

Press Kit

the OTHER

3:16S

MALINDA FUGATE

Author Bios

Short: Malinda Fugate is a Children's Education Director and writer of faith resources for children and adults.

Medium: Malinda Fugate serves as the Children's Education Director at a church in Southern California. She attended Azusa Pacific University and worked behind the scenes in Los Angeles Christian radio. Her writing includes *The Other Three Sixteens*, *Bible Time for Active Kids*, copywriting, faith-based stage and screen plays, and co-producing *A Single Girl's Guide To*, blog and web series.



Long: Malinda Fugate grew up in children's ministry. Now, after two decades of dedicated volunteer service, she now serves full-time as the Children's Education Director at a church in Southern California. Malinda studied communications and theatre at Azusa Pacific University, then worked behind the scenes at the Los Angeles Salem radio stations, including The Fish and KKLA. Her writing includes *The Other Three Sixteens*, *Bible Time for Active Kids*, commercial copywriting, various faith-based stage and screen plays, as well as co-producing *A Single Girl's Guide To*, a lifestyle blog and web series. Her lifelong study of God's Word continues to reveal more about the Lord every day. She lives by the beach with her pup, Yoshi.

Media Bio

Malinda Fugate serves as the Children's Education Director at a Southern California church and writes for God's children of all ages. Her recent book, *The Other Three Sixteens*, explores the reality of God's love in our lives today. She also created a children's devotional, *Bible Time for Active Kids*, full of biblically-based activities to bring kids closer to the Lord. Her passion is connecting people with God in tangible ways.

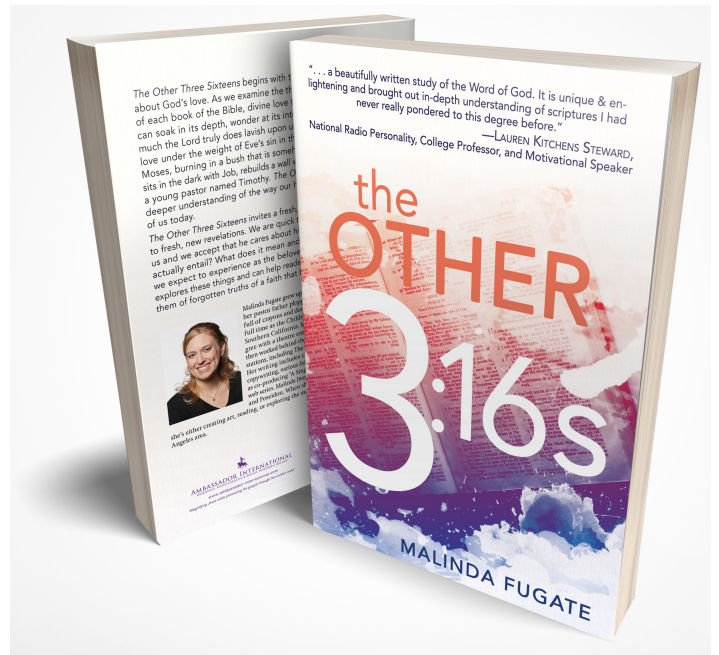
5 Fun Facts You Didn't Know About Me

- Though originally from Ohio and Kentucky, I currently live on the beach in the L.A. area.
- I'm a pastor's kid.
- Besides writing and children's ministry, I also have a degree in film production.
- I have bipolar disorder, and God has taken me on quite a life journey.
- I've run multiple half marathons and organize our church's annual 6k to support Team World Vision's clean water projects.

Book Synopsis

Discover how one well-known verse unlocks treasures of God's love that are waiting to be discovered.

"For God so loved the world..." begins the greatest declaration of divine love. However, it's impossible to contain the treasures of God's love in a sentence. *The Other Three Sixteens* explores the third chapter, sixteenth verse of each book of the Bible to reveal how God cares for His children.



The Other Three Sixteens begins with the well-known passage in John 3:16 about God's love. As we examine the third chapter and sixteenth verse of each book of the Bible, divine love takes on many dimensions. We can soak in its depth, wonder at its intricacies, and be moved at how much the Lord truly does lavish upon us. Together, we discover God's love under the weight of Eve's sin in the garden. It's there in front of Moses, burning in a bush that is somehow not consumed. God's love sits in the dark with Job, rebuilds a wall with Nehemiah, and encourages a young pastor name Timothy. *The Other Three Sixteens* leads to a deeper understanding of the way our Heavenly Father cares for each of us today.

The Other Three Sixteens invites a fresh, new perspective that can lead to fresh, new revelations. We are quick to acknowledge that God loves us and we accept that He cares about His children. But what does that actually entail? What does it mean and how does it work? What can we expect to experience as the beloved? *The Other Three Sixteens* explores these things and can help readers uncover surprises or remind them of forgotten truths of a faith that has become routine.

Book Review Excerpts

"I can't recall the last time I read a book as powerful as The Other Three Sixteens. It encourages the reader to dip into the harmonious waters of the greatest Book ever written and successfully tackles the task of revealing God's love and grace through the other "3:16"s in the Bible, which is the central mission of The Church. I wholeheartedly recommend The Other Three Sixteens to both young Christian converts as well as seasoned saints. Pastors, if you are looking for sermon material, then this is a must read."

—Dr. Gary L. Phillips,
Senior Pastor, Calvary Assembly of God, El Monte, CA

"The Other Three Sixteens is a beautifully written study of the Word of God. It is unique & enlightening & brought out in-depth understanding of scriptures I had never really pondered to this degree before. Malinda probes into key aspects of the Bible that remind us of God's goodness, mercy, grace, & faithfulness. This is an edifying, insightful read in solitude, or with an accountability group, & time well spent."

—Lauren Kitchens Steward,
National Radio Personality, College Professor, Motivational Speaker

"Malinda Fugate's meditations on 3:16 is a book of great sense and sapience, equally savvy and savory. I read it while looking at Donald Knuth's 3:16, where this computer scientist commissioned a different artist/calligrapher to portray in visual form of each 3:16 in the Bible. The joining together of Malinda's words with Knuth's images produced a rapturous, even spellbinding experience of the transcendent that I wish were available to all readers of her charming book."

—Leonard Sweet,
best-selling author, professor (Drew University, George Fox University, Tabor College, Evangelical Seminary), and founder/chief contributor to preachthestory.com

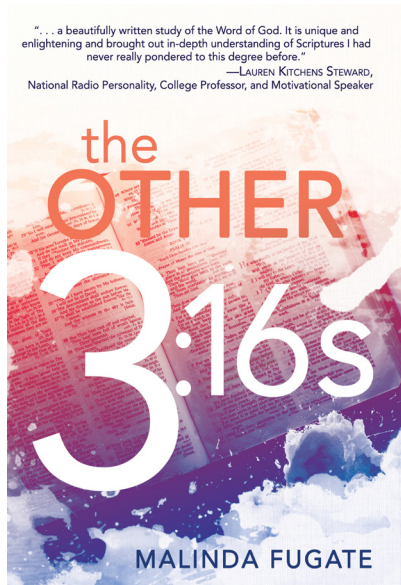


The Other Three Sixteens news release

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DISCOVER HOW ONE WELL-KNOWN VERSE UNLOCKS TREASURES OF GOD'S LOVE THAT ARE WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED.



RELEASE DATE: May 12, 2020
TRADE Paperback
PAGES: 284
PRICE: \$15.99
ISBN: 9781935507147

For immediate release: In her new book, *The Other Three Sixteens* (Ambassador International, May 12, 2020, \$15.99) Malinda Fugate offers a fresh, new biblical perspective that can lead to fresh, new revelations. As Christians, we are quick to acknowledge that God loves us and we accept that He cares about His children. But what does that actually entail? What does it mean and how does it work? What can we expect to experience as the beloved? *The Other Three Sixteens* explores these things and can help readers uncover surprises or remind them of forgotten truths of a faith that has become routine. Fugate was challenged to study the 3:16s in each book of the Bible to discover what they could reveal about the love of God. As she discovered, read and learned, she was inspired to share this message of love with anyone and everyone through her new book.

About the Book

“For God so loved the world . . .”

Many of us could finish that sentence in our sleep. John 3:16 is a beautiful Scripture that neatly and simply sums up the message of the Gospel. But what do all the other 3:16s in the Bible have to tell us?

The words of the Bible weave a tapestry of love, particularly the love that our Heavenly Father has for His children. But a love so deep and so wide cannot be contained in one memorized phrase. It takes multiple authors of sixty-six individual books to begin to explore the mystery of God's care for us.

The Other Three Sixteens by Malinda Fugate examines each third chapter and sixteenth verse in the Bible and invites a fresh, new perspective to help readers uncover surprises or remind them of forgotten truths of a faith that has become routine.

Through Genesis to Revelation, we can soak in its depth, wonder at its intricacies, and be moved at how much the Lord truly does lavish upon us. Together, we discover God's love under the weight of Eve's sin in the garden. It's there in front of Moses, burning in a bush that is somehow not consumed. God's love sits in the dark with Job, rebuilds a wall with Nehemiah, and encourages a young pastor named Timothy. Together we will find a deeper understanding of the way our Heavenly Father cares for each of us today.

Discussion questions suitable for individual or group use included.

To connect with the author or request a review copy of *The Other Three Sixteens*, please contact publicity director Liz Burgdorf at media@emeraldhouse.com.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER: Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International's books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit www.ambassador-international.com. You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl.

Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:

1. Why did you write *The Other Three Sixteens*?
2. Is there anything magical or special about the 3:16 verses?
3. What was the most surprising thing you discovered while writing this book?
4. Which chapter was the most difficult to address?
5. How do we reconcile the times when God doesn't seem loving at all with the Scripture that tells about His care and nurture?
6. How did *The Other Three Sixteens* change you?
7. What qualifies you to write a book like this without attending seminary?
8. Is the God of the Old Testament truly a loving as the God we see in the New Testament?
9. What does *The Other Three Sixteens* have to do with our average, day-to-day living?
10. Do extremely familiar Sunday school stories have anything new to teach us after we've read them over and over?



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MALINDA FUGATE

Author of *"The Other Three Sixteens"*



Malinda Fugate grew up in children's ministry from the moment her pastor father plopped her down into the church nursery full of crayons and donated Fisher Price toys. Since then, it's been a non-stop whirlwind of flannel board, VBS, and hand-motivated songs. After two decades of dedicated volunteer service, she now serves full-time as the Children's Education Director at a church in Southern California. Malinda earned a communications degree with a theatre emphasis from Azusa Pacific University, then worked behind the scenes at the Los Angeles Salem radio stations, including The Fish and KKLA. Her writing includes children's faith resources, commercial copywriting, various faith-based stage and screen plays, as well as co-producing "A Single Girls Guide To," a lifestyle blog and web series. She lives by the beach with her two pups, Yoshi and Poseidon. When she's not writing or working at church, she's either creating art, reading, or exploring the many adventures to be found in the Los Angeles area.

Connect with the Author

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Interview Questions

1. Why did you write *The Other Three Sixteens*?

After memorizing and teaching John 3:16 to kids for many years, other 3:16 verses started to jump out at me when I'd read them. *The Other Three Sixteens* began as curiosity and God revealed so many treasures during the process. It became clear that it was too big to keep to myself; such goodness must be shared.

2. Is there anything magical or special about the 3:16 verses?

There's no magic formula to Bible study. In fact, the numbered verses have been added over time to help us study, they were not in the original books and letters. God's love is so immense it fills every part of Scripture, but we used 3:16 as our guide for this particular journey.

3. What was the most surprising thing you discovered while writing this book?

The biggest surprise was discovering love in unlikely places, in the dark and painful seasons of life. When God at first seemed the most distant, a second glance revealed that He was there all along doing amazing things.

4. What chapter was the most difficult to address?

The minor prophets were a challenge! The ancient messages of warning to Israel were similar and bleak, so it took a much closer look to recognize God's love there then and for us today.

5. How do we reconcile the times when God doesn't seem loving at all, despite scriptures that tell of His care and nurture?

One of our biggest challenges as humans is our limited perspective. We are so often blind to everything happening around us, especially when it comes to the divine and supernatural. We are distracted or we have already established our expectations, so we overlook how God loves us. We allow our hurt and anger to overshadow God's goodness and our impatience leads us to jump to premature conclusions before the Lord completes His perfect work in His perfect time.

6. How did *The Other Three Sixteens* change you?

Writing this book opened my eyes to the astounding ways God is active and tangible. So much of our journey is by faith and not by sight, but there is a lot to see when we are paying attention. God consistently keeps His promises and has purpose in the details. As I became more familiar with God's voice, I began to recognize Him more clearly.

Interview Questions - Continued

7. What qualifies you to write a book like this without attending seminary?

While seminary resources are wonderful, I've discovered such a wealth of books and online resources available to us all. We are truly blessed in this information age! God's Word is accessible to everyone, and the Holy Spirit gives us understanding when we study prayerfully and learn from the teachings of our pastors, teachers, and scholars. We often make the mistake of thinking God chooses favorites or that deep study is for special people. We even sometimes refer to the people in the pages of the Bible as heroes. But every child of God is special and He wants us all to know Him intimately. I am just an everyday person writing for everyday people, and I pray my example inspires others to enthusiastically study.

8. Is the God of the Old Testament truly as loving as the God we see in the New Testament?

Yes, God is the same yesterday, today, and forever! The story of the Lord and His people is an intricate tapestry, and His justice and compassion are consistent over the ages. It requires big picture perspective, faith, and God's help as we begin to understand His mystery. We may not completely grasp His divine nature while here on earth, but I believe He will give us great understanding as we pursue knowledge and relationship with Him.

9. What does *The Other Three Sixteens* have to do with our average daily life?

The Other Three Sixteens has everything to do with everyday life. God is with us and working in our lives every moment. His love transforms the way we exist and love Him as well as love others. The decisions we make and our approach to challenges are all changed when we recognize God's active, tangible love in our lives.

10. Do extremely familiar Sunday school stories have anything new to teach us after we've read them over and over?

The Bible is a remarkable book like no other. We can read it multiple times and find fresh and new treasures. Our understanding of the stories grows into a solid foundation and we receive new revelations. As we grow, the familiar stories take on new dimensions. God's Word is the story of a lifetime.



Malinda Fugate - Author

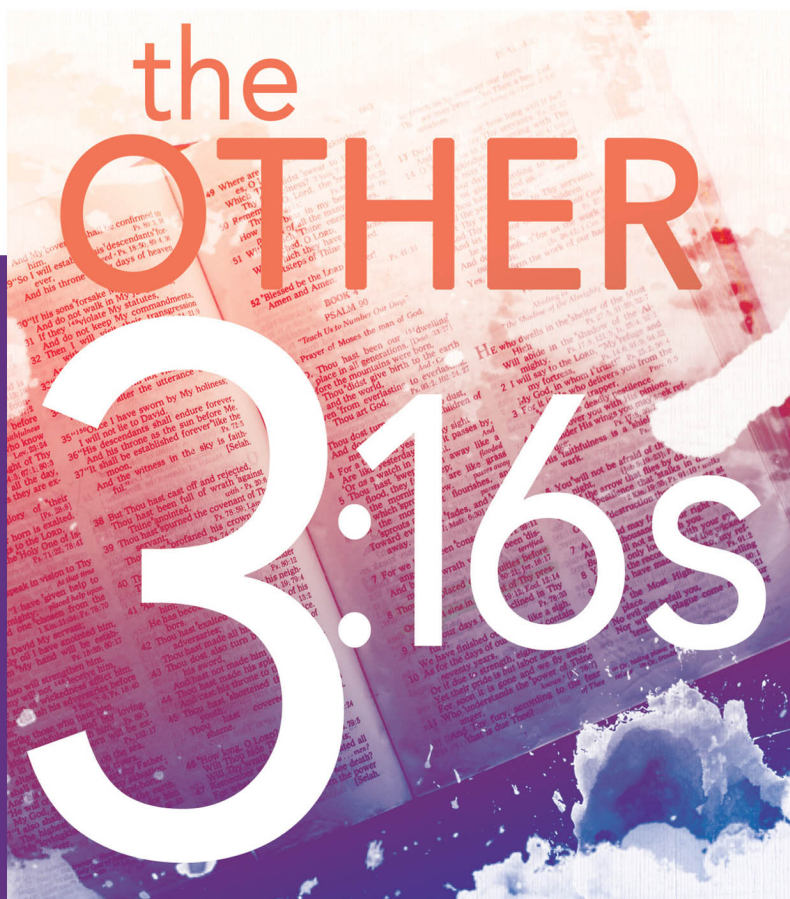
Malinda Fugate is a Children's Education Director and writer of faith resources for children and adults.

Synopsis

"For God so loved the world..." begins the greatest declaration of divine love. From John 3:16, *The Other Three Sixteens* explores the third chapter, sixteenth verse of each book of the Bible to reveal how God cares for His children.

Together, we discover God's love under the weight of Eve's sin in the garden. It's there in front of Moses, burning in a bush that is somehow not consumed. God's love sits in the dark with Job, rebuilds a wall with Nehemiah, and encourages a young pastor name Timothy. *The Other Three Sixteens* leads to a deeper understanding of the way our Heavenly Father cares for each of us today.

The Other Three Sixteens invites a fresh, new perspective that can lead to fresh, new revelations. As we explore God's love, we uncover surprises and forgotten truths of a faith that has become routine.



What People Are Saying

"I can't recall the last time I read a book as powerful as *The Other Three Sixteens*. I wholeheartedly recommend *The Other Three Sixteens* to both young Christian converts as well as seasoned saints. Pastors, if you are looking for sermon material, then this is a must read."

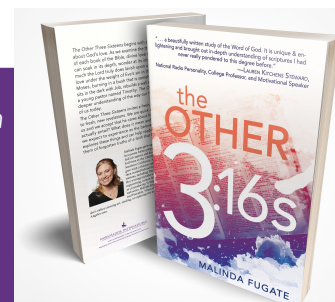
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—Leonard Sweet,
best-selling author, professor
(Drew University, George Fox
University, Tabor College,
Evangelical Seminary), and
founder/chief contributor to
preachthestory.com



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Sample Chapter

The Other Three Sixteens

Malinda Fugate

Chapter three: EXODUS

“Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt.’” - Exodus 3:16

Moses is a central character in the book of Exodus, beginning with his birth and following his journey as he led the people out of Egypt toward the Promised Land. By the time we arrive in the third chapter, Moses had left his adopted childhood home in Egypt and established a new life in Midian. He had a wife and young family to support while shepherding his father-in-law's flock of sheep. All seemed calm and quiet until he stumbled upon a strange sight on the far side of the wilderness. He found a bush, and it was ablaze with flames. However, the fire did not consume it in the usual charred and smoky fashion. This called for closer examination. As Moses peered into the fire, a voice called his name, right from the bush! Moses calmly replied, “Here I am.”

The fact that this whole scene did not freak out our guy Moses is remarkable. It speaks to the calming presence of the Lord in the midst of the miraculous. But the flaming foliage was not the main event here, God was, and He had something to say. First, He established boundaries. Moses was told not to come any closer, but instead to remove his shoes in respect for the holy ground where he found himself standing. Once that's settled, the Lord continued His explanation of why He called this holy meeting. He heard the painful cries of the Israelites as they were oppressed in slavery in Egypt. He was going to deliver his people from bondage and has chosen Moses to lead them out of their captivity.

Moses had some questions, and God, of course, had the answers and more. The two were discussing details when we get to our next 3:16: “Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt.’” Let's break this down and see where we find evidence of God's love.

The first part is straightforward; it's part of Moses' instructions. This is the beginning of an epic friendship, one that develops through the entire book of Exodus. The love between God and Moses was strengthened through adversity, plagues, miracles, and dependence. But, for now, we see God's love in the act of entrusting Moses with the weighty task of confronting Pharaoh and freeing His beloved people. It's a love that didn't simply delegate a job and walk away. Instead, God was with Moses at every step in the journey, from confronting Pharaoh to implementing the first Passover, or raising a rod to tell the Red Sea to make a path and leading an entire nation through the wilderness. Even at this very beginning, God provided direction and answered questions from a man who felt

Sample Chapter - Continued

very unqualified for his job. God equips and reassures those He loves. The writer of Hebrews included this in his benediction: "Now may the God of peace.... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21).

The second sentence holds some pretty serious weight. We frequently run across the phrase "God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" as we read Scripture. At face value, it's descriptive enough. In a land where multiple gods were worshiped, the Jewish people wanted to be clear when they were talking about the God, the same God they'd been following all their lives, the God of their fathers and ancestors. There is also another layer when we look at the relationships God had with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These were relationships rooted in love. Cruise back over to Genesis 15, and you'll find God making His initial covenant with Abraham, who was then known as Abram. After describing Himself to be Abram's shield and great reward, God promised that Abram's descendants will be too many to count. He also promised possession of the very land upon which Abram was standing. Both of these things seemed pretty unbelievable, given Abram's situation of childlessness and advanced age. But God keeps His word, and a covenant was made between the Divine and the mortal.

Also, check out verses 13-16, where God gave Abram a glimpse of the very situation we find in Exodus, though hundreds of years before it happened! True to the covenant, Abraham wouldn't remain childless. His son, Isaac, also had a relationship with God Almighty. When we jump ahead to Genesis 26:2-4, we see God renewing the covenant, this time with Isaac. In addition to the vow of offspring and land possession, the Lord told Isaac that, despite famine, he should remain where he was, and he'd be blessed. Then, Isaac's son, Jacob, also has a relationship with the Lord, though one with quite a rocky start. Despite Jacob's stubbornness and tendency to deceive, God remained faithful to the covenant He made with Jacob's father and grandfather. His words, spoken to Jacob in a heavenly vision, are recorded in Genesis 28:13-15, again echoing the promise of descendants and land. He said that all peoples on earth will be blessed through Jacob and his offspring, then assured him that He will be with Jacob, watching over him wherever he goes. Further into his story we find Jacob in an actual wrestling match with the angel of the Lord. That's a strong commitment for a powerful God to meet Jacob in that place, going as far as to give him a new name while continuing the sacred covenant.

So what could possibly inspire the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth to take interest in the life of a single human being? What is it that would drive a deity to make promises to His creation? Not only does He make the covenant, but He steadfastly keeps it. Deuteronomy 7:8-9 sums it up succinctly. "But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments."

Sample Chapter - Continued

The answer, of course, is love. No other force would be great enough to sustain such a promise to human beings who are full of flaws and limitations. Only the perfect love of the Most High God could inspire and fulfill such a covenant to His precious children.

We're not done yet. There's one more piece of Exodus 3:16: "I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt." The people were suffering, and just when they thought they had reached their limit, the Egyptians increased their oppression. Yet, none of this goes unnoticed by God. Not only does He see, but He is closely watching. He was paying careful attention to the Israelites, purposely keeping His eyes on them. He was with his people; He did not abandon them. The next question is, then, why did He allow the pain to last for so long? This is a huge inquiry that many have struggled with, and have, in fact, struggled with for all time. The account of Job is likely the oldest book in the Bible, and it centers around the question of why suffering exists. When Job called out with pleas of "why?", God answered him... but not necessarily with "because". Instead, He provided a glimpse of His glory and an assurance that His plans are perfect. Since then, we have learned that God's big picture and his attention to detail and timing are intentional—and ultimately in our best interest. We cling to scriptures that promise future hope and things working for our benefit when we can't understand why things seem wrong, while trusting that God is good. The Israelites also cried out to their God. As their oppression went on, God watched with compassionate eyes. They would remain in bondage no longer; a rescue was coming.

For the Israelites, their darkness came in the form of slavery. Over the centuries, all of God's people have experienced some form of darkness. It comes in all varieties, big and small, external and internal. We face pain, bleak circumstances, injustice, catastrophes, illness, persecution.... These seasons are dark, and they can be long. We may feel unloved and forgotten by our Heavenly Father, but, dear child of God, He is watching. And don't for one second think that He is a passive bystander. His never-faltering presence is a light in the dark. He is in the process of making something good and beautiful out of deepest despair. God sees you. He cares about what is happening to you. He loves you. A rescue is coming.

We could stop here at our 3:16 and cling to the richness found in these short phrases. But our eyes can't help to continue down the page to find out what will happen next and how God's people will be saved. We know that they will most certainly be rescued. There was a covenant to be fulfilled. God's people would be given more than just relief from slavery; they would be given an entire blessed land of promise. They would be redeemed.... And so will we.