

# GOD'S UNPRECEDENTED GIFT

## *Christmas, 2008*

**Introduction** – This past November, Americans experienced an election like no other before – unprecedented in that a black man was one's party's nominee, and a woman was on the republican party ticket for the very first time. No matter which way it turned out, history was going to be made. Walls were going to be broken down and ceilings cracked. Likewise, when God gave the gift of His Son to come to earth as a human and ultimately die on a cross, another wall was forever torn down and the ceiling was not only cracked, it was opened up for all mankind.

**2 Cor 9:15 – “Thanks be unto God for His INDESCRIBABLE GIFT”**

### **\*GOD'S UNPRECEDENTED GIFT BROUGHT...**

#### **1. TORN WALL (VEIL) – OPEN ACCESS**

*\*Ez 42:20b – “...with a wall around it to separate the holy places from the common.*

*\*Mt 27:50-51 – “...when Jesus ... gave up His spirit. At that moment **the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.**”*

*\*Heb 4:16a – “Let us then **approach the throne of grace with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace...”*

**A. THE PROBLEM: GOD'S HOLINESS – IMPOSSIBLE DEMAND**

**B. THE SOLUTION: JESUS' DEATH – DEMAND MET**

**C. THE RESULT: OPEN ACCESS – MERCY & GRACE**

#### **FURTHER DISCUSSION:**

1. Discuss the problem. Why was there “this impossible demand”?
2. What analogy did Pastor Rich give showing that Jesus met the demand?
3. Discuss the result and what this means to us.

#### **2. CRACKED CEILING – OPEN HEAVENS**

*\*Mal 3:10b – “...see if I will not **open for you the windows of heaven**, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.”*

*\*Jn 1:16 – “From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.”*

*\*Jer 52:31-34 – “In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the year Evil-Merodech became king of Babylon, he released Jehoiachin king of Judah and **freed him from prison** on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month. He **spoke kindly to him** and gave him a **seat of honor** higher than those of the other kings who were with him in Babylon. So Jehoiachin **put aside his prison clothes** and for the rest of his life **ate regularly at the king's table**. Day by day the king of Babylon gave Jeoiachin **a regular allowance** as long as he lived, till the day of his death.”*

**A. GRACE: God's Riches At Christ's Expense**

**B. INCREDIBLE PICTURE OF THIS OUT-POURED GRACE**

- **FREED FROM PRISON**
- **SPOKE KINDLY**
- **SEAT OF HONOR**
- **PUT ASIDE PRISON CLOTHES**
- **ATE REGULARLY WITH THE KING**
- **REGULAR ALLOWANCE UNTIL DEATH**

**FURTHER DISCUSSION:**

4. In what way have many Christians “short changed” Grace?
5. Discuss the 6 acts of grace that Evil-Marodech showed Jehoachin and how they picture the acts of grace that Jesus shows and gives to us?
6. Discuss the New Testament pattern described in Acts. How do we stack up?

***\*Romans 8:32 – “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” // \*Galatians 4:7 – “So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.”***