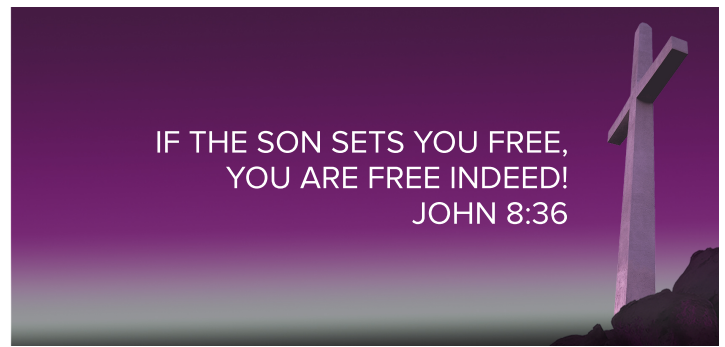


Jesus 101

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

Luke has a great interest in history, and in his Gospel he gives many historical references which would allow his audience to perfectly locate the times and places that he is talking about. The fact that the census is an important piece of the puzzle is highlighted by its repeated use (see Luke 2:1, 2, 3, 5). Because of the census, each family will head to their ancestral city; and Joseph and Mary, being descendants of David, will head to Bethlehem (which means “house of bread”). But what does Bethlehem have to do with King David? Well, I am so glad you asked! David was born in Bethlehem! And all his family was from Bethlehem (you may read the fascinating story of his anointing in Bethlehem in 1 Samuel 16). Don’t you love how everything starts making sense in the big scale when we connect the dots? God has acted in patterns (seasons and geography) so that we wouldn’t miss the coming of the Savior!

While they were in Bethlehem, “the days were completed for her to give birth” (Luke 2:6). Of course, God already knew that, hundreds of years before, “the days” refer not only to the nine months of pregnancy, but to “the days” from eternity, when God designed a plan of salvation before the foundation of the world! Luke uses the concept of time to constantly highlight that God IS IN CHARGE and that His timing is perfect and, may I add, very different from ours. Mary gave birth to her “firstborn” (which carries many theological connotations) and she laid Him in a manger, a place where animals and humans would share humble accommodations. Luke is very interested in those who are at the edges of society: the poor, the outcasts, the outsiders, the destitute, and the marginalized. And Jesus will share their company out there from the very beginning, “because there was no room for them in the inn” (verse 7).

NOW, the time has come to declare the GOOD NEWS! To whom will heaven announce this news, the greatest of all time? To the rich and famous? To the theologians or the intellectuals? Who will be chosen to behold the most impressive heavenly scene ever revealed to human eyes? Perhaps the ones who need it most.

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