In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous evaluator will award to me at that day and not to me only, but to all those who love his appearing."

4. The Key To Surpassing Grace Blessings In Eternity Is Pleasing God in Time.

No way to get surpassing grace blessings by anything you do in eternity. You have to attain it here and now. TO PLEASE GOD IS LIFE'S GREATEST OBJECTIVE. It will not be necessary to cry out, "O God, save me at last" or "O God, please throw me in a crown or two." Our objective here and now must be occupation with Christ.

5. The Judgment Seat Of Christ Is Where Surpassing Grace Blessings Are Bestowed On Members Of The Royal Family.

(2 Cor. 5:10)

- a. This occurs after the Rapture of the Church at the judgment seat of Christ.
- b. The whole body of Christ will be in resurrection bodies when this happens.
- c. One word in 2 Cor. 5:10 that needs explaining is the word "bad" or "evil" and it is from phaulos and it means human refuse. The judgment seat of Christ eliminates the necessity for you ever to judge anyone else. Leave it to a perfect God. He has all the facts. Remember this--You and I are incompetent as a judge.

Let us always keep in mind Romans 14:10-12.

James 2:12

"So keep speaking and so keep doing (seizing and holding) as they who through the law of freedom (Bible Doctrine) are about to receive judgment (evaluation)."

From all of this we must conclude that there are rewards in heaven. But let us remember that this is all in the hands of a just and perfect God. The judgment at the judgment seat of Christ doesn't have anything to do with whether a person goes to hell or goes to heaven. The judgment seat of Christ is a place for evaluation.

1 Corinthians 3:11-16 teaches exactly this same thing.