

Title: Pursuing Great Grace
Pastor: Lucille May
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Time: 17h30



Deuteronomy 7:1-5

¹ When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, ² and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them *and* utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. ³ Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. ⁴ For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. ⁵ But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their *sacred* pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

Canaanite practices

- Sophisticated, prosperous
- Baal = owner of the land
- CONTROL of gods - rituals
- Lawless

Israel's God (Yahweh):

- Warlord + Deliverer
- Provider through miracles

Dilemma:

- Deuteronomy 28 – blessings & curses?
- Canaanite rituals – science
- Baal sell-out
- Vicious cycle: Baal → exile → Yahweh

Acts 4:32-33

³² Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

Great grace

Acts 5:16

¹⁶ Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Challenging 'great grace':

Acts 5:4

⁴ While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

The risk:

Deuteronomy 8:7, 11, 12, 17

⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land...

¹¹ Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God...

¹² lest—*when* you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell *in them*;

¹⁷ then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.'

Who owns the land?

I Kings 17:1

¹ And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

Deuteronomy 8:3

³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18

¹⁷ then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' ¹⁸ And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth...

Choices before 'great grace'

I Kings 18:21

²¹ And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD *is* God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

Matthew 6:24

²⁴ No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Luke 16:11

¹¹ Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you be faithful in the true riches?