

## Week 3 Grace (9/10)

What does it mean for God to be gracious? In this video, we'll look at grace as a rich concept that has profound implications for how we see God.

- **Watch on RightNow Media:**  
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/434053>
- **Watch on the Bible Project website:**  
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/character-of-god-grace/>

## Discussion / Study Questions

1. The Hebrew word for “gracious” in Exodus 34:6 is “khanun,” which is related to the Hebrew noun “khen.” This word, “khen,” is often translated as “grace,” but it can also be translated with words like “delight,” “favor,” “charm,” or “beauty.” People with wise, eloquent, or physically beautiful qualities naturally attract khen. Read Proverbs 1:8-9, 22:11, and 31:0 in a few translations. What do you notice about how your Bible translates the word “khen”? Discuss the different ways khen is used in these examples.
2. Khen can also be used to communicate an act of generous favor. In these cases, the recipients of khen are usually undeserving or perceived as such, so translators use words like “mercy” or “plead” for khen or khanun. With this in mind, read Genesis 42:21, Esther 4:8, and Ruth 2:10 before discussing how khen works in these examples.
3. Let’s look at more ways khen is used in the Bible. When undeserving people cry out for God to be khanun or gracious (e.g. Psalm 4:1, Psalm 102:12-14), how does God consistently respond (e.g. Psalm 102:17-21, Isaiah 30:18-20)?
4. God’s consistent response of grace ultimately leads us to Jesus. So let’s turn to the New Testament, where the Greek word “kharis” is often translated as “grace.” Read [John 1:14-17](#) aloud together in your group. How does Jesus fully embody God’s glorious grace?
5. When extraordinary gifts of grace are given, they cannot be experienced unless they are received. Read Ephesians 2:8-9 as well as 1 Peter 5:4-7. According to these passages, with what attitude do people receive God’s gift of kharis?

## Exodus 34:6

Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;

## Proverbs 1:8-9

<sup>8</sup>Hear, my son, your father's instruction  
And do not forsake your mother's teaching;  
<sup>9</sup>Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head  
And ornaments about your neck.

## Proverbs 22:11

He who loves purity of heart  
And whose speech is gracious, the king is his friend.

## Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,  
But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

## Genesis 42:21

Then they said to one another, "Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us."

## Esther 4:8

He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict which had been issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show Esther and inform her, and to order her to go in to the king to implore his favor and to plead with him for her people.

## Ruth 2:10

Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

## Psalms 4:1

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!  
You have relieved me in my distress;  
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer.

## Psalms 102:12-14

<sup>12</sup>But You, O LORD, abide forever,  
And Your name to all generations.  
<sup>13</sup>You will arise *and* have compassion on Zion;  
For it is time to be gracious to her,  
For the appointed time has come.  
<sup>14</sup>Surely Your servants find pleasure in her stones  
And feel pity for her dust.

## Psalms 102:17-21

<sup>17</sup>He has regarded the prayer of the destitute  
And has not despised their prayer.  
<sup>18</sup>This will be written for the generation to come,  
That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.  
<sup>19</sup>For He looked down from His holy height;  
From heaven the LORD gazed upon the earth,  
<sup>20</sup>To hear the groaning of the prisoner,  
To set free those who were doomed to death,  
<sup>21</sup>That *men* may tell of the name of the LORD in Zion

And His praise in Jerusalem,

### **Isaiah 30:18-20**

<sup>18</sup>Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you,  
And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you.  
For the LORD is a God of justice;  
How blessed are all those who long for Him.

<sup>19</sup>O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. <sup>20</sup>Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, *He*, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher.

### **John 1:14-17, The Word Made Flesh**

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>John \*testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" <sup>16</sup>For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup>not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

### **1 Peter 5:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. <sup>5</sup>You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, <sup>7</sup>casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.