

A stylized, layered landscape illustration. The background consists of horizontal, wavy bands of light blue and white, suggesting a sky or water. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills of various shades of green, with some brown patches representing soil or paths. On the left side, there are several stylized plants: a green tree with rounded foliage, a purple flower with multiple layers of petals, and a cluster of orange flowers. A small red bird is flying in the upper left area, leaving a white trail.

# OUR GRACIOUS FATHER

FEB 04, 2024

To request a copy of each message, please email:  
[kcmfellowship01@gmail.com](mailto:kcmfellowship01@gmail.com)

Brethren, when we open our mouth in thanksgiving and start by appreciating God as 'gracious', it has a lot of significance.

Thanksgiving happens! And when you ask God for something and He does it, we give thanks with a grateful heart.

*Psalm 100:4-5 "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise "*

*Psalm 50:43 (NASB) says "He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; And to him who sets his way properly, I will show the salvation of God"*

BUT today, with "Our Gracious Father", we are talking about "expressing a polite or respectful surprise" at the very critical broad promises He has made to us and His people for 2024.

God started the year 2024, for us, by giving us some very critical broad promises:...

# 2024 Critical Broad Promises Revealed

*Psalm 23: 1-6*

**God is our shepherd,  
He will position us and  
make our cup overflow.**

*Exodus 19:4*

**God will carry us on  
eagles' wings, no  
matter what comes up.**

*Ecclesiastes 12:13*

**Our only role is to fear  
God, listen to the Holy  
Spirit, in us, and obey  
His command.**

## *Our Commitment:*

*This 2024, we will lean on God and fear nothing else. And the Lord, our shepherd, will carry us on eagles' wings, He will prepare a success table before us, even in the presence of enemies, and He will make cup to overflow.*

- Let us walk through the open doors of 2024 with boldness.*

## appreciating God as ‘gracious’

- Removes our entitlement mentality over the promises of God.
- Enables us to be humble before God.
- Ignites consciousness and mindfulness about how we conduct ourselves and stay righteous (*‘him who sets his way properly’*)
- *Enables* God to order our steps (*‘I will show’*).
- Positions us to see the salvation of God as He fulfills His promise to us one after another (*‘I will show the salvation of God’*).

Brethren, we cannot afford to be careless in our journey with God this year. There is so much in stock, that every moment will count a lot.

# In Luke 2, the birth of Jesus was announced/Revealed to the Shepherds...

- Question: Why 'to the Shepherds'?

Luke 2:8-12:

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

**Answer:** "keeping watch over their flocks at night." They were awake and keeping watch. Spiritual awakeness/alertness is key to working with God.

As soon as that revelation came to the Shepherds, the first expectation was that they should recognize that they were unworthy to get that revelation/announcement, and so they must proclaim the graciousness of God .....a spiritual humility before God.

To ensure this happened, the angels came down and forced it through:

**Luke 2: 13-**

*<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

*<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

*<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”*

After they had appreciated the graciousness of God, they left to go and see what the Lord had told them about.

Brethren, from now, I hope we will do things differently!

We will appreciate our gracious God first before we even step out to see what He has promised.

Notice that after they had gone and seen, they still turned around and brought 'thanksgiving' to God.

Luke 2:20

*20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

Thanksgiving can come after the event BUT appreciating God's graciousness must come before the event.

Hebrews 1:1 (ESV) says:

*"Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen"*

Truly reverencing God as 'gracious' is an exercise of our faith.



## appreciating God as 'gracious'/2

- James 4:10 *"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor."*
- As we appreciate God as gracious, He gives us the strategy to harness what He has promised.
- In Joshua 5:13-15, as soon as Joshua revered God, He gave him the strategy to conquer Jericho
- *<sup>13</sup> Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. ...., "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord<sup>[e]</sup> have for his servant?"...<sup>15</sup> "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.*
- In that reverence, God gave Joshua the strategy to conquer Jericho (Joshua 6).



Conclusion:

Brethren, God has promised us so much this year.

Let us kick start our harvesting by appreciating God's 'graciousness'.

And continue to express this appreciation until He shows you the strategy to use to harvest His promise.

Then move in quickly and conquer to His glory.

God Bless You!

A stylized illustration of a landscape. The foreground features rolling green hills in various shades of green. On the left, a purple and pink flower with a dark brown stem and small white curls grows on a hill. The background consists of a blue sky with wavy, layered bands of light blue and white. The text "OUR GRACIOUS FATHER" is centered in the middle of the image.

# OUR GRACIOUS FATHER