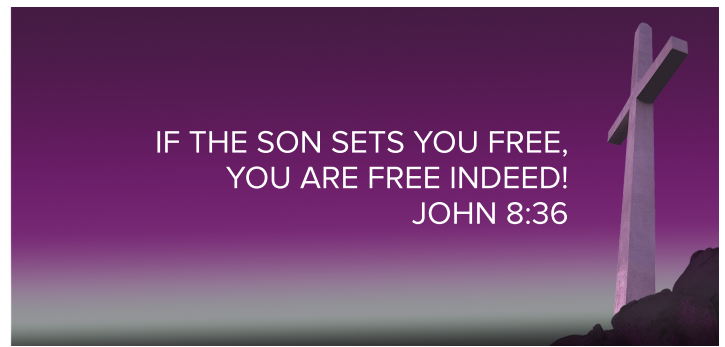


Jesus IOI

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“With uplifted heads, with the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness shining upon them, with rejoicing that their redemption draweth nigh, they go forth to meet the Bridegroom, saying, “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.” Isaiah 25:9.

Jesus spoke about His second coming, and He told several parables about it: the parable of the slaves left in charge (Matthew 24:45–51); the parable of the virgins waiting for the bridegroom (Matthew 25:1–13); the parable of the slaves entrusted with talents (Matthew 25:14–30); and others. He wanted us to keep looking up and not get discouraged, even though we don’t know the time of His coming. The fact that no one knows the time is repeated several times in a few verses: “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone” (Matthew 24:36; see 24:42; 25:13). Jesus mentioned many signs of His coming, so that we may know that the day is *c*loser. The final sign, right before the Second Coming, is that the gospel will be preached in the whole world: “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14)...

Even for the first generation of Christians, who, almost two thousand years ago, saw Jesus taken to heaven in front of their eyes, the news of Jesus’ Second Coming was given as a source of hope and joy: “And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven’ ” (Acts 1:9–11). This promise of another coming of Jesus became known as the *parousia*, and it set the Christian community afire...

We have the great hope of the Second Coming. It will be an *amazing reunion* with our Creator and Redeemer. I can’t wait. The last red letters in the Bible (direct words of Jesus) are recorded in Revelation 22:20 when the risen Christ speaks for the last time: “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Do you hear the eagerness of a Parent coming back for His children? John’s answer is also representative of the longing response all of us have to see our Redeemer and be with God forever: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus” (verse 20).