

SCRIPTURE FROM THE GOSPELS AND THE PROPHETS

THE Christmas Story

*For a child will be born
to us, a son will be given
to us; And the government
will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be
called Wonderful, Counsellor,
Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.*



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What is Advent?

ADVENT IS a season of four Sundays that mark the beginning of a new church year. The ancient Christian church celebrated Advent as a kind of fresh start to faith and worship. Advent is a time to anticipate and spiritually prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior: God's gift of love to us. At the same time, Advent anticipates and hopes for Jesus' glorious return at the end of the age.

THE WORD "advent" comes from the Latin *advenio* meaning "coming" or "arrival."

THE TRADITIONAL Bible readings for Advent teach how the prophets, kings, and forerunners prepared the way for the coming Messiah.

MANY CHRISTIANS celebrate Advent with a special time of devotions including Bible reading, prayer, singing, and lighting candles on an Advent wreath.

Advent Colors

PURPLE HAS traditionally been the main Advent color, symbolizing repentance and fasting. A royal color, purple looks forward to reception of the coming King who is celebrated during Advent. Today, however, many churches use blue instead of purple.

PINK OR rose is used during the third Sunday. It represents joy, anticipating the coming celebration.

WHITE IS the color of the center candle, representing Christ as the sinless, pure Savior.





IN OUR modern understanding of the Christmas story, the birth of Jesus was a touching event with barnyard animals and the shepherd's adoration. But from another perspective the countdown of his life was on; for ultimately, God had sent this Child into the world for a greater purpose:

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." —LUKE 19:10

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." —JOHN 3:16

JESUS HAD been born through a virgin by the Spirit of God, making Him both the Son of God and the Son of Man, which put Him in a completely unique position. Being fully human, He could be tempted in every way as we, and touched with our feelings and infirmities; yet being fully Divine as well, He could—and did—overcome every trial in life. This makes him our champion in a very special way.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." —JOHN 15:13

BECAUSE JESUS never sinned, He could offer His life in the place of sinners, but it would take all of His

love for this to happen. His soul was greatly troubled and He agonized over the sacrifice He would make. But though the cost was truly great, His care for us was greater still, so that He gave Himself freely to redeem us all:

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." —ISAIAH 53:5-6

He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.



Jesus

JESUS HAS loved us with an everlasting love and has washed us from our sins in His own blood (Jeremiah 31:3; Revelation 1:5). But the same passage offers a challenge: “Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?” (Isaiah 53:1). For God requires each of us to believe the testimony that He has given of His Son, and to put our trust in Him.

AFTER JESUS died, He rose again on the third day as the prophets foretold. After His resurrection, He appeared to many witnesses who had seen the prophecies come true in Him. Many of them wrote accounts of His life, of His loving sacrifice, and His resurrection, and what He meant to us through these.

AS THE season of Advent unfolds and Christmas Day draws near, our sense of anticipation awakens. While the world falls deeper into darkness, the true light is already shining in our hearts.

THE RISEN Christ ascended into heaven, and we again wait in hope for His imminent return. With the inner peace and joy He gives, we look to a day when He will wipe away all of our tears and we will know a love that is perfected in His presence forever.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Hail! the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail! the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heav'n adored:
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veil'd in flesh, the Godhead see;
Hail, th' incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”



The Christmas Story

This beautiful pamphlet tells the story of Jesus' birth and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. Perfect for a Bible Study during Advent or a church handout at Christmas, it uses the traditional wording from Matthew and Luke's Gospels, starting with the angelic announcement of John the Baptist's birth and culminating with the Gospel story and a forward look toward Christ's second coming. Treasured for its beautiful artwork and convenient size, it fits neatly inside a Bible cover and can be folded out to reveal the story within 14 panels.

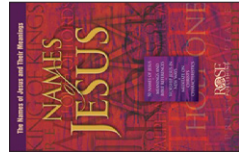
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Life of Jesus Time Line, Pamphlet

Easily see the stories of Jesus in the four Gospels in a fresh new way by looking at them in the order they happened with this full-color time line. From the birth of Christ in Bethlehem to his ascension into heaven, see helpful Bible references for 75 key events, including Jesus' ministry, the Transfiguration, the Last Supper, and more at a glance!

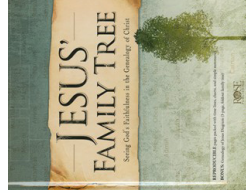
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Names of Jesus, Pamphlet

This pamphlet is an excellent tool to help you learn the 50 names, character and personal attributes of Jesus. Names such as the King of Kings, Chief Cornerstone, and Lion of Judah hold special insights that will strengthen your walk as a believer. In about 30 minutes, you will know 50 names of Jesus along with Scripture references from both the Old and New Testament, the meaning of each name, and more.

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Jesus' Family Tree

This book is packed with REPRODUCIBLE pages, timelines, family trees, and simple summaries, this incredible reference book gives a fantastic overview of 30 key people in Jesus' ancestry. Perfect for students, pastors, Bible study teachers, and those interested in seeing God's faithfulness throughout the Old and New Testament.

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