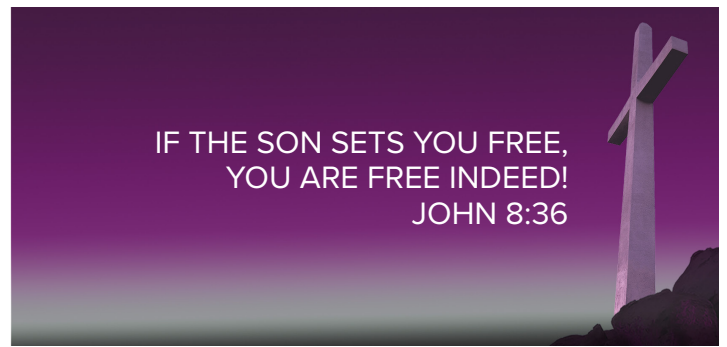


# Jesus TOT

## “Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

*“To show mercy toward our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to Abraham our father.” –Luke 1:72, 73*

The events in redemption history do not happen in a vacuum. They are part of the bigger picture and of the plan of salvation designed before the Creation of the world. And we are to connect the dots to interpret the Scriptures accurately. Joel B. Green explains: “From the standpoint of the Lukan narrative, the key to making sense of the death of Jesus lies in construing it within the matrix of ‘the scriptures.’ . . . What has happened with Jesus can be understood only in light of the Scriptures, yet the Scriptures themselves can be understood only in light of what has happened with Jesus.”\* Luke takes this very seriously. And not only does he connect the dots between the Old Testament and the death of Jesus (see Luke 24:27, 44) but he does it for all of Jesus’ ministry, including His birth.

When Zacharias regained his voice after doubting the angel’s message regarding the birth of his son, he praised God with a prophetic hymn (see Luke 1:68-79). This song has been called “Benedictus,” after its first words in Latin. In this song, Zacharias praises God for visiting His people to accomplish their redemption. He reaches all the way back to Abraham and the prophets, connecting the upcoming roles of both John the Baptist and Jesus the Messiah, as part of the salvific covenant that God had made from the beginning. This is the only time that the word “covenant” is used in the four Gospels (Luke 1:72), aside from the explanation of Jesus in the Last Supper, that His blood was, in fact, the blood of the covenant (see Luke 22:20; Mark 14:24; Matthew 26:28). Yet Luke, throughout his Gospel, often emphasizes that the life and death of Jesus had been prophesied in the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms long before. I find great assurance in understanding that God has a detailed plan for our salvation, and that He has been faithful to His redemptive covenant throughout the centuries. And He is faithful in our own individual lives as well, guiding us, and our loved ones, providentially, in order to fulfill His redemptive purposes in us. He is loyal to His salvific covenant!

\*Joel B. Green, *The Gospel of Luke*, NICNT (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1997), 843, 844.

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins!*, p. 301.