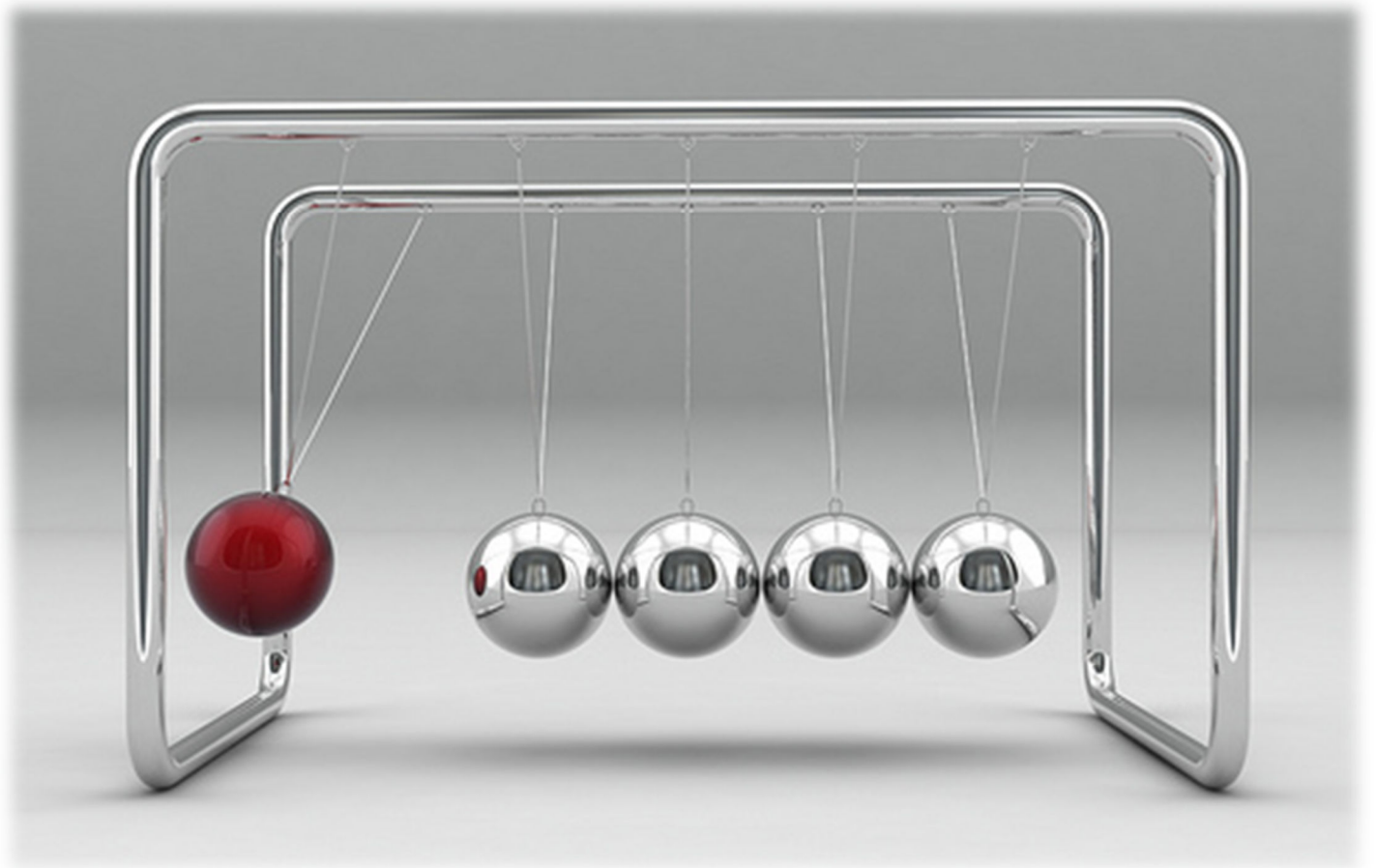


# Reigning Grace



Why Jesus is not only  
necessary, but enough

# God's Word to You

## The Story in Six Acts

1. **God** - "In the Beginning **God**" (Gen. 1:1)
2. **Creation** - "In the Beginning **God created**" (Gen. 1:1; Col. 1:15-17; 1 Cor. 8:6)
3. **Rejection** - "You shall not eat . . . She took and ate and He ate" (Gen. 2:15-17; 3:6)
4. **Redemption** - "The LORD God made garments of skin and clothed them" (Gen. 3:15-21)
5. **Re-Creation** - "You Must Be Born Again" (John 3:1-21; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rev. 21:1)
6. **Joy through Worship** - "Stop weeping, the Lion . . . has overcome" (Rev. 4; 5)

The biblical *Story* in which all of life exists begins with God.

*"Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet"*  
*Matthew 1:22*

No matter where we "poke" our stick in the Bible, we will touch the *Story*. **The Bible tells a single, unified Story and at the center of this Story is JESUS. The Bible tells us why God created. His purpose from the beginning of time has been to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory for the joy of His people (Isa. 11:9; Hab. 2:14; Ps. 16:11; Isa. 25:6-9). A part of this Story is the fall of man, his rescue by God, and the relationship between the two that flows from this.**

**This is what many called the "meta-narrative." It is the MELODIC LINE running from "top to tail."**

The *Story* traces the fulfillment of a **promise** made by God to crush sin by the voluntary and vicarious sacrifice of His only begotten Son, the seed, whereby redeeming His people from sin and adopting them into His family. It is the *Story* of His immeasurable grace. This is the **gospel**; it is **good news**.

**This Story of Fall, rescue and joy is the telling of the following tale. May God enable us to see our story as the unfolding of His Story, and may the embracing of this truth cause you to experience the fullness of joy that is only possible in Him.**

The *Story* ends where it began, with God. The **Gospel** secures for God **worshippers** and all things created will end with the singular **worship** of God. Such **worship** in that approaching day will be without hindrance. This is a glorious and happy day. It is a day filled with God! Are you a follower of Jesus?

# About *RG*

The idea of “Reigning Grace” begins in Romans 5:12-21 [Cf. Appendix A – Romans 5:12-21] where the apostle Paul speaks of the reign of sin and death, but now the reign of grace and life. The shift is because of who Jesus is and what Jesus did/does.

<sup>20</sup>“The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but **where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,** <sup>21</sup> **so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord**” (Rom. 5:20, 21).

For almost 20 years “Reigning Grace” has been part of the vocabulary and culture of Waukesha Bible Church. “Reigning” means leading, administering, ruling, governing. “Grace” is unmerited favor given with unconditional acceptance. The extension of goodness in place of deserved condemnation. Grace is the platform through which God administers His love, acceptance, forgiveness, favor, kindness, and mercy. We very much believe where once sin and death reigned, grace and life now reign. In Jesus, the vertical relationship a person has with God the Father has been forever altered. He does for us what we could never do for ourselves. He answers once and for all the challenge brought about by our own sin resulting in death. Because there was nothing we could do to earn this favor/status, we equally believe there is nothing we can do to change, maintain, or alter this favor/status.

Just as the vertical, so also the horizontal. **What God has done for us, He gives to us, working in us and through us, to those around us.** It is the very life of Christ that now governs both the vertical and the horizontal. In reality, it is impossible to outrun grace. Grace will always win. **We seek to capture the absolute thoroughness of His existence by calling this “Reigning Grace [RG].”**

“Reigning Grace” defines our DNA. It is how we interpret our life and the lives of those around us. It colors our theology, it colors our thinking, and it colors our relationships. Grace should rush in at all times and in all situations for the believer. For a preview of where this is leading, jump to the Epilogue [Lesson 14] and read through the ten gospel truths. These statements will be explored and clarified in the following chapters.

**We believe all of life comes from JESUS, is sustained by JESUS, and ultimately leads back to JESUS. In all of the following areas of study, let us make sure to keep JESUS as the center of the *Story*. Let us remember that, “Beyond Him, there is nothing; and without Him, there is no one.”**

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