

YHWH has Given Grace

(A letter from ha-emeq)

The other night we had two baptisms. The man who was baptized was given a new name, and was asking me when we started giving people new names. I told him it was when we saw the importance of names, when we realized that a name was meant to signify the purpose for someone's life. For it is clear that our Father thinks that names are of utmost importance, because when His Son was born He made a special angelic appearance — it was not just to say that a baby was going to be born to save people from their sins, but he made sure that the baby would be called a certain name. He could have just been the saviour and been called "Bill", but our Father wanted him to be named *what He was*. He did the same thing with John the Baptist just before that, stressing the great importance that this boy have this certain name.

This was also a person whose purpose on earth needed to be clear. His birth was announced by an angel just the same, and the name of the child and his purpose were specified. Yet, the name *John* has had little significance to us thus far. We have treated it as a nice name, but have not emphasised that it, like the name of our Master, must be restored. We have seen that the ministry of Eliyah must be restored, and that John the baptist was an Eliyah. But why did he have that name?

Many things that Yoneq was sharing this morning in the minchah reminded me of the things I had been thinking. It was about having grace, building the temple and coming before our Father.... well, somehow I began to see something.

Yohannan must be just as important name as our Master's. So what is its significance?

The name Yohannan means Yahweh / grace, somehow signifying that our Father has given grace to men. But that does not seem so amazing to us, because we do not appreciate exactly what grace is. But we know that the ministry of Yohannan the baptizer was important, and extremely significant in many ways. All that is spoken in Luke 1:13-17, 67-80, is the amazing ministry of one who is called *YHWH has given grace*.

Then I realized that *grace* is like a "magic remedy," a secret curing medicine, that people have been seeking for for thousands of years. Grace is our secret way of making it. We can do nothing apart from His grace, except fall away. When we gather to gether in the morning and in the evening we come before the throne of grace. If we come boldly we will receive grace.

Acts 4:33 says that abundant *grace* was upon the first community. This was actually what enabled people to even receive the ministry of our Master (Lk 7:29). When Zacheriah was prophesying about rebuilding the temple it is written, "Grace, grace to it" in Zk 4:7.

Well, there are actually so many places that it speaks of grace. Yet grace has always remained a sort of mystical substance to people. But actually the coming of grace through Yohannan is the only reason that we were able to even respond to Messiah, and that we are able to endure in Him and build the kingdom. We needed salvation but we had to have grace. He gave us both Yahshua and Yohannan. We also have the responsibility to bring grace to people so they can respond to Yahshua, and live in Yahshua after they are saved... "Make sure that no one misses grace..."