

Turning and turning the widening gyre³
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart: the center [Pivot] cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

36. Satan rules this world and contributing to his designs is the great turnover of peoples from generation to generation. Their increasing ignorance of history's forewarnings has caused them to ignore the sequel playing out before them.

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. —George Santayana

37. James's concern is for those Jews who are not only the progeny of the Samaritan Diaspora, but also of Judah in 586 B.C. That group was taken to Chaldea by Nebuchadnezzar.
38. So in some way he is referring to his blood brothers for whom he obviously has great affection and concern. However, the greatest emphasis is for those blood brothers who are also Messianic Jews of former Diaspora.
39. A tremendous amount of pressure has followed Jews from place to place since 721 B.C. Once you can define an enemy then prejudice toward it is codified and applied. Such was the case beginning in 1879:

Anti-Semitism, hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a group. *Anti-Semitism* was coined in 1879 by the German agitator Wilhelm Marr to designate contemporary anti-Jewish campaigns in Germany. The term has wide currency but is a misnomer, since it implies discrimination against all Semites, a group that includes Arabs and others who are not targets of anti-Semitism as it is usually understood.

***The Origins of Christian anti-Semitism.* Although Jesus was a Jew, and Christianity is rooted in Jewish monotheism, Judaism and Christianity became rivals after the Roman destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.**

From St. Augustine in the 4th century to Martin Luther in the 16th, Christian theologians excoriated the Jews as rebels against God and murderers of the Lord. They were described as companions of the devil and a race of vipers. (p. 447)

³“Gyre \jī-er\; a circular or spiral motion” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed.) s.v. “gyre.”

Nazi anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. The storm of anti-Semitic violence loosed by Nazi Germany under the leadership of Adolf Hitler from 1933 to 1945 not only reached a terrifying degree in Germany itself but also inspired anti-Jewish movements in France, Hungary, England, and the United States.

In Nazi Germany, anti-Semitism reached a new level. If Christianity sought the conversion of the Jews, the political leaders from Spain and England sought their expulsion, the Nazis sought the “final solution to the Jewish question,” the killing of all Jews and their eradication from the human race. Anti-Semitism and ideas of racial superiority became government policy—taught in schools, elaborated in “scientific” journals and research institutes, and promoted by a highly effective organization of international propaganda. In 1941 the liquidation of European Jewry became official Nazi party policy. Some 5,700,000 Jews were exterminated in such death camps as Auschwitz and Treblinka during World War II.⁴ (p. 448)

40. It is imperative at this point to review the policy of Grace Doctrine Church regarding anti-Semitism:

Anti-Semitism is defined as intolerance, hatred, prejudice, opposition, and persecution of the Jewish people and represents a satanic plot to eliminate the Jews from history. God has promised the Jews a reigning Messiah who will rule them in their own land called Israel. In order for Christ to fulfill these divine promises to Israel, Jews must survive until His Second Advent. Thus, anti-Semitism becomes a part of Satan’s desperate plan to circumvent Messiah’s return. Every member of the human race is warned by God Himself to avoid any form of anti-Semitism: “I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you;” (Genesis 12:3). Consequently, Grace Doctrine Church stands in righteous opposition to any vestige of anti-Semitic thought, comment, or action. Further, anyone associated with this church that engages in anti-Semitic actions will be expelled from the fellowship. (Zechariah 2:8–9; Revelation 12)⁵

41. James’s intended readers are contemporaries, Jews of the first century A.D., but with continuing application to believers from then until the Rapture of the church.
42. When he refers to them as “beloved brothers,” the emphasis is on Jewish believers in the first century.

⁴ Michael Berenbaum, “Anti-Semitism,” in *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia* (2010), 1:447–48.

⁵ *Forty Proclamations: The Theology of Grace Doctrine Church* (St. Charles: Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 2011), 19.

43. The word for “brothers” is the noun *adelphós* indicating two things: those of the Diaspora are blood due to their chart pedigrees going back to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their eternal membership in the royal family of God through faith in Jesus Christ.
44. The Lord’s chart pedigree also goes back to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob but significantly through Jesse and Judah, the tribe of Judah being assigned by Jacob as the leadership tribe and by application the line of Israelite kings.
45. The Lord Jesus is properly recognized as the King of kings and Lord of lords. Jews who place their faith in Him during the Church Age are referred to today as Messianic Jews.
46. Those saved in the dispensations of the Gentiles, Jews, and the Incarnation and died before the ascension and session of Christ are not royal family.
47. Those who were saved post the ascension and session of Christ are royal family, Jew and Gentile alike.
48. That a King would emerge from the tribe of Judah is indicated in Genesis 49:8–10, His qualifications mentioned in Deuteronomy 17:14–20 and the house from which He would emerge in 1 Samuel 16.

When Jacob’s eyes rested on his son Judah, he saw in Israel’s future a specific King to come: “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people (Genesis 49:19).

The word *Shiloh* [שִׁלּוֹה (*Shyloh*)] means “the one who brings rest or peace.” It expresses the belief that the King will bring tranquility to His people. The scepter represents authority.

The fulfillment of Jacob’s prophecy began with the anointing of King David (1 Samuel 16:13). Ultimately, it will be fulfilled with Jesus. He is the King, the God-Man, and the Son of David who will sit on Israel’s throne forever.⁶

49. Because of the gene pool crapshoot, a family’s siblings sometimes do not favor one another, have different physical characteristics, and divergent behavior patterns.

⁶ Peter Colón, “Résumé of the King,” *Israel My Glory*, July/August 2016, 29.

50. These people are still members of the same family. That is most assuredly the case for the royal family of God. But where they are exactly alike includes possession of eternal life, trichotomy, 40 things imputed, escrow blessings, and the unfailing love of God.
51. Every believer has access to the teaching of the Word of God that each believer is commanded to pursue. Yet there are always some, due to failure to comply, who are chastened by James:

James 1:16 Stop being deceived [**Imperative mood #9**], my beloved brothers. (EXT)

James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. (NASB)

1. The first phrase, “every good thing,” looks like this in the Greek: **πᾶσα δόσις ἀγαθῆ (pása dósís agathé)**:” Every good gift.”
2. A second phrase follows which we’ll note later. The sentence concludes with the source of these things indicated by the phrase, “is from above.”
3. Question: What are the good gifts? Well, first of all we note that good gifts are numerous indicated by the word “every” and that they are good gifts provided by grace.
4. For a gift to be a gift nothing can be required on the part of the recipient. No strings attached. There are good gifts that are provided to us gratis by a benevolent benefactor who is “from above.”
5. According to this, each one of you has an inventory of good gifts. They are provided to you for no other reason than the fact that you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ—His Person and His Work—for eternal salvation.
6. To determine if you are grace oriented, sustained by objectivity, and with an attitude of gratitude, consider these gifts as parts of divine provisions to you “from above.”
7. Let’s start with the basics. Are you being provided with food, clothing, and shelter on a daily basis?

Matthew 6:25 “For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

v. 26 “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?”

v. 27 “And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?” (NASB)

8. Birds do not have any idea about *how* food is in the places they look. They go out searching. They see something good to eat, they fly down and grab it and come back and stuff it into featherless baby birds’ gaping mouths.
9. Birds are stupid, but they don’t know that. Their brains, as small as they are, have miraculous homing skills. The little birds outside our kitchen window come back every year to the same tree. Me? I have to ask Siri.
10. Who provides the necessities for the birds? Not the birds. According to the Lord, God provides sustenance for the creatures He created including the mentality to acquire it.
11. Even birds’ brains are capable of finding what’s needed in God’s kingdom. Human brains can do so as well. And with this logistical support, we all have copious opportunities to benefit from the divine bounty.
12. What are some of the peripherals that go beyond the bare necessities? How about a right person: right man or right woman? It may seem to some singles that God has forgotten to provide a right person, but everything is based on timing. Being at the right place at the right time is the best time; any other time would be the wrong time.
13. Enjoyment of some of the details of life such as entertainment for example: sports, music, art, dance, stage, film, literature, or the talent to function in some of these areas. All of these are gifts.

14. Financial stability, or not, is a gift. Each is a gift from God. Financial stability is a blessing for some, but not for others. Having the means to do certain things can be a distraction from more important things in life.
15. Lack of means prevents such involvement. So God knows what's best for you at certain times. These are gifts.
16. Here of some gifts that we generally think of as routine and universal. How about good health? Gift! Safety? Gift! Employment? Gift!
17. What if these things were not present in your life? Gift! Doctrinally oriented people may be in poor health, but God provides care. Gift! Some may live north of Delmar, but God provides protection. Gift! Some may be unable to find enough work to meet expenses, but God keeps you alive and well fed. Gifts!
18. Sometimes friends can be gifts, provided each is doctrinally oriented regarding establishment standards or biblical doctrines. Even then, a true friend must also provide soul rapport, otherwise he is just a good acquaintance well met. Either way, real friends are gifts.
19. More important than any of these briefly stated gifts, is the fact every human being in the history of the world has an ongoing opportunity to insure his eternal future by placing personal faith in Jesus Christ. Gift!
20. Being alive is a gift. Having the opportunity to get saved, or not, is a gift. Volition is the gift of choice, to accept or reject any proposition. This is freedom. Gift!
21. Any believer has the option to learn the power of divine thought by showing up at Bible class. Both are gifts! Any believer has the privilege to accept or reject what is taught by a pastor. Gift. Any believer has the delegated power to apply what he learns and retains in his soul to life and circumstances. Gift!
22. Both doctrinal orientation and grace orientation give the advancing believer the ability to realize all the necessities and accouterments of life are unobtainable without their consistent provision by the grace of God.

23. Unfortunately, far too many believers take for granted the overwhelming supply line that God has made available to believers and what we have noted are really the details of life. Still, all are gifts.
24. On the serious side of the discussion what gifts are we given? A completed canon of Scripture. Gift! Doctrine from it allows us to know our personal destinies. Gift! The power of the Word sustains us in an environment dominated by purveyors of the cosmic lie. Gift!
25. The ability to make good decisions from a position of strength. Gift! The ability to discern the rhetorical veils of the propagandists. Gift! The stability of soul to enter each day confident of your logistical grace support. Gift!
26. The principle that Jesus Christ controls history. Gift! The confidence that Holy Spirit guides your life while inside the bubble. Gift! The knowledge that God the Father upholds you with His unfailing love. Gift!
27. Comfort of soul knowing that the Word of God is alive and powerful when present in your soul (Hebrews 4:12). Gift! Stability of soul knowing that His Word will accomplish what God desires (Isaiah 55:11). Confidence that you have eternal life and no one will snatch you out of God's hand (John 10:28).
28. All of these examples are offered in order to amplify, document, and remind you of the endless supply of divinely supplied gifts believers enjoy each and every day.
29. The Apostle John records the Lord's guarantee of His and Father's provisions of grace sustenance to every believer both in time and in eternity:

John 14:1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me."

v. 2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

v. 3 "If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

End JAS1-32. See JAS1-33 for continuation of study at p. 321.)

John 14:4 “And you know the way where I am going.

v. 6 “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” (NASB)

30. The phenomenal assets that have been imputed to us at the moment of salvation are so powerful that few believers ever capture the reality of what they possess. Regardless, they are gifts.
31. Take a look of the academic gifts imputed to every believer which includes you. There is the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. Why does He have to get involved?
32. Because of this statement made by Isaiah in:

Isaiah 55:8 “My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. (NASB)

33. Both man and God have thoughts and ways, but they are decidedly different. The word “thoughts,” assigned by the Lord to men, is the feminine plural noun **מַחְשָׁבָה** (*machashavah*):

חָשַׁב [*chashav*] refers to plans that one is acting on or going to act on; thus “work” or “deed” stands parallel to *machashavah*, “thought” or “plan” (Proverbs 16:3). Yahweh himself establishes such plans. The plans that humans make for themselves, however, are feeble in Yahweh’s sight (Psalm 94:11).

In a beautiful passage Isaiah proclaims that Yahweh’s thoughts are ethically superior to human thoughts (Isaiah 55:7–9). The tension between human plans and the outcome is expressed well in the proverb that “in his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps,” i.e., determines the outcome of human planning (Proverbs 16:9 cf. 19:21).¹

34. The Lord’s analysis continues with a second comparison, “nor are your ways My ways.”

¹ John E. Hartley, “חָשַׁב,” in *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*, gen. ed. Willem A. VanGemeren (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997), 2:308.