

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

The Gracious One

### Speaker:

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### Date:

May 7, 2023

### Scriptures:

Genesis 1:1-2

**Theme:** Anticipate grace because this is who God has always been.

**Introduction:** The anticipation of Christmas morning is one of the great joys of childhood. The child looks forward eagerly to what's to come. There's also a sense of anticipation that comes with gained skills in sports or other activities, as we know what may be coming and prepare accordingly. Similarly, Christians should learn to anticipate the character and work of God, as he has revealed himself to us in certain ways.

Here are 3 aspects of God's nature that call us to anticipate grace from him:

### 1. The Before One

Beginnings are wonderful, and the beginning of Scripture is no exception because it points us to the beginning of all things.

Yet it also raises the question: who or what came *before* the beginning? There must be Someone preexistent, or else there could be no beginning. Someone needed to make it happen.

Rebellious humanity seeks out other explanations, trying to obscure what is clear and to escape accountability—but there is no escape. The beginning points to God.

John 1:1-5 shows us the Son of God was present at the beginning, creating with the Father and the Spirit, bring life and light to men. Those activities are gracious.

### 2. The Providing One

Genesis 1:1 makes clear that creation was crafted for mankind to thrive. We live in a purposeful, glorious environment.

Modern environmentalism inverts things, seeing humanity as the problem and seeing the 'pristine' untouched state as ideal. It is a false, anti-human religion.

The glories of creation show us the abundance of his provision and his good purposes for us.

### 3. The Heroic One

Genesis 1:2 introduces the idea of chaos: darkness and deep waters. The chaos is not equal to God—he reigns over it and will work to defeat it.

The Spirit of God is introduced, hovering over the waters. He will defeat chaos.

The word for spirit also means breath, and wind. And just as the wind blew at the Exodus to rescue Israel and defeat Pharaoh, so also he will blow to defeat chaos.

We ought to expect the Lord to defeat the chaos in our own lives, working to achieve his gracious purposes for us.

### Questions:

1. How is chaos present in your life?

2. Do you anticipate God's grace?

3. What are some important implications of God's work as Creator? How does it affect our daily lives?