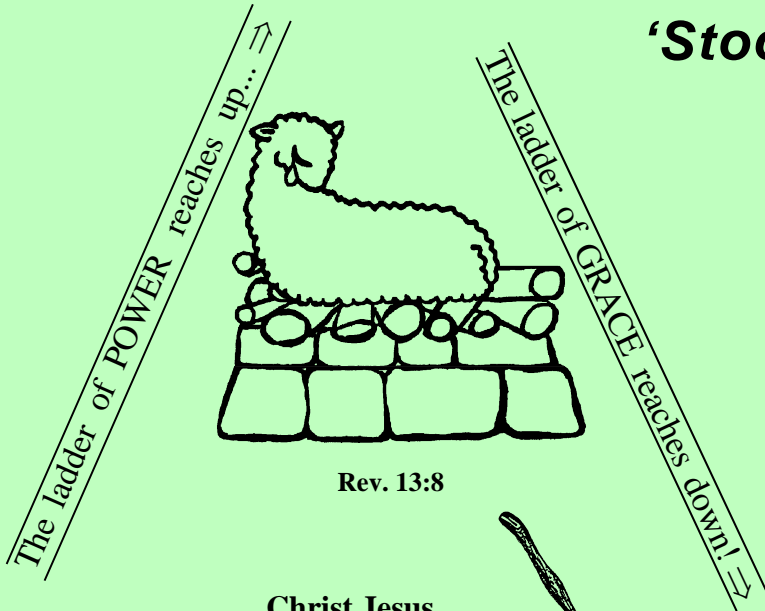


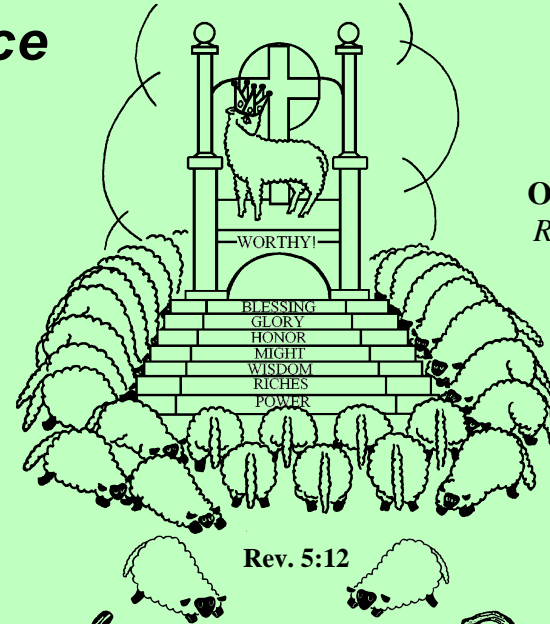
'Stoop'endous Grace

"KENOSIS" (Greek):
 Jesus (the Lamb)
 subjected Himself
 to the voluntary
 non-use of
 His divine
 nature.
 Philippians 2:5-11

The
 Lamb
 Shall
 Overcome!
 Rev. 17:14



Rev. 13:8



Rev. 5:12

Christ Jesus...

did not regard equality with God
 a thing to be grasped, but

emptied Himself.

taking the form of a bond-servant

and being made in the likeness of men...

He humbled Himself

by becoming obedient to the

point of death,

even death on a cross.

Jesus' 7 words

"Not my will,
 but Thine
 be done!"

Mark 14:36

7 "I wills"
 (Lucifer/Satan)
 Isaiah 14:13;
 Ezek. 18:2

2 Cor. 8:9

John 10:1-11

Rev. 14:4

Worthy is the LAMB!

to the glory of God the Father.

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD,

and that every tongue should confess

every knee should bow,...

that at the name of Jesus

the name which is above every name

and bestowed on Him

God highly exalted Him

7 "I wills"
 (God to Satan)
 Ezek. 28:7-18

The Lamb Shall Be Your Shepherd
 (Rev. 7:17)

7 x 4 = 28 times
 'LAMB' in Revelation

Let this
 mind be
 in 'ewe'...
 Phil. 2:5



1 Peter 1:19, 20, Colossians 1:19-22

Isaiah 53 [.....vs.7 Lamb.....]
 [He is led as a lamb to the slaughter]

Let this
 mind be
 in 'ewe'...
 Phil. 2:5



‘STOOP’ENDOUS GRACE

“And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, every one whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain” (Rev. 13:8).

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9).

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep” (John 10:11).

“You were redeemed...with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world...” (1 Pet. 1:19, 20).

“For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; ...in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach” (Col. 1:19-22).

“He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things” (Eph. 4:10).

“These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes” (Rev. 14:4).

“For the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their Shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes” (Rev. 7:17).

“And I saw in the midst of the throne...stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, ...And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Thou art worthy...for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” (Rev. 5:6, 9).

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive ¹power and ²riches and ³wisdom and ⁴might and ⁵honor and ⁶glory and ⁷blessing” (Rev. 5:12).

Gracestoration

'STOOP'ENDOUS GRACE

LOWLY GRACE: Seven Sevens; The Ladder of Power UP; The Ladder of Grace DOWN; Let This Mind Be in EWE

This lesson, entitled 'Stoop'endous Grace," endeavors to show the condescension of God in Jesus' incarnation. Here we see His selfless humility and grace on our behalf.

**Love drew [blueprinted] salvation's plan;
God brought it down to man.**

Wm. R. Newell

Jesus does not represent so much the ascent of man, as the descent of God;
not so much the climbing of the human into the divine,
but the condescension of the Divine to the human;
that His birth was not a mere birth, but an Incarnation;
that Jesus is not simply the Son of Mary,
but Immanuel, God with us. J.D. Jones

The writer of Hebrews says in his biographical sketch that Jesus Christ is the exact representation of God's nature (ref. Heb. 1:3). He exemplified—exactly—the person and personality of God. He demonstrated how God thinks and feels, what wounds Him and causes Him to laugh, what chills Him and what thrills Him. In Christ we capture exactly what is on God's mind and in His heart. In other words, Jesus Christ explained God exactly as He is. Jesus Christ is God's resolve to say with absolute certainty, "This is what my heart toward you is like. It is unalterable. My determination to communicate My heart to you is constant and Jesus Christ is the embodiment of all that I am." Restated: Jesus demonstrated God's heart (grace) exactly as it is (truth). He is the heart of God exemplified. He is the fact of God embodied. He is the incarnation of the invisible God. He is all that God is whether seen or unseen, comprehended or incomprehensible, heard or unheard, believed or doubted. *Preston Gillham*

**Christ is the central figure of biblical revelation;
The Cross is the central factor.**

Seven Sevens

As an overview of this illustration, we will address **seven sevens** highlighting the various topics: 1) Satan's **seven** 'I wills'; 2) **Seven** rungs down (condescension); 3) **Seven** words of Jesus (humility); 4) **Seven** rungs up (exaltation); 5) **Seven** accolades to the Lamb (worship); 6) **Seven** God's 'I wills'; 7) **Seven** 'Be' attitudes.

The Ladder of Power Reaches Up

God had a wonderful plan to reveal Himself from before the foundation of the world. The Apostle John in the Book of Revelation (13:8) gives us a picture of a lamb slain from before the foundation of the earth. Lucifer/Satan tried to usurp God's plan from the very beginning.

Let's look at Satan's **seven** 'I wills,' full of arrogance, impudence and pride. In Isaiah 14:13 we read,

1. I will ascend to heaven
2. I will raise my throne above the stars of God
3. I will sit on the mount of the assembly
4. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds
5. I will make myself like the Most High

The last two are found in Ezekiel 28.

6. I am a god (v. 2)
7. I sit in the seat of God (v. 2)

The Ladder of Grace Reaches Down

Our key passage is Philippians 2:5-11. In the Greek language, this is called the *Kenosis*—the “stoop”endous *condescension of God*. Jesus (the Lamb) subjected Himself to the voluntary non-use of His divine nature. That is, He only functioned like God when His heavenly Father gave Him explicit sanction to do so. He voluntarily emptied Himself of the independent use of His divine attributes as He pursued His mission of human redemption. “*Jesus came not to do His own will, but the will of Him who sent Him*” (John 4:34).

Listen to the **seven** humble words Jesus spoke at the end of His earthly life, “**Not my will, but Thine be done**” (Mark 14:36). The Apostle Paul wrote, “*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich*” (2 Cor. 8:9).

Read the **seven** steps down on the ladder on the visual from Philippians 2—even to death on a cross. The visual below is of a lamb crowned with thorns who shed His life's blood for us. The Apostle Peter expresses it this way, “*But with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ, for He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you*” (1 Pet. 1:19-20). Paul in Colossians 1:19-22 states it this way, “*For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.*” Paul added in Ephesians 4:10, “*He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.*”

Isaiah prophesied about Jesus coming as a lamb in the 53rd chapter. Between the two groups of **seven** statements about Jesus, we find in verse 7, “*He is led as a lamb to the slaughter; as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth.*” The Lamb is in the **center**! Let's review the statements:

1. He hath borne our griefs (v. 4)
2. And carried our sorrows
3. He was wounded for our transgressions (v. 5)
4. He was bruised for our iniquities
5. The chastisement for our peace is on Him
6. And with His stripes we are healed
7. Jehovah hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all (v. 6)

**IN THE CENTER IS THE LAMB – was led to the slaughter;
as a sheep dumb before its shearers (v. 7)**

1. For the transgression of my people He was stricken (v. 8)
2. Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin (v. 10)
3. By His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many
4. For He shall bear their iniquities
5. He was numbered with the transgressors (v. 12)
6. And He bore the sin of many
7. And made intercession for the transgressors

Notice in verse 4, it is “our griefs” and “our sorrows”; our “transgressions” and “our iniquities” (v. 5) that He bore. The first **seven** are from our side, the *human* side of the Cross. Now glance through the second **sevens** of the chapter. Here we find **seven** expressions of vicarious atonement viewed from the *divine* side.

Story

R.G. LeTourneau would traditionally read Isaiah 53 to his family every Sunday evening. When he came to verse **seven**, his voice would falter, his throat would become husky and tears would begin to trickle down his cheeks when he thought about “the Lamb who was led to the slaughter—as a sheep, dumb before its shearers.” After he collected himself, he would finish reading the rest of the very meaningful chapter to his family.

The song by William E. Booth-Clibborn entitled *Down From His Glory*, summarizes God’s redemptive plan in Jesus’ condescension.

**Down from His glory, ever living story,
My God and Savior came, and Jesus was His name;
Born in a manger—to His own a stranger,
A man of sorrows, tears and agony!**

Chorus

**O how I love Him! How I adore Him!
My breath, my sunshine, my all in all!
The great Creator became my Savior,
And all God’s fullness dwelleth in Him!**

**What condescension, bringing us redemption,
That in the dead of night, not one faint hope in sight,
God—gracious, tender—laid aside His splendor,
Stooping to woo, to win, to save my soul!**

**Without reluctance—flesh and blood His substance—
He took the form of man, revealed the hidden plan;
O glorious mystery—sacrifice of Calvary!
And now I know He is the great “I AM”!**

God highly exalted Jesus. Now read the **seven** rungs of the ladder going up. Peter witnessed the humility of Jesus and learned his lesson well. In 1 Peter 5:6 he declares, “*Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God and He will exalt you in due time.*”

Worthy indeed is the LAMB that was slain to receive the **seven** accolades: power, riches, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing. (See **seven** steps up to the Lamb on the throne.) “The Lamb in the center of the throne shall be your Shepherd” (Rev. 7:17). “They follow the Lamb wherever He goes” (Rev. 14:4). The culmination of the history of the Lamb is mentioned 28 (4 x 7) times in the Book of Revelation. Truly He is worthy! The Lamb Shall Overcome! *“These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful”* (Rev. 17:14).

Now note God’s ‘I wills’ to Satan: (from Ezekiel 28:7-18) (right side of visual)

1. I will bring strangers upon thee
2. I will cast thee as profane
3. I will destroy thee
4. I will cast thee to the ground
5. I will lay thee before kings
6. I will bring forth a fire
7. I will bring thee to ashes

Compare God’s ‘I wills’ to the list of Satan’s ‘I wills’ (left side of visual). We will refer to these two ends as Bookends. “. . . *The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil*” (1 Jn. 3:8).

Every Knee Shall Bow

“All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before Thee. For the kingdom is the Lord’s; and He is the governor among the nations” (Ps. 22:27-28). *“Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand”* (Ps. 95:6-7).

All heaven declares, the glory of the Risen Lord
Who can compare, with the beauty of the Lord.
Forever He will be, the Lamb upon the throne,
I gladly bow the knee, and worship Him alone.

I will declare the glory of the Risen Lord,
Who once was slain to reconcile man to God.
Forever You will be, the Lamb upon the throne,
I gladly bow the knee, and worship You alone.

Noel & Tricia Richards

“Let there be no apology in our preaching of the LAMB. Instead of secretly wondering whether we are preaching something outmoded or no longer relevant, let the desperate breakdown today be a new call to uplift the Lamb more than ever as the vital center of the only Gospel that truly saves people! J. Sidlow Baxter: *The Centrality of the Cross*

“Let changing theological fashions come and go. Let twentieth-century cynicism be what it may. Let people deride and demons fume. Let oppositions multiply. The only message that saves people is the gospel of the Lamb. More than ever, the Lamb must be the center of our preaching and planning and serving, of our faith and hope and love. More concentratedly

than ever, let us proclaim Him, uplift Him, glory in Him, love Him, live for Him, and if need be, die for Him. And let us beware of becoming so professionally theological or so religiously busy or so pragmatically antisentimental that we do not thrill at the prospect of seeing Him at last—the “King in His beauty—the Lamb upon His throne!” *J. Sidlow Baxter*

Let This Mind Be In ‘Ewe’ Attitudes – Philippians 2:5

For it is He who works in us “both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13).

Author W. Phillip Keller in his book, *A Shepherd Looks at the Good Shepherd and His Sheep* (pp. 66-71), leaves us with **seven** practical fresh attitudes [**Be-attitudes**] of the cost involved in following Jesus. He who follows Jesus will discover fresh pasturage, new abundant life, increased health, wholesomeness, and holiness in his walk with God. Nothing will please Him more, and certainly no other activity on our part can or will result in as great benefit to lives around us.

1) Instead of loving myself most, I am willing to love Christ best and others more than myself. *Now love in a scriptural sense is not a soft, sentimental emotion. It is a deliberate act of my will. It means that I am willing to lay down my life, put myself out on behalf of another. This is precisely what God did for us in Christ. “Hereby perceive (understand) we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us” (1 Jn. 3:16). The moment I deliberately do something definite either for God or others that costs me something, I am expressing love. Love is “selflessness” or “self sacrifice” in contradistinction to “selfishness.” Most of us know little of living like this, or being “led” in this right way. But once a person discovers the delight of doing something for others, he has started through the gate which leads into one of God’s green pastures.*

2) Instead of being one of the crowd, I am willing to be singled out, set apart from the gang. *Most of us, like sheep, are pretty gregarious. We want to belong. We don’t want to be different in a big way, though we may wish to be different in minor details that appeal to our selfish egos. But Christ pointed out that only a few would find His way acceptable, and to be marked as one of His would mean a certain amount of criticism and sarcasm from a cynical society. Many of us don’t want this. Just as He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, so we may be. Instead of adding to the sorrows and sadness of society we may be called on to help bear some of the burdens of others, to enter into the suffering of others.*

3) Instead of insisting on my rights, I am willing to forego them in favor of others. *Basically this is what the Master meant by denying one’s self. It is not easy nor natural to do this. Even in the loving atmosphere of the home, self-assertion is evident and the powerful exercise of individual rights is always apparent. But the person who is willing to pocket his pride, to take a back seat, to play second fiddle without a feeling of being abused or put upon, has gone a long way onto new ground with God. There is a tremendous emancipation from “self” in this attitude. One is set free from the shackles of personal pride. It’s pretty hard to hurt such a person. He who has no sense of self-importance cannot be offended or deflated. Somehow such people enjoy a wholesome outlook of carefree abandon that makes their Christian lives contagious with contentment and gaiety.*

4) Instead of being ‘boss,’ I am willing to be at the bottom of the heap. Or to use sheep terminology, instead of being ‘Top Ram’ I’m willing to be a ‘tailender.’ *When the desire for self-assertion and self-aggrandizement gives way to the desire for*

simply pleasing God and others, much of the fret and strain is drained away from daily living. A hallmark of the serene soul is the absence of “drive,” at least drive for self-determination. The person who is prepared to put his personal life and affairs in the Master’s hands for His management and direction has found the place of rest in fresh fields each day. These are the ones who find time and energy to please others.

5) Instead of finding fault with life and always asking, “Why?” I am willing to accept every circumstance of life in an attitude of gratitude. *Humans, being what they are, somehow feel entitled to question the reason for everything that happens to them. In many instances life itself becomes a continuous criticism and dissection of one’s circumstances and acquaintances. We look for someone or something on which to pin the blame for our misfortunes. We are often quick to forget our blessings, slow to forget our misfortunes. But if one really believes his affairs are in God’s hands, every event, no matter whether joyous or tragic will be taken as part of God’s plan. To know beyond doubt that He does all for our welfare is to be led into a wide area of peace and quietness and strength for every situation.*

6) Instead of exercising and asserting my will, I learn to cooperate with His wishes and comply with His will. *It must be noted that all the steps outlined here involve the will. The saints from earliest times have repeatedly pointed out that nine-tenths of being a Christian, of becoming a true follower, a dedicated disciple, lies in the will. When a man allows his will to be crossed out, canceling the great “I” in his decision, then indeed the Cross has been applied to that life. This is the meaning of taking up one’s cross daily—to go to one’s death—no longer my will in the matter but His will be done.*

7) Instead of choosing my own way, I am willing to choose to follow in Christ’s way, simply to do what He asks me to do. *This basically is simple, straightforward obedience [responsiveness]. It means I do what He asks me to do. I go where He invites me to go. I say what He instructs me to say. I act and react in the manner He maintains is in my best interest as well as for His reputation. Most of us possess a formidable amount of factual information on what the Master expects of us. Precious few have either the will, intention, or determination to act on it and comply with His instructions. But the person who decides to do what God asks him has moved onto fresh ground which will do both him and others a world of good. Besides, it will please the Good Shepherd.*

God wants us all to move on with Him. He wants us to walk with Him, [to follow Him]. He wants it not only for our welfare but for the benefit of others as well as His own reputation. **...For it is He who works in us “both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13).**

Worthy is the Lamb! Indeed! Worthy is the Lamb.

Review and reinforce this lesson by incorporating the notes and quotes pages and by reading the Scriptures on the back of the card.

GRACE is about a divine heart, discontent to be by itself.

When God chose GRACE, He embodied that character quality in the baby laid in Bethlehem's manger.

He realized His omniscience would be intimidating,
His omnipotence disabling
He knew His love would be disarming
He knew His light would be unapproachable, and
His justice unflinching.

So He chose GRACE, and humbled Himself to take on human form.



He appeared first in the helplessness of a newborn
the destitution of poverty
the ignominy of a manger
the dishonor of a stable
the shame of illegitimacy
the recognition of robbers and
the derision of the king,
the scorn of the religious
the herald of being a divisive element, and
the object of hated lust by the great dragon, Satan.

GRACE is God's determined design to share His heart with us...in hopes that we will see and recognize and acknowledge His overtures and say,...Awesome, Amazing GRACE!

Preston Gillham – Lifetime Guarantee

Kenosis – ‘to descend to be with’

“When GRACE descends, the world falls silent before it!” Phillip Yancey

“What LOVE to come from so high to stoop so low—to be rejected, hated, misunderstood, mocked, maligned, stripped, scourged, and crucified by those He came to redeem!”

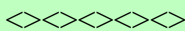
Dave Hunt

“The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding.”

Martin Luther (Table Talk)

“God walked down the stairway of heaven with a baby in His arms and placed Him in a manger.” Jill Briscoe

“Let there be no apology in our teaching of the LAMB. Instead of secretly wondering whether we are teaching something outmoded or no longer relevant, let the desperate breakdown today be a new call to uplift the LAMB more than ever as the vital center of the only Gospel that truly saves people!” J. Sidlow Baxter

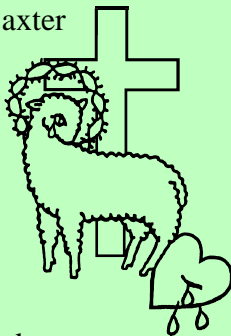


“Jesus, with all thy saints above,
My tongue would bear her part;
Would sound aloud thy saving love,
And sing thy bleeding heart.

Bless'd be the Lamb, my dearest Lord,
Who bought me with his blood;
And quenched his Father's flaming sword,
In his own vital flood.

The Lamb, that freed my captive soul
From Satan's heavy chains;
And sent the lion down to howl,
Where hell and horror reigns.

All glory to the dying Lamb,
And never-ceasing praise!
While angels live, to know his name,
Or saints, to feel his grace.” - Isaac Watts



He came not trailing clouds of glory.
He came not wearing heaven's crown.
He left behind His Father's golden city
And chose as birthplace Bethlehem's little town.

Equality with God was His by nature,
And worship by the angels was His right.
The honor due Him by His heavenly Father
He left to come and save us Christmas night.

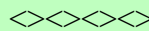
He laid it down, He laid it down,
And taking human form became a man.
He laid it down, He laid it down,
And chose instead the world's redemptive plan.

So who am I to seek the world's dim glory?
And who am I to fight for worldly crown?
What right have I to choose to work in city,
In rural country or in tinsel town?

And who am I to grasp some vain ambition?
Or who to choose a partner for my days?
Am I superior to the Christ who saved Me?
Do I have rights to keep or give away?

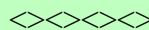
I'll lay them down, I'll lay them down,
And let Him be Lord of all I want to be.
I'll lay them down, I'll lay them down, and
Lay hold instead of all He wants for me!

Jill Briscoe



Heaven came down (as a Lamb)
And glory filled my soul.
When at the cross my Savior made me whole.
My sins were washed away
And my night was turned to day
Heaven came down and glory filled my soul!”

John W. Peterson



Crown Him with many crowns!
The Lamb upon His throne...
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Thru all eternity.

Who every grief hath known
That wrings the human breast.
And takes and bears them for His own,
That all in Him may REST!

Matthew Bridges