



Grace upon Grace

JOHN 1: "FOR THE LAW WAS GIVEN THROUGH MOSES;
GRACE AND TRUTH CAME THROUGH JESUS CHRIST."

What did the coming of Jesus as Messiah do for us?

John 1

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. (NEV)

What did the coming of Jesus as Messiah do for us?

- ▶ Jesus did not come to bring another law

Jesus did not come to bring another law

- ▶ The standard of sanctification and of treatment of other people under Jesus is exactly the same as under Moses
- ▶ **The text does not say,** “For the law was given through Moses, but Jesus took away that law and gave another law in its place

Yes, the terms of the covenant have changed

► Jeremiah 31

³¹ “The days are coming,” declares YAHWEH, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares YAHWEH.

³³ “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares YAHWEH. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know YAHWEH,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares YAHWEH. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Yes, some aspects of the Law of Moses applied only to the Jews

- ▶ **Regulations given to make the Jews different**, members of a separated community of which others were not a part—Jesus was the delivery of God's promise to Abraham, and the separateness of the Jewish nation was no longer necessary
- ▶ **Rules about the terms of atonement**, which, with the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, was no longer necessary

The Consistency of the Law of God

▶ **Matthew 5**

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Consistency of the Law of God

▶ **Matthew 7**

¹² “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

The Consistency of the Law of God

► Romans 13

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

The Consistency of the Law of God

► 1 Corinthians 9

⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? ⁸ Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.

The Consistency of the Law of God

▶ 1 Peter 1

¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

The Consistency of the Law of God

▶ 1 Peter 3

²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

What did the coming of Jesus as Messiah do for us?

- ▶ Jesus did not come to bring another law
- ▶ Jesus came to bring truth

Jesus came to bring truth

▶ John 14

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

⁹ Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Jesus came to bring truth

▶ John 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Jesus came to bring truth

For people (us), the truth is what God is like as a person.

That is why Jesus is the truth.

That is how Jesus brought truth.

What did the coming of Jesus as Messiah do for us?

- ▶ Jesus did not come to bring another law
- ▶ Jesus came to bring truth
- ▶ Jesus came to bring grace

Jesus came to bring grace

► Hebrews 10

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’” ⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Jesus came to bring grace

▶ Hebrews 10

¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

¹⁶ “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”^[b]

¹⁷ Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”

Jesus came to bring grace

▶ **2Peter 1**

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Grace transforms the law

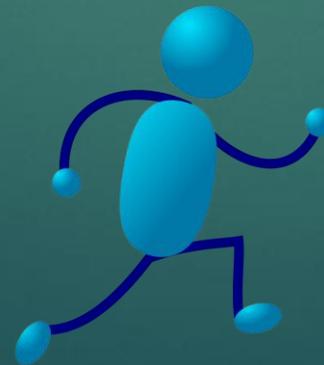
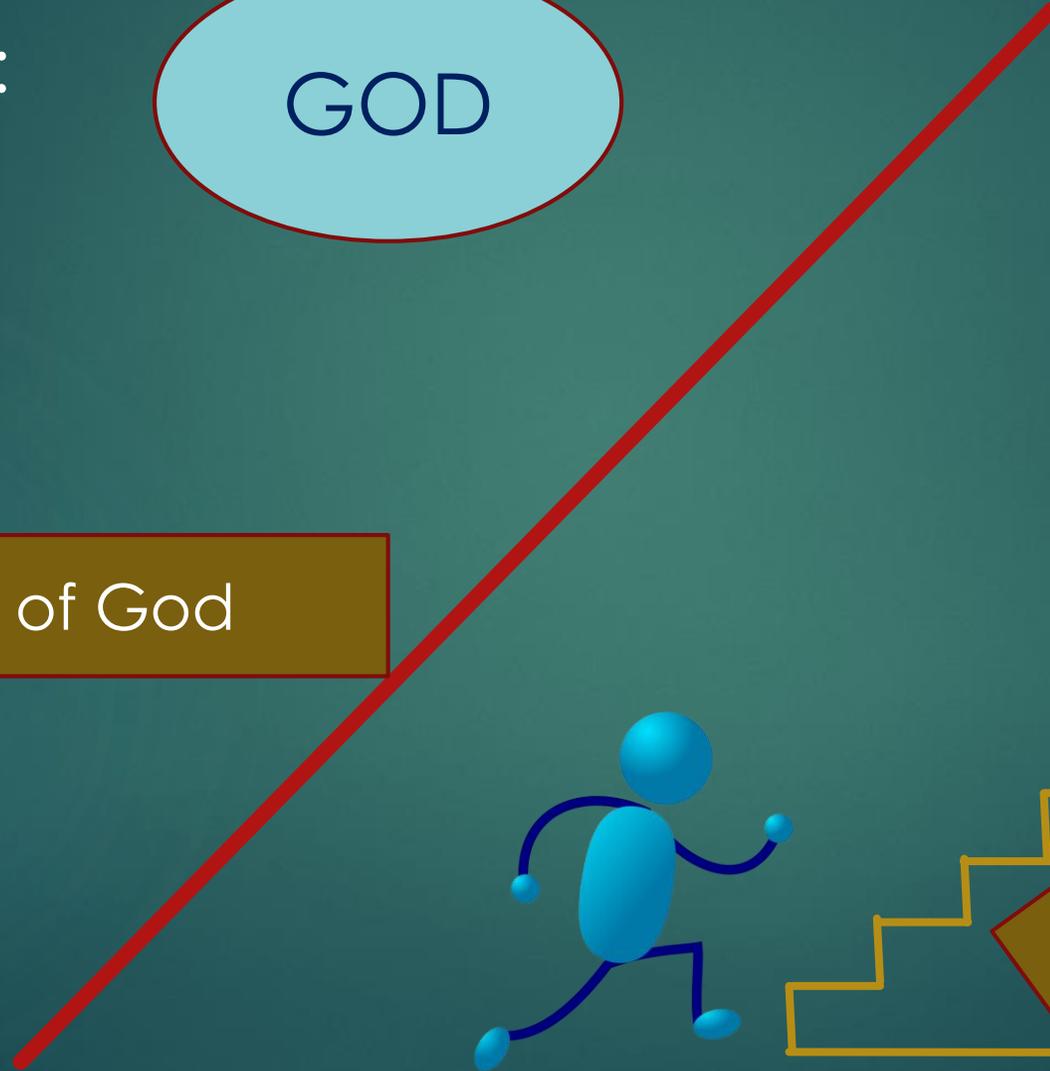
▶ From this:



▶ To this:



The Law of God



Jesus came to bring grace
upon grace

**The Law of God can be for you a barrier to your
relationship to God, or a stairway to lead you to God**

It depends on your attitude toward that Law

And your acceptance of grace and truth from Jesus.