

LAW VERSUS GRACE (28)

In the Grace Age, humility is not a prerequisite for going to heaven; in fact, it is a developed attribute we develop as a result of the fact that we are already citizens of heaven (**Philip. 2:5, 8; 3:20**).

The connection we have to humility in our salvation is to acknowledge the truth about ourselves, that we are sinners and we don't have the necessary righteousness to go to heaven and that is why we believe on Jesus Christ for our salvation. When the Rapture occurs, God will take every believer to heaven, those who were humble and those who were proud.

However, when it comes to Him establishing His Kingdom on earth for Israel, He will not do it until He has humbled every single Israelite to the point that every Jew will cry to God for deliverance (**Matt. 23:27-29**). We know from Biblical prophecy that only one third of the nation Israel will actually end up poor in spirit and enter the Kingdom on earth (**Ezek. 5:12; Zech. 13:8**).

Beatitude #2 - Matt. 5:4 – “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Just prior to the Kingdom being established by God on earth for Israel, the entire nation will be lamenting and mourning (**Is. 3:26-4:2; Lamentations**). During the Tribulation it will not be a joyous or happy time for anyone in the world. For Israel, it will be a time of horror. Prophecy teaches us that the major focal point of persecution during the final 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation will be against Israel (**Rev. 12:13-14**). This is why the theme of mourning is often associated with Israel, particularly in anticipation of her coming King and Kingdom (**Is. 35:10; 51:3, 11; 61:2-3; 66:13; Zech. 1:17**). What God will do is bring Israel to the place where she will realize that Jesus Christ is her Messiah and King and Savior. In order for Him to do that, He will have to break the nation down to the point that it mourns and it will be at that moment, when she turns to Christ, that she shall be comforted.

In the Grace Age we do not spend our time mourning, but we are charged to spend our time rejoicing. We are to be people of joy, not people of sorrow (**Gal. 5:22; Philip. 4:4; I Thess. 5:16**). In fact, as we anticipate going to heaven, we want a godly life full of joy (**I John 1:4/2:28**). Just before God establishes the Kingdom for Israel, she will have an existence full of mourning. The reward for the Israelite, who does mourn and realize the sin that has brought this judgment against her, will be that he will be comforted.

Beatitude #3 - Matt. 5:5 - “Blessed are the gentle for they shall inherit the earth.”

The actual Greek word used for “gentle” (πραεις) is one that refers to a mindset that is gentle and meek (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 376). The actual mindset attitude that is predicted that Israel will have nationally in close proximity to her King's return is one of gentleness, humility and meekness (**Ps. 76:8-10; Is. 29:19; Zeph. 2:3**). This was not the mindset that existed when Jesus Christ first spoke these words to Israel. When Jesus Christ establishes His Kingdom on earth, there will not be any Jew that enters who will be arrogant and proud. Every Jew will have the mindset described right here, for God will have brought them to that mindset.

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In the Age of Grace, gentleness or meekness is a true work and fruit of the Holy Spirit and is not given so we may have a land reward (**Gal. 5:23**). In fact, the Bible specifically makes it clear that the Church has its inheritance in heaven and not on the earth (**I Pet. 1:4-5**).

Beatitude #4 - Matt. 5:6 - “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

This particular reign of righteousness is specifically associated with Israel as she moves into a Kingdom of total righteousness, which is led by her righteous King. It speaks of a time when righteousness is the thing for which Israel is known worldwide (**Is. 62:1-2; Ps. 72:1-4; Is. 11:4-5**). Say the name Israel today and most people think of trouble, not righteousness.

During this dispensation of grace, we are already made the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ and do not need to hunger and thirst for it (**II Cor. 5:21**). We may crave a closer walk with God, but we are already blessed with His righteousness.

In all reality, when Israel hungers and thirsts for the righteousness described here, she will hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, which is something she has never done and when she does finally do this, she will be satisfied. Most believers long to be with Jesus Christ, but not Israel.

Certainly we will acknowledge that a great application we may make as Grace Age believers is that since we have already been made righteous in Christ, we ought to have a desire to walk in a life that yields to the Spirit of God, which will always lead us into the righteous Word and ways of God. We may also observe that the more we are after the things of God, the more fulfilled we actually are.

Beatitude #5 - Matt. 5:7 - “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

In the Kingdom that will be established for Israel, a key basis for obtaining mercy from God and gaining entrance will be how merciful one was to others during the Tribulation. The entire right that Israel will have to enter the Kingdom will be due to the mercy of God (**Ezek. 39:25-29**). It would do well for us to consider that during the Great Tribulation, anyone connected to God will be under attack. To not show mercy during this time to another person would be a serious crime. This will especially be true in regard to how Gentiles treat Israel during the Tribulation, just prior to this Kingdom (**Matt. 25:34-46**). If one has not been merciful, he will not enter the Kingdom.

Under grace, we are not merciful in order to obtain the mercy of God; we are merciful because we have already obtained the mercy of God and God gave us this mercy when we were dead in our trespasses and sins (**Eph. 2:4-5; Titus 3:5**). In fact, when Paul challenged Grace Age believers to live a practical godly life, he did so on the basis that we have already experienced the “mercies of God” (**Rom. 12:1**).