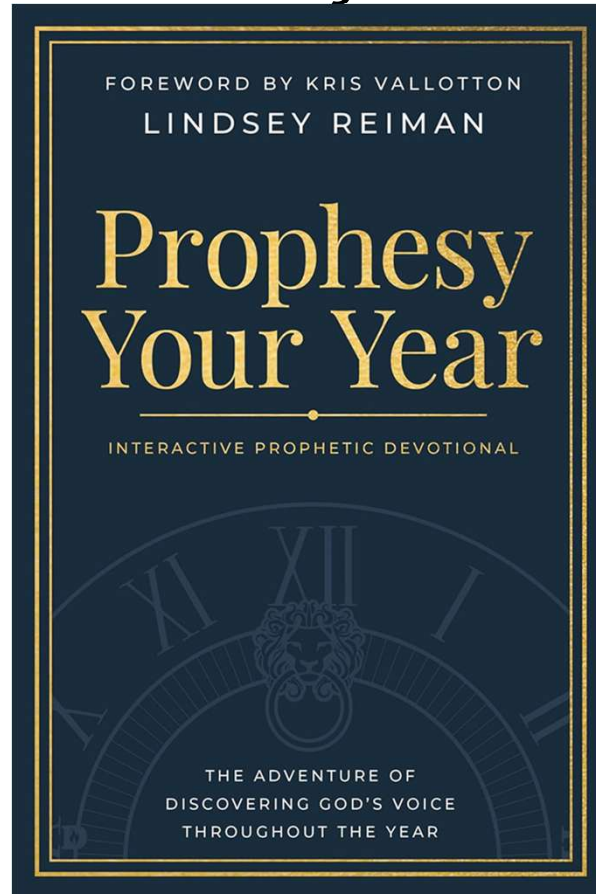


A wide-angle landscape photograph capturing a powerful sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with thick, horizontal layers of clouds, which are brilliantly lit from below, creating a vibrant orange and yellow glow. The sun is positioned just above the horizon, its light reflecting off the cloud surfaces. In the foreground, a dark, silhouetted mountain range stretches across the frame. Below the mountains, a dense line of trees and foliage is visible, also in silhouette. The overall mood is serene yet majestic, with the text 'A Year of Grace' centered over the middle of the image in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

A Year of Grace

A Year of Grace



A Year of Grace

“I want you to be aware of My unfailing grace. This is a year to know and extend My grace as never before on the earth. It is a ramping up of grace from My Body to a broken and devastated world, both at home and in community.”

[I was given a person to focus on in January.] “[This person] will be your focus this month. Let your heart swell with love and care for [them]. Let your heart break with [theirs]. Then, extend My grace to [them].

“This is a year of grace for My Church. After a year of ironing out issues in the Church, they will be ready to extend My grace to the lost as I have done.”

A wide-angle landscape photograph capturing a powerful sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with thick, horizontal layers of clouds, which are brilliantly lit from below by the sun, creating a vibrant orange and yellow glow. The sun itself is positioned just above the horizon, creating a strong lens flare effect. Below the sky, a range of dark, silhouetted mountains stretches across the middle ground. In the foreground, a dense line of trees and shrubs is visible, also in silhouette. The overall mood is serene yet majestic, with the text 'A Friend Indeed' centered over the middle of the image in a clean, orange font.

A Friend Indeed

FOREWORD BY TROY BREWER

WORDS THAT WORK

A LANGUAGE
OF LIGHT
for A
WORLD
LIVING IN
DARKNESS

CINDY MCGILL

A Friend Indeed

Unique people groups in unique places.

Burning Man Festival

Sundance Film Festival

Pornography Conventions

New Age stores, gathering, events

A Friend Indeed

Unique tools of evangelism.

Changing the language of evangelism.

- Church hurts/wounds

- Christian words that create walls/barriers

- Jesus, salvation, sin, etc.

To reach their hearts for Jesus.

A Friend Indeed

These are My friends.

A Friend Indeed

John 15:13 NKJV

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.”

A Friend Indeed

John 15:14 NKJV

“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”

A Friend Indeed

Proof-texting:

Using Scripture to support my thoughts/statements without considering the context or intent of the text.

A Friend Indeed

He stands at the beginning and sees all of our days and purposes.

A Friend Indeed

He stands at the beginning and sees all of our days and purposes.

Psalms 139:16 NKJV

“Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.”

A Friend Indeed

He stands at the beginning and sees all of our days and purposes.

Ephesians 2:10 NKJV

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

A Friend Indeed

Because all of our days are written, He knows our end from our beginning.

Isaiah 46:10 NKJV

“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'”

CJB

“At the beginning, I announce the end, proclaim in advance things not yet done; and I say that my plan will hold, I will do everything I please to do.”

A Friend Indeed

He stands outside of time.

He knows the end from the beginning.

A Friend Indeed

He stands outside of time.

He knows the end from the beginning.

He calls us friends from the beginning, because He knows the ending.

A Friend Indeed

He calls seekers friend in a future context.

A Friend Indeed

He calls seekers friends in a future context.

It has not happened yet, but He knows it will.

A Friend Indeed

It is about verb tense.

It is “related to a future tense – the action has not yet occurred.”

A Friend Indeed

It is about verb tense.

John 15:13 NKJV (emphasis mine)

“Greater love has no one than this, than to [future] lay down his life for his friends.”

A Friend Indeed

Jesus had not yet laid His life down for His friends when He spoke these words.

He said this in a future-past context.

A Friend Indeed

Romans 5:8 NKJV

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

A Friend Indeed

No Greater Love.

A Friend Indeed

No Greater Love.

He laid His life down for His friends, while we were yet sinners.

A Friend Indeed

Our proper response.

John 15:16 NKJV

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

A Friend Indeed

Our proper response.

The verb tense both times He says, “bear fruit” is active and continuous.

John 15:16 NKJV

“...that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain...”

A Friend Indeed

Our proper response.

John 15:16 NKJV

“...that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

“you ask” and “may give” are both the same future tense as verse 13.

A Friend Indeed

He chose us before the foundations of the world. Psalms 139:16

He died for us while we were yet sinners. Romans 5:8

He knows the end from the beginning. Isaiah 46:10

He called us friends before He died for us. Romans 15:13

What is our proper response to these truths?

A Friend Indeed

What is our proper response to these truths?

Ephesians 2:10, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Take up our cross and follow Him. Mark 10:21

Lay down our lives for His/our friends. Matthew 16:24

A Friend Indeed

What is our proper response to these truths?

Remembering we did not choose Him, but He chose us, we must partner with Him in choosing “them,” knowing He calls them His friends before they choose Him, too.

A Friend Indeed

Who is Jesus' Friend?

The undesirable and disenfranchised.

Matthew 11:19, He was called "a friend of tax collectors and sinners."

The Sick.

Mark 1:40-41, "Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, 'If You are willing, You can make me clean.' Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I am willing; be cleansed.'"

A Friend Indeed

Who is Jesus' Friend?

The Unsavory, Immoral Outsider:

The Samaritan woman at the well. (John 4:1-42)

The woman caught in adultery. (John 8:1-11)

Also:

Jairus, a ruler of the temple. (Luke 8:41-56)

The disciples, apostles, you, and I,

and those seekers He has chosen, who have not yet chosen Him.

A Friend Indeed

There is no “us and them” theology.

There is only “saved” and “seeker”.

A Friend Indeed

Why say “seeker” instead of “sinner” or “lost”?

Everyone is “seeking” something to fill the God-size hole in their soul.

We are made for worship, and we seek the object of our worship until we find the True Source, Jesus.

A Friend Indeed

When we look at the masses, we are tempted to judge their activities and be angry with how their choices affect our lives and the lives of our children.

A Friend Indeed

When we look at the masses, we are tempted to judge their activities and be angry with how their choices affect our lives and the lives of our children.

Can we tune our ear to the still small voice that speaks to our hearts, “these are My friends,” and treat them with the honor and care due them?

A Friend Indeed

How can we extend grace in these situations?

We can stand with Jesus and see the end from the beginning.

We can partner with Him to see their current value and their future wholeness and speak from that place.

We can extend His hand and pull them forward into their glorious future with Him.

A Friend Indeed

This is what GRACE looks like.