

# First Love in Second Chapters

Introduction: *Titus 2:11-12*

## **Titus 2:11 – For the saving grace of God was manifested to all men (YLT)**

1. God's grace brings salvation.
  2. God's grace is available to all people.
  3. However, God's grace also teaches – implying a plan.
  4. It was God's plan of redemption that made His grace available to all.
  5. God's first love (1 John 4:19) is revealed in four second chapters...
- I. Isaiah 2 – The Location of God's Grace *Where?* (2:1-4)
- A. Isaiah wrote this prophecy around 740 BC.
  - B. He prophesied that God's Word would begin to be preached at Jerusalem.
    1. The phrase "in the last days" indicates that this was a prophecy about the Messiah (cf. Genesis 49:1; Hebrews 1:1-2).
    2. Thus, this is referring to the preaching of the Gospel.
  - C. Through the law of God, the Lord's house would be established.
    1. It will be exalted above all others.
    2. It will be inhabited by people from all nations who answer the invitation of God.
    3. It will be filled with peace when men follow God's path.
  - D. The "where" of God's grace is in the Lord's house, beginning at Jerusalem.
- II. Daniel 2 – The Time of God's Grace *When?* (2:44-45)
- A. Daniel wrote this prophecy around 600 BC.
  - B. Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of four world empires:
    1. Babylon (over which he reigned)
    2. Medo-Persia
    3. Greece
    4. Rome
  - C. In the days of the fourth world power – Rome – God would set up His kingdom.
    1. It would be vastly different from the kingdoms of men.
    2. It would not be conquered by other people.
    3. It would infiltrate and overthrow the kingdoms of men.
    4. It will never be destroyed.
  - D. This would happen when God acted by His own power to establish His own dominion.
    1. God's kingdom would not be built by men.
    2. It would come into being "hereafter" – referring to the time of the Messiah.
  - E. The "when" of God's grace is the time that God establishes His kingdom in the days of the Roman Empire.

- III. Joel 2 – The Provision of God’s Grace *What?* (2:28-32)
- A. Joel wrote this prophecy around 830 BC.
  - B. The phrase “afterward” is a reference to the time of the Messiah.
  - C. He prophesied of coming judgment from the Lord.
    - 1. This would be manifested by miraculous powers.
    - 2. This would be seen in calamitous destruction.
  - D. He also prophesied of coming salvation by the Lord.
    - 1. Deliverance would be found in the Lord.
    - 2. Deliverance would be found in Jerusalem.
    - 3. Deliverance would be found in the faithful remnant.
  - E. The “what” of God’s grace is judgment upon the wicked, but salvation for the righteous.

- IV. Acts 2 – The Culmination of God’s Grace *Why?*
- A. The Day of Pentecost occurred 50 days after the sacrifice of the Passover lamb – and, at this time, the crucifixion of Jesus.
  - B. Where?
    - 1. They were gathered in the city of Jerusalem (2:1, 5).
    - 2. They witnessed the building of the Lord’s house (2:47; Matt. 16:18).
  - C. When?
    - 1. This was during the time of the Roman Empire (2:8-11; Luke 2:1).
    - 2. It was also when God acted by His own power to establish His kingdom (2:1-4, 32-33).
  - D. What?
    - 1. The preaching of the Gospel was a judgment of God upon the wicked (2:36-37).
    - 2. It was also the means of salvation for those who would obey it (2:21, 38-41, 47).
  - E. Why?
    - 1. 2:12 – To explain God’s plan of the ages
    - 2. 2:16-21 – To show the fulfillment of prophecy
    - 3. 2:22-36 – To herald the resurrection, deity, and Lordship of Jesus
    - 4. 2:37-40 – To announce the means of salvation
    - 5. 2:41-47 – To establish the church
  - F. On the Day of Pentecost, God’s grace was made available to all people!

Conclusion: *Ephesians 2 – How does God’s grace save?*

- 1. 2:8 – Salvation is a gift of God.
- 2. 2:8 – Salvation is by grace through faith.
- 3. 2:9-10 – Salvation requires obedience – walking in good works.
- 4. 2:16 – Salvation is found in the church.