

God the Gracious

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways...”

- Luke 1:76

Meaning of Names

- Mary: their rebellion; or bitter sea
- Jesus = “Jehovah is salvation
- Zacharias = “remembered of Jehovah”
- Elizabeth = “oath of God”
- John = "Jehovah is a gracious giver"

God is Gracious

- “...having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will...” (Eph. 1:5)
- “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Lk. 12:32)
- “...the God of all grace...” (1 Pet. 5:10)

God is Gracious

- “Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more...” (Rom. 5:20)
- “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (Jn. 1:17)

How is God gracious?

1. Appearing in the flesh

- “‘You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet.’ For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.” (Heb. 2:7-9)

How is God gracious?

2. Pays the debt we owe

- “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” (1 Jn. 2:2)

3. Not demanding compensation for our unfaithfulness

How is God gracious?

4. Not dealing with us according to our sins

- “The sins of my youth and those of my ignorance do not remember; and according to Your mercy remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord.”
(Ps. 24 LXX)

How is God gracious?

5. Giving gifts

- “And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one...” (Jn. 17:22)
- “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do...” (Jn. 14:12)

6. Calling things that belong to Him as ours

7. He works for us

How can we practice being gracious?

- Being kind and gracious to those who:

1. Offend or hurt us

2. Do not share your opinion

3. Those who sin against our God