

Big Bible Words

G **R** **A** **C** **E**

How do you define grace?

¹**grace** \ 'grās\ *noun*

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *gratia* favor, charm, thanks, from *gratus* pleasing, grateful; akin to Sanskrit *grṇāti* he praises] (12th century)

1 a : unmerited divine assistance given man for his regeneration or sanctification

b : a virtue coming from God

c : a state of sanctification enjoyed through divine grace

2 a : APPROVAL, FAVOR 〈stayed in his good *graces*〉

b *archaic* : MERCY, PARDON

c : a special favor : PRIVILEGE 〈each in his place, by right, not *grace*, shall rule his heritage —Rudyard Kipling〉

d : disposition to or an act or instance of kindness, courtesy, or clemency

e : a temporary exemption : REPRIEVE

3 a : a charming or attractive trait or characteristic

b : a pleasingly graceful appearance or effect : CHARM

c : ease and suppleness of movement or bearing

4 — used as a title of address or reference for a duke, a duchess, or an archbishop

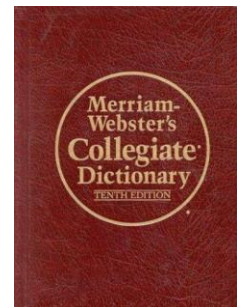
5 : a short prayer at a meal asking a blessing or giving thanks

6 *plural, capitalized* : three sister goddesses in Greek mythology who are the givers of charm and beauty

7 : a musical trill, turn, or appoggiatura

8 a : sense of propriety or right 〈had the *grace* not to run for elective office —Calvin Trillin〉

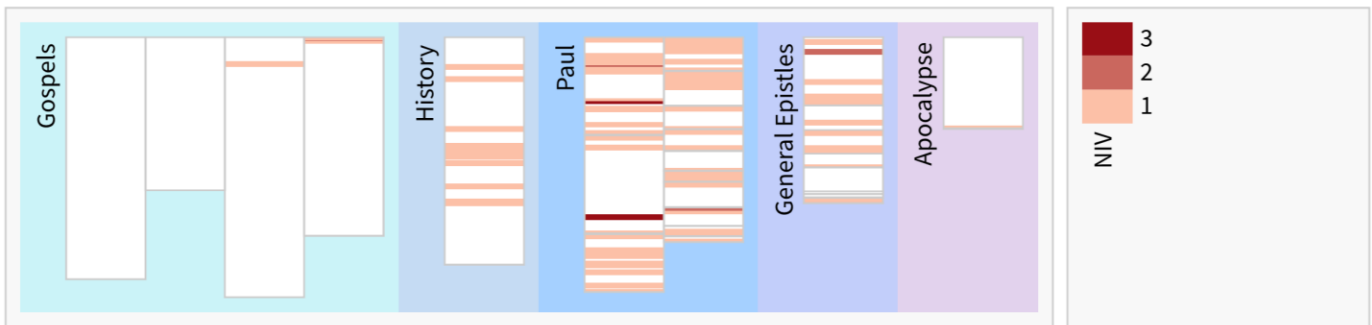
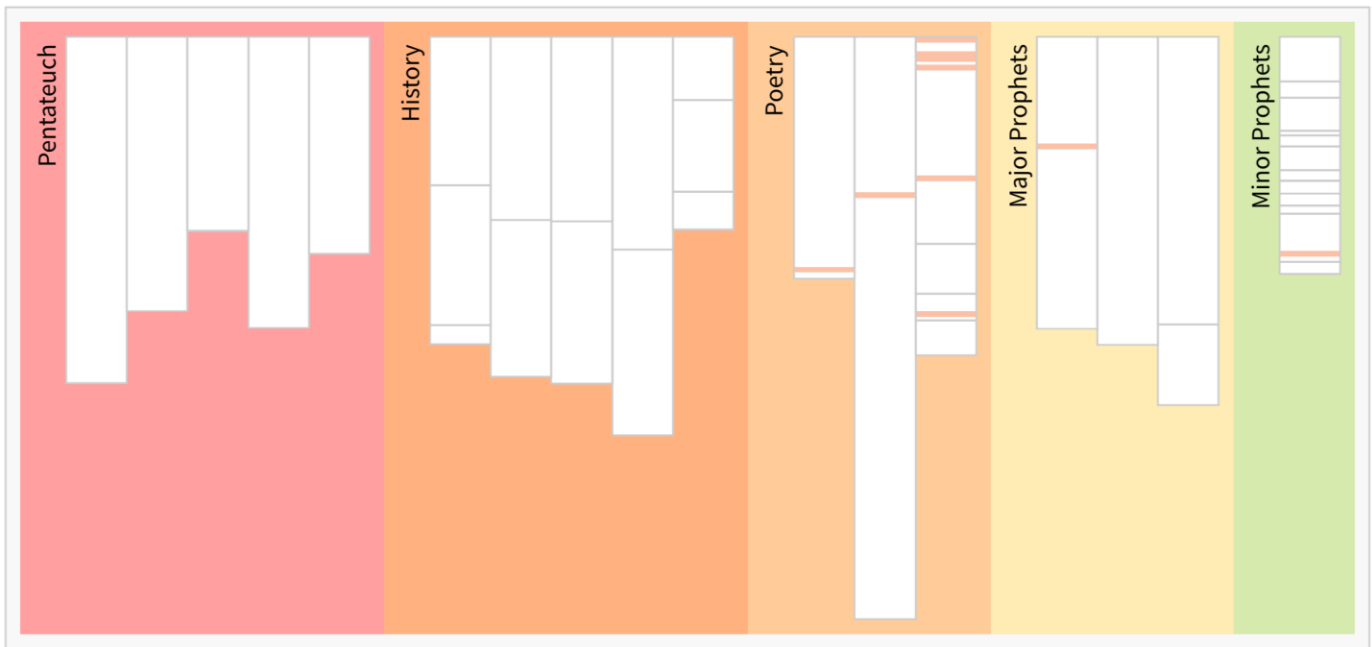
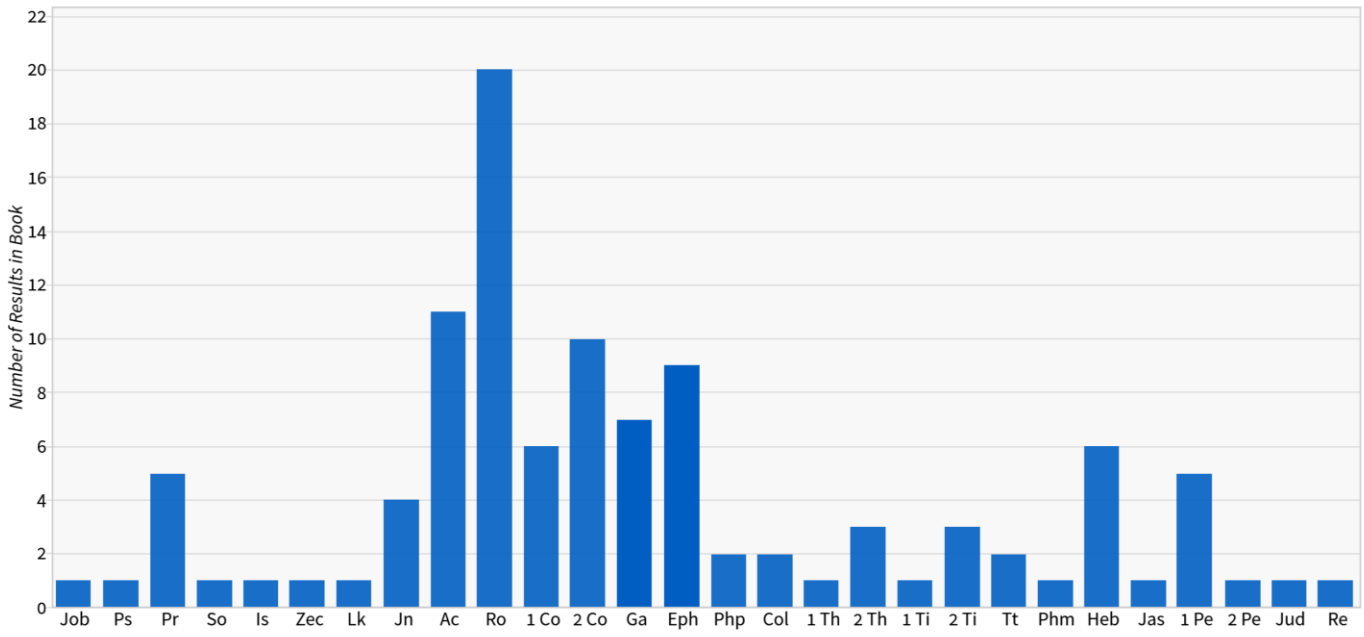
b : the quality or state of being considerate or thoughtful



How many times is the word “grace” used in the Bible?

- Christian Standard Bible – 111x in 103 verses
- English Standard Version – 113x in 105 verses
- Evangelical Heritage Version – 118x in 108 verses
- King James Version – 145x in 136 verses
- New American Standard Bible – 109x in 101 verses
- New International Version – 108x in 100 verses

grace in NIV



χάρις

Generally, when we think of “grace,” we are probably thinking of the Greek word **χάρις** (charis).

A non-Christian use of the Greek word **χάρις** (charis) can mean...

- What delights
- What is joyous
- Something that is charming
- Favor shown or received, kindness
- A gift

So, what does it mean in the Bible?



In the New Testament,

Grace is...

Luke 2:40 (NIV) And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the **grace** of God was on him.

Grace is...

John 1:14–18

Romans 5:15–21

Ephesians 1:4–10

Grace is...

Acts 15:11 (NIV) We believe it is through the **grace** of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

Ephesians 2:1–10

Grace is...

Ephesians 3:1–9

1 Peter 1:10–13

Grace is...

Acts 11:19–23

Grace is...

Colossians 1:6 (NIV) In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s **grace**.

Acts 18:27 (NIV) When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by **grace** had believed.

Grace is...

Romans 7:25 (NIV) **Thanks** be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

1 Corinthians 15:57 (NIV) But **thanks** be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace is...

1 Corinthians 16:1–3 (NIV) ¹ Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. ³ Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.

Grace is...

Colossians 4:6 (NIV) Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.



Is there an Old Testament equivalent to **χάρις** (charis)?

Old Testament word **חַנּוּן** (hane), **χάρις** is used as a translation of **חַנּוּן** in the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament)

Grace is...

Genesis 6:8 (NIV) But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Exodus 33:12–17

Isaiah 26:10 (NIV) But when grace is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness; even in a land of uprightness they go on doing evil and do not regard the majesty of the LORD.

Grace is...

Proverbs 3:21–22 (NIV) ²¹ My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion; ²² they will be life for you, an ornament to **grace** your neck.

Song of Solomon 7:1 (NIV) How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince's daughter! Your **graceful** legs are like jewels, the work of an artist's hands.

Grace is...

Zechariah 12:10 (NIV) And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of **grace** and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

Consider also the Old Testament word חֶסֶד (hesed).

Grace is...

Genesis 24:12 (NIV) Then he prayed, "LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show **kindness** to my master Abraham.

Grace is...

Exodus 34:6–7 (NIV) ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in **love** and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining **love** to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

Psalms 18:50 (NIV) He gives his king great victories; he shows **unfailing love** to his anointed, to David and to his descendants forever.

In summary, grace in the Bible is...