

PREPARATION FOR THE JOURNEY

“FRONT COVER & BEYOND”



Lyndsey Standage

Meet Lyndsey Standage, a young lady that feels God has blessed her with hands that love to paint and draw; thus, the artist responsible for the portrait of “My Jewish Messiah” on the front cover. As your eyes soak in the beauty of this rendering of Jesus, it is important for all of you to hear how God’s hand was at work in making the connection between this magnificent artist and the writer of “My Jewish Messiah”.

On a glorious day when the Ozark hills were alive with the melodic sounds of birds perched among blossom covered trees announcing the arrival of another glorious spring, in retrospect, the artist and writer now view that backdrop and season as the Creator’s way of drawing two kindred spirits together for his purpose of spreading the good news of the kingdom.

Having never met, as well as being generations removed, the two suddenly found themselves placed together in a “get acquainted” exercise during a women’s retreat. When hearing Lyndsey describe her

love for painting and drawing, the writer immediately responded with the words, “I would absolutely love to view your paintings.” Not wasting a moment, this young lady retrieved her phone from her cabin and quickly scrolled down through an art gallery created by herself as a high school student, now ready for her first year of college. Upon witnessing her outstanding ability to use all forms of medium and techniques, it was immediately obvious to the writer that this young lady possessed talent and wisdom beyond her years.

Then, when hearing about the writer’s need of a front cover for “My Jewish Messiah”, the rest is history; it was apparent to these two new friends that God’s hand was definitely at work. Through the indwelling of his Spirit, extraordinary events would be unfolding worldwide. At this juncture, both recognized the necessity to “Be still and know that I am God” would be their Scripture to obey.

Although Lyndsey relished painting portraits of individuals, she immediately realized that this endeavor would be a challenge because of never having seen the face of Jesus with her human eyes. Thus, facing the difficulty head on, she proceeded to turn each day when painting our Lord’s portrait into devotional time. She prayed for the Holy Spirit to work through her hands in a way that would show how the world was to view Jesus. Lyndsey spent considerable time praying over his nose, mouth, eyes, expression, and overall countenance; carefully listening to the voice of Holy Spirit as her guide before making each stroke. Using this technique, there were many times when she would blot out her work and bow in prayer for greater clarification. Above all else, she was determined that the portrait of Jesus would show **joy, peace, and passion**; all the gifts he had bestowed on her every day of her life. In the mind of this beautiful young girl, at this early age, she had already arrived at the conclusion that “TO KNOW HER JEWISH MESSIAH WAS TO LOVE HIM”.

Prior to reading Chapter One, study the portrait of Jesus and note the following:

- 1) *His brown complexion reflects the area of the world in which he lived.*
- 2) *His hair has streaks from being kissed over time by the sun.*
- 3) *Note the wrinkle at the corner of his eye; her way of showing he carried the weight of the world by endlessly delivering the news of the kingdom down every path he walked.*
- 4) *Center on the shape of his eyes and mouth that reflect pure joy as he prays to his Father.*
- 5) *View the simplicity of his simple garment that delivers a clear message of humility.*
- 6) *Did you see the facial hair that would have appeared while walking the many miles without a place to rest his exhausted body?*
- 7) *Jesus was born, crucified, and resurrected a Jew, as shown in her painting.*
- 8) *Scan the beautiful ethereal background that creates the reflection of heaven literally caressing his body with radiance and light as he communicates with the Father.*

As you read each chapter of this collection, allow the Holy Spirit to enter every space of your being so you, too, will receive the heavenly glow of the Father into your life. TO SEE OUR SAVIOR MORE CLEARLY IS TO LOVE HIM MORE DEARLY!

Visit
sscoop.wix.com/standagelyndseyart
to see Lyndsey’s beautiful paintings.