

# GRACE GAZETTE

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*Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Hebrews 12:12-13*

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## OUR CHIEF CORNER STONE

*Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. I Peter 2:6-8*

To say that Moses is a central figure to the nation of Israel in the Old Testament would be quite an understatement. Moses is the embodiment of the revelation that the LORD was pleased to show to the children of Abraham and specifically the house of Jacob (who is called Israel; see Gen.32:28) in the Old Testament. Moses was a man ordained by GOD to be the Deliverer of Israel from the bondage of Egypt where they had willingly and gladly entered over 400 years earlier. Through Moses came the written Law which was central to the life of the Jews as they wandered in the wilderness and subsequently entered the “promised land”. So, we often read of the “Law of Moses”, not because he is the author of it but merely the messenger through which the LORD was pleased to manifest it in its coded form and deliver it to Israel.

Included in that Law was a set of moral imperatives (called the Ten Commandments) which were demanded of that nation. To disobey them was to bring death to the transgressor. Also in that Law was a set of directives by which they were to build a Tabernacle and to carry out varied sacrifices for sin and the demonstration of their thankfulness. The same Law that condemned those who broke it, also made provision for a sin offering which was to be administered by priests which were appointed by GOD. Israel had regard unto this Law as unchanging and considered that they had some atonement for their sins by the operation of it at the hands of these priests.

That which was meant for their benefit, they made into an idol, equating outward obedience to that Law with being in possession of true righteousness. Paul points out the advantage of the Jew as well as their downfall. *“What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.” (Rom 3:1-2) “For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.” (Rom 10:2-4)*

The Law of Moses was primarily given to manifest the unrighteousness of those who were under it, yet the Jews (and subsequently many Gentiles) thought that they were actually able to keep it, if not perfectly, at least for the most part. *“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”* (Rom 3:19-20)

So, while Moses is a great man in the unfolding of GOD’s revelation of HIMSELF to the world, (Israel specifically), he is neither the spokesman for GOD nor even the greatest of the prophets. He embodied the weakness and powerlessness of the Law, as he was not allowed, by GOD, to enter the Promised Land but was buried on a mountain, overlooking that prize, dying in the wilderness along

with all of those who came out of Egypt. Thus, we are made to understand that no man can enter into the presence of GOD by the deeds of the Law. *“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh” (Rom 8:3)*

This is the central message of the Gospel as it is unfolded in the New Testament. No man by the deeds of the law could ever gain one iota of righteous acceptance at the throne of GOD. Nothing that a man could ever do or produce could bring him one step closer to HIM who dwells in the LIGHT to which no man can approach. We see the contrast between Moses and CHRIST set forth in the Book of Hebrews. *“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” (Heb 3:1-6)*

Moses was faithful to HIM that called him, but he was a mere servant, going about to do what he was told to do. Yet JESUS CHRIST, in total contrast, is not simply an occupier of a house constructed by GOD, but HE is GOD and is the WISE MASTER BUILDER of HIS own HOUSE not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. Thus, we read of HIM as the CHIEF CORNERSTONE of the house of GOD. There is not another nor does HE have any rival or equal. *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)*

JESUS CHRIST is the CHIEF CORNERSTONE who is rejected by men. Most of those who go about preaching a false gospel which is reliant on the “free will” of men, teach that men can accept CHRIST when they decide to. Yet the scriptures are quite plain, saying; *“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.” (Rom 3:10-11)* The LORD told the most religious men of HIS day (i.e.; the Pharisees) that they neither would nor could come to HIM. *“And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.” (John 5:38-40)* *“Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.” (John 8:43)* By nature, men reject this CORNERSTONE and will not seek HIM as HE is.

JESUS CHRIST is the CHIEF CORNERSTONE of the Gospel. It is impossible to preach the Gospel of GOD’s glory apart from the foundational truth that Paul unilaterally declared. *“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.” (1Cor 2:2)* *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” (Gal 6:14)* The gospel is not about what men must do, can do, or have done. The Gospel is a message that is completely about what CHRIST has done in obtaining eternal redemption for that people which HE loved from the beginning.

JESUS CHRIST is the CHIEF CORNERSTONE who is the delight of HIS people whom HE brings out of darkness and into HIS glorious light. *“Unto you therefore which believe he is precious.” “In that day shall the LORD of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people.” (Isa 28:5)* *“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.” (2Cor 4:6)* This is the evidence of the New Birth as well as the gift of FAITH whereby the sons of GOD believe HIM and find rest in HIS righteousness. While the world in general has no delight in HIM nor can they see HIS glory, the sons of GOD desire to be found in HIM and walking according to HIS direction. *“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.” (Php 3:8-10)* Do you know HIM? mam