



# Creation, to Christ.

An Advent Devotional

*Brookville Road Community Church*

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# Creation to Christ.

As we approach the Christmas season, we pray this book prepares your heart to celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth. We pray it shines light on how the Old Testament and New Testament are one story of God's love, mercy, and redemption. But, above all, we pray you would grow closer to the God who created you, who loves you, who saved you.

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

*1 John 4:14*

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1*

**Read [John 1:1-18](#); [Colossians 1:15-17](#)**

We begin our Advent study not in Bethlehem, but before creation. Before the foundation of the world, before a single atom of creation stood in place, the Son already existed in the fullness of deity. John declares unequivocally that the Word, Jesus Christ, is both distinct from the Father and yet fully equal with Him. He is eternal. He is divine. There has never been a moment when the Son was not.

John further notes that all things came into being through Him. Creation owes its existence to the creative power and ability of Christ. Nothing is accidental. Nothing is autonomous. Paul affirms this same truth, Jesus is the image, the perfect and exact representation of the invisible God. All creation not only originates from Him but exists for Him. He is the goal and the sustainer of everything that is.

As we enter the Advent season, we remember that the Child in the manger is the eternal Word who spoke light into darkness. He is not a mere participant in history, nor is he just one part of history; He is the Lord of history. The incarnation is staggering because the One who humbled Himself to take on flesh is the sovereign Creator who upholds the universe by His power.

This is where worship begins, with a right understanding of who Christ is. The glory of Christmas shines brightest when we behold the eternal glory of Christ, the eternal Word who is God.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Ask the Lord to deepen your understanding of Christ's eternal glory. Praise Jesus as the Creator and Sustainer of your life. Pray that this Advent season would renew your awe of the Savior who left heaven to redeem sinners.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. How does Christ's deity shape your understanding of His birth?
3. In what areas of life do you struggle to recognize Christ's sustaining power?
4. What does it mean practically that your life exists for the glory of Christ?

*“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” Genesis 3:15*

## **Read [Genesis 3:1–15](#)**

Creation was initially a harmonious relationship between God and humanity. Adam and Eve walked in unhindered fellowship with God, unashamed and surrounded by the goodness of His creation. Yet, in a moment of rebellion, sin shattered that fellowship and brought the curse of sin and death. The serpent’s deception and Adam’s disobedience fractured everything. What began as harmony turned to hostility.

God, being holy, had no reason to extend grace to humanity, yet we see that grace extended immediately after man’s rebellion. Genesis 3:15 is often called the protoevangelium, the first announcement of the gospel. In this single verse, God promises that one day the offspring of the woman would crush the serpent’s head. Though wounded in the process, He would bring victory over sin, Satan, and death.

This hope is the seed of redemption that runs through all of Scripture. From Eve’s line would come Abraham, David, and ultimately Jesus, the Son of God who would destroy the works of Satan (Read [1 John 3:8](#)). Humanity hides in shame,

and in their hiding, God already has a plan to clothe His

people in the righteousness of the coming Redeemer.

This is the reason why Christ would come, to save His people. The birth of Christ is the arrival of the promised Seed who came to crush the serpent's head.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank God that His grace was given even in humanity's rebellion. Acknowledge Christ as the promised Seed who conquered sin and crushed the serpent. Pray that the hope of His victory would shape your confidence and joy this Advent season.

### **Reflection**

1. How does today's scripture reading point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does it reveal about God's character that He promised redemption before Adam and Eve ever sought Him?
3. How does Christ's victory over Satan give you courage to resist temptation and live in hope today?

*“And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.” Genesis 3:21*

**Read [Genesis 3:21](#); [Hebrews 9:11-22](#)**

When Adam and Eve sinned, their first instinct was to cover themselves with fig leaves, a human attempt to hide the shame that sin exposed. But leaves could not remove their guilt before a holy God. The problem of sin was far deeper than anything they could conceal.

By Grace alone, God Himself provided a sufficient covering unlike the foliage in the garden. He took the life of the innocent one to cover the guilt of the transgressors. This moment points forward to the redemption that would echo throughout scripture: “forgiveness comes only through the shedding of blood.”

From that day onward, sacrifice was standard to receive atonement. Sin demands death, and only a substitute can stand in the sinner's place. Before Christ, God graciously accepted the sacrifices of animals in the place of sinners. All the animal sacrifices were the placeholders of the eternal spotless lamb of God. They were continually needed for the ongoing sins of humanity (Read [Hebrews 10:3-14](#)), but with Christ, His sacrifice was sufficient once and for all (verse 14).

Imagine for a moment the feeling of unworthiness Adam and Eve felt as they were covered by the garments that the



Lord provided. Similarly, we are unworthy to be covered in the righteousness of Christ. Advent leads us to marvel at this gracious exchange, the innocent dying for the guilty, the righteous covering the unrighteous. The garments of grace we wear are not our own doing, but the gift of a God who came to sinners and restored them to Himself.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank the Lord that He did not leave you to cover your own sin. Praise Christ as the spotless Lamb who shed His blood to clothe you in righteousness. Ask that this Advent season would renew your gratitude for the grace that covers your guilt and restores your fellowship with Him.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. Why is it significant that God, not Adam and Eve, provided the garments to cover them?
3. How does the shedding of blood in Genesis 3:21 help you understand the necessity of Christ's sacrifice?
4. In what ways can you live today as a person clothed in the righteousness of Christ?

*“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous.” Hebrews 11:4*

**Read [Genesis 4:1–10](#); [Hebrews 12:24](#)**

The first offerings recorded in Scripture reveal a profound truth about the heart of worship. Both Cain and Abel brought gifts to the Lord, yet one was accepted and the other rejected. Cain brought an offering of the ground, but not the first fruits of it. His gift was ordinary, casual, an act of worship without reverence. Abel brought the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. He offered what was best, and he offered it in faith.

God's response reveals what kind of worship he most desires. Scripture says, “The Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.” When we don't have regard for what we offer to God, He will not have regard for it either. Worship that costs us nothing reveals hearts that have lost sight of who God truly is. The difference between Cain and Abel was not in their actions but in their sincerity. Abel approached God as holy and worthy of his best, while Cain approached God on his own terms.

Abel's offering pointed forward to a greater sacrifice. Hebrews 12:24 tells us that the blood of Jesus “speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.” Abel serves as a type of Christ, giving us a picture of someone being slain for doing

that which the Father has asked of him. The author of Hebrews is reminding us that the blood of Abel demands justice, but the blood of Christ provides more, it extends mercy. Christ offered Himself, the spotless Lamb whose sacrifice would once for all reconcile sinners to God.

Advent calls us to worship as Abel did, with hearts that desire to give our first and best to the Lord, as God did to us through giving His very Son.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank God for accepting the perfect offering of Christ, that satisfied His wrath toward your sin. Ask Him to guard your heart from offering Him what is convenient instead of what is costly. Praise Jesus that His blood provides mercy.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does the difference between Cain's and Abel's offerings reveal about the nature of true worship?
3. In what ways are you tempted to offer God what is convenient rather than what is excellent?
4. How does the "better word" of Christ's blood give you assurance and confidence before God?

*“Then the Lord said to Noah, ‘Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.’” Genesis 7:1*

**Read [Genesis 6-9](#); [1 Peter 3:18-21](#)**

By the time of Noah, humanity had plunged headlong into corruption. Every thought of the human heart was evil continually. The flood is most often remembered as God pouring out his due wrath upon the sins of the world, in which it is certainly that. But what it also clearly demonstrates is that in Him pouring out wrath, we see Him also pouring out mercy. He commanded Noah to build an ark, a vessel of salvation, in the face of the coming judgment. Those inside the ark would live, those outside would perish. This is a picture of redemption. Salvation was not earned by Noah’s skill or effort, but it was Noah’s faith in God that drew him onto the ark.

Peter draws the connection clearly, just as Noah and his family were brought safely through the waters of judgment, so those who are united to Christ are saved through His death and resurrection. The ark pointed forward to the greater ark, Christ Himself. All who are “in Him” are shielded from the flood of divine wrath.

There was only one door to enter to be delivered from judgment in Noah’s day, and there remains only one door to enter to be delivered from judgment in this day. That door

is Jesus Christ, the baby born in Bethlehem. Through Him, you are secure forever. The rain of judgment fell on Him so that the redeemed might rest in peace. This season calls us to marvel at the mercy of God, who sent His Son to carry us safely through the flood of our sin into the joy of eternal life.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank God for His mercy in providing salvation when judgment was deserved. Praise Christ as your refuge, the One who endured wrath so you could receive grace. Ask the Lord to strengthen your faith, that you might walk in obedience as Noah did, trusting completely in His provision.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does Noah's obedience teach you about faith in God's provision?
3. How does the ark illustrate what it means to be "in Christ"?
4. In what areas of life do you need to trust God's refuge instead of your own strength or security?

*“And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.” Galatians 3:29*

**Read [Genesis 12:1-3](#); [Galatians 3:8-9](#)**

When God called Abram out of Ur, He wasn’t just making a new nation, He was unfolding His redemptive plan for the world. He gave Abraham a remarkable promise: through his offspring, blessing would come to every nation on earth. That blessing was not material blessing, but the salvation that would one day be fulfilled in the coming of Christ.

Paul tells us that this promise was the gospel announced beforehand. It was a declaration that God Himself would provide the righteousness His people could never achieve. Abraham’s faith became the pattern for all who would later believe. He trusted in God, and his faith was counted as righteousness.

Sometimes we imagine that the faith of the Old Testament was somehow different from ours, that people then were saved by faith plus works, and now we are saved by grace alone. But Scripture doesn’t draw that distinction. Abraham was justified by faith, just as every believer is. He looked forward to the promise that God would fulfill in Christ, while we look back on that same finished work. Faith has always been the way to righteousness, faith in the promise of God to redeem His people through His Son.

The advent of Christ is the fulfillment of that promise of old. Born in Bethlehem, Christ is the true Seed through whom the nations are blessed. This season reminds us that God's promises are never forgotten.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank God that in Christ you have become an heir of the promise made to Abraham. Praise Him for His faithfulness across the generations and for fulfilling His word through the coming of Jesus.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does Abraham's faith reveal about the way God keeps His promises?
3. How does knowing you are an heir of Abraham's promise through Christ give meaning to the Advent season?

*“Abraham said, ‘God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.’ So they went both of them together.” Genesis 22:8*

**Read [Genesis 22](#); [John 1:29](#)**

Genesis 22 brings us to one of the most staggering scenes in all of Scripture. God commanded Abraham to offer up his beloved son, Isaac, the very child that every covenant promise was to be fulfilled through. No command could have appeared more contradictory or more daunting. Yet Scripture records no hesitation, no bargaining, no rebellion. Abraham rose early in the morning and obeyed.

That obedience revealed the essence of true faith, confidence in God’s promise even when His plan seems impossible. Abraham didn’t understand how God would reconcile the command with the covenant, but he trusted that God could never fail to keep His word. At that moment of great surrender, God stopped Abraham’s hand and provided a ram to die in Isaac’s place.

This event was not just a test of Abraham’s devotion; it was a preview of divine redemption. Centuries later, on another hill, God would provide again. Only this time, there would be no ram in the thicket. What we see is that our Heavenly Father did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up for us all (Read [Romans 8:32](#)). The cross fulfills what Abraham’s declared, “The Lord will provide.”



The Child born to Mary was the Lamb appointed before the foundation of the world. Every promise finds its answer in Him. The God who provided a substitute for Isaac has provided a Savior for us, a perfect and final sacrifice who reconciles sinners to Himself.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank the Father for providing Christ, the Lamb who died in your place. Praise Him for a love that did not spare His own Son. Ask the Lord to deepen your trust in His provision and to renew your awe this Advent season to Him who both promises and provides.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does Abraham's willingness to offer Isaac reveal about true faith and obedience?
3. How does the substitute on Mount Moriah foreshadow the sacrifice of Jesus?
4. How does Advent remind you that God has already provided everything necessary for your salvation, and how should that shape your worship?

*“And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!” Genesis 28:12*

**Read [Genesis 28:10-17](#); [John 1:51](#)**

Jacob's life reaches a low point in Genesis 28. Fleeing from Esau's anger, Jacob sleeps in the wilderness with a stone for a pillow. Yet it is here, at his weakest and most fearful, that God graciously meets him. In his dream, Jacob sees a ladder stretching from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending on it. Above the ladder stands the Lord Himself, reaffirming the covenant promises first given to Abraham.

The vision is not about Jacob's effort to reach heaven but about God's mercy in reaching down to him. Jacob awakens in awe, declaring, “Surely the Lord is in this place.” What he saw in a dream, Christ later declares as fulfilled reality: “You will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man” (Read [John 1:51](#)).

Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. He is not just a messenger between heaven and earth, He is the one who brings heaven down to us. Through His incarnation, the infinite God took on flesh so that sinners could draw near. Advent celebrates this divine descent. To paraphrase theologians of the past, we might say the Son of God became the Son of Man so that the sons of men might become children of God.

The story of Jacob's ladder reminds us that salvation is not about climbing up to God but about God coming down to us. The same Lord who met Jacob in his wandering still meets His people in their wandering. Christ Himself is our ladder, our access, our mediator, our Emmanuel.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank God that in Christ heaven has come near. Praise Jesus as your Mediator, the One who bridges the gap between God and man. Ask the Lord to help you rest in His nearness this Advent and to remember that His presence is not found in a place but in a Person, Jesus Christ.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does Jacob's dream reveal about God's initiative toward sinners?
3. How does Christ fulfill the image of the ladder between heaven and earth?
4. How does Advent remind you that God has drawn near to you, even in seasons of fear or failure?

*“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” Genesis 50:20*

**Read [Genesis 37-50](#); [Acts 7:9-10](#)**

Joseph's life has the thread of God's providence all throughout. Betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, and unjustly imprisoned, his life is just a bundle of misfortunes. Yet behind every betrayal and disappointment, God was near and providential. What others meant for evil, God meant for good.

Imagine all the circumstances; from the pit to Potiphar's house, from the prison to Pharaoh's throne, Joseph's suffering was not wasted it was all a part of God's plan. His story reminds us that divine purposes often unfold through human pain, and that no act of injustice is overlooked. Nothing can overturn the plans of a sovereign God.

Stephen, in Acts 7, draws attention to this same pattern, Joseph was rejected by his brothers but later exalted by God to a place of authority, where he became the savior of those who had despised him. In these events, Joseph foreshadowed Christ. Jesus, too, was rejected by His own, betrayed for silver, condemned unjustly, and yet raised to the right hand of the Father. The One whom the world despised became the Redeemer of all who believe.

As we draw near to Christ in this advent season, we ought to marvel at the providence of God. The God who turned Joseph's suffering into salvation has done even more through His Son, turning the world's greatest evil and injustice into the world's greatest victory.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank God for His sovereign goodness in working all things for His glory and your good. Praise Christ, who was rejected that you might be accepted. Ask the Lord to strengthen your trust when His purposes seem hidden, and to fill you with the hope of advent.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does Joseph's story teach you about God's providence in suffering?
3. How does Joseph's rejection and exaltation foreshadow the life and mission of Jesus?
4. How can Advent renew your confidence that God is working for good even when His plan is unseen?

*“The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.” Exodus 12:13*

**Read [Exodus 12](#); [Ephesians 2:1-10](#); [1 Corinthians 5:7](#)**

We ought to wonder during this advent season why God would send his son to be the sacrifice in the place of sinners. Why would God show mercy to sinners? Why would he pass over their sins, when they are guilty before Him? It seems to not make sense when you look at the severity of sin and the position that humanity has before God. Yet God, being rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ. God graciously provided a substitute in our place, and because of Christ, we are spared from the judgment of God. This is worth looking back at with reverent awe. God has rescued his people by providing a spotless lamb. God demonstrated his mercy even before this, we see God's saving grace in the Passover account in Exodus.

As judgment swept across Egypt, God made a distinction between those under the blood of the lamb and those who were not. God would pass over every home marked by the sign of sacrifice. God didn't spare those that were spotless, he spared the ones who trusted that the spotless lamb would be sufficient to save them.

Centuries later, John the Baptist will declare, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”

Consider the mercy of God today. Jesus bearing the wrath of God so that death might pass over all who trust in Him. Every Advent season calls us to remember that we live under the blood of the Lamb. Our salvation does not rest on our merit, but on His mercy. When God looks upon those covered by Christ's blood, He still passes over in grace.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank God for sending His Son, the true Passover Lamb, whose blood secures your eternal deliverance. Praise Christ for bearing judgment in your place. Ask the Lord to deepen your gratitude this Advent for the mercy that covers your life.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does the Passover reveal about the way God saves His people?
3. How does Advent help you see that the cradle and the cross are part of the same redemptive plan?
4. What would it look like for you to live this season as one who has been "passed over" by judgment and made alive in Christ?

*“He answered and said, ‘But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.’” Daniel 3:25*

### **Read [Daniel 3](#)**

God is not distant from our trials. In the incarnation, God came down, He entered time, space, and entered the human mess.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced the pressure of an empire's idolatry. Nebuchadnezzar demanded worship of his golden image, and their refusal condemned them to a fiery furnace. But they remained loyal to God, “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us... but even if He does not, we will not serve your gods.” We will find out if our convictions are genuine when we face danger. These men truly believed in the sovereignty of God.

They were thrown into the flames trusting that God will deliver them whether it is through the flames or through death. As they were thrown in, the king saw a fourth figure walking with them, untouched by the blaze, “like a son of the gods.” This was a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son making his presence known amid the flames.

The One who stood with those men in Babylon is the same One who came down in Bethlehem. He did not simply look upon human suffering from heaven; He entered into it. He is Emmanuel, God with us.



The Lord may not spare you from every trial, but He will sustain you through them. That is the comfort of Advent, the incarnate Son was born in the manger, and he is still with His people in their trials.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank the Lord for His steadfast presence in every trial. Praise Christ, the eternal Son, who stood with His people in Babylon and now indwells His church by the Spirit. Ask for grace to trust His sovereignty, to endure faithfully, and to find in every fiery test the assurance that you are never alone.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does this account reveal about God's sovereignty over suffering?
3. How does the appearance of the "fourth man" prefigure the incarnation of Christ?
4. How does the truth of Emmanuel strengthen your faith when you face the heat of trial?

*“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” John 3:14-15*

**Read [Numbers 21:4-9](#); [John 3:14-15](#)**

Israel had grown weary and ungrateful in the wilderness, despising the manna God had given and grumbling against His care. Their rebellion brought judgment. Venomous snakes were sent among the camp and some were killed. God’s judgment was administered among a rebellious Israel.

The Lord instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and lift it high upon a pole. All who looked upon it were healed. There was no ritual, no offering, no human effort involved, just faith and doing what they were commanded.

Jesus spoke to this connection. Speaking to Nicodemus, He said, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.” Just as the dying Israelites looked to the symbol of their curse to find healing, sinners must look to Christ, who became sin for us, that we might be made righteous in Him.

We are to look to the Son of God who came into the world to be lifted, to bear the curse of sin and to give eternal life to all who look to Him in faith. The bronze serpent pointed ahead to the Savior who would take our death that we might receive His life.

To look to Christ is to live. To refuse Him is to perish from the venom of sin. There is no other remedy for our condition than the crucified Christ. Advent reminds us that the remedy has come, the Savior has been lifted, and the offer still stands, “Look to Him and be healed.”

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank God for His mercy in providing a remedy for sin. Look to Christ, the One who was lifted to bear the curse in your place. Ask the Lord to deepen your faith this Advent, that you would look to Christ daily, not only for salvation, but for strength, hope, and endurance when your heart grows weary and wanders.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does the bronze serpent reveal about the relationship between judgment and grace?
3. How does Jesus' death fulfill the symbol lifted in the wilderness?
4. In what ways can you “look to Christ” this Advent?

*“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers it is to him you shall listen.”*

*Deuteronomy 18:15*

**Read [Deuteronomy 18:15-19](#); [Acts 3:17-23](#)**

As Israel prepared to enter the promised land, Moses spoke of a future Prophet whom God Himself would raise up, one who would speak with divine authority. God spoke to Israel through the prophets. Our passage today foreshadows God raising up another Prophet, one who would perfectly fulfill all that the prophets spoke of.

The Lord's words in Deuteronomy 18 find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. When the crowds witnessed His power and heard His teaching, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world.” (Read [John 6:14](#)). Peter also confirmed this in Acts 3, teaching that Christ is the One Moses foretold, the true and final Prophet sent from God.

Unlike every prophet before Him, Jesus does not merely speak the word of God, He is the Word of God. To reject this Prophet is to reject God Himself. Israel trembled at the mountain and begged for a mediator, and in Christ, God provided one. But unlike Moses, who could only ask for mercy on behalf of God's people, Christ provides mercy to them. He delivers the message of salvation AND accomplishes it. He is the Prophet who declared redemption and the Priest who administered it.

“It is to Him you shall listen.” There are many voices to listen to. Only one voice is from the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank God for sending His Son, the true and final Prophet, to accomplish salvation for his people. Look to Jesus as the one who accomplished salvation. Ask the Lord to make your heart attentive and obedient to His Word, that you would not merely hear but believe and follow Christ.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What other prophecies are you aware of that Jesus fulfilled?
3. What distinguishes Jesus from every prophet who came before Him?
4. Why is listening to Christ essential for genuine faith and obedience?

*“Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.” Judges 2:16*

**Read [Judges 2:11-19](#); [Judges 13](#)**

The book of Judges records one of the darkest chapters in Israel's history. They entered the land under Joshua's leadership, and the people soon abandoned the Lord who had delivered them. The cycle began: rebellion, oppression, repentance, and restoration, only to start the cycle over again. The book can be summarized in this verse, “In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Judges 21:25.

As the nation of Israel did what was right in their own eyes, God raised up judges. They were temporary deliverers to rescue Israel from its enemies. They were imperfect judges, and along with every victory that came about, there was rebellion looming around the corner. The pattern exposed the deeper problem, Israel didn't just need to be rescued from earthly enemies, they needed freedom from the tyranny of sin.

The judges were figures pointing forward to a greater Deliverer. Samson's birth announcement in Judges 13 echoes that of Christ Himself. He would be a miraculous child appointed by God to begin delivering His people. Every flawed judge in Israel's history served as a foreshadow

of the Judge to come, the sinless Savior who would deliver His people once and for all.

The book of Judges reveals humanity's inability to rule itself and the desperate need for God's intervention in our lives. Christ is that intervention, the true Judge who executes righteousness and the true Deliverer who rescues from sin and death.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank God for His mercy in raising up deliverance even when His people wander. Praise Christ as the true and final Deliverer who conquered sin and reigns in righteousness. Ask the Lord to expose areas in your life where you do what is right in your own eyes and to restore your heart to joyful submission under His perfect rule.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does the pattern of rebellion and rescue in Judges reveal about the human heart?
3. How do the flawed judges of Israel foreshadow the perfect Deliverer in Christ?
4. In what ways can you live under Christ's righteous rule rather than your own self-rule?

*"Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever." 2 Samuel 7:16*

**Read [2 Samuel 7:12-16](#); [Psalm 89:3-4](#)**

David had been given a time of rest from his enemies, and the ark of the covenant, symbolizing the presence of God, still dwelt in a tent. So David, sitting in his palace of cedar, longed to give God something better. But God's response to David is astonishing. In essence, the Lord says, "David, you will not build a house for Me. I will build a house for you."

This house is not one made of stone or cedar; it is an everlasting kingdom. God promises that one of David's descendants will sit on the throne forever. This covenant forms the backbone of messianic hope throughout the Old Testament. From this point on, Israel will live in anticipation of the coming King, the Son of David who will rule in righteousness and peace.

Of course, David's immediate sons would fail miserably. Solomon, for all his wisdom, would succumb to worldly pleasures. The kingdom would divide and there will be moral failure. But God's promise did not fail. When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary centuries later, he declared, "The Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign forever" (Read [Luke 1:32-33](#)).



The covenant made in David's palace finds its fulfillment in a manger in Bethlehem. The King of kings came as a baby. In Jesus, God has kept every word He spoke to David. And now, the sovereign King who sits on David's throne will one day return to rule visibly and finally.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank the Lord for His faithfulness to keep every promise. Praise Jesus as the Son of David, whose kingdom is eternal and whose reign is righteous. Ask God to fix your hope on the certainty of Christ's rule and to strengthen your heart to live joyfully under His lordship.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does David's "forever throne" teach us about the nature of Christ's kingdom?
3. How does the fulfillment of this promise in Christ strengthen your confidence in God's Word?
4. How can you live today under the reign of your eternal King?

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11*

**Read [Psalm 23](#); [John 10:11-18](#)**

As we follow the threads of Scripture from creation to Christ, one of the most tender images we encounter is that of the shepherd. From the earliest days of Israel's history, God's people were familiar with this picture. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David all tended sheep.

In Psalm 23, David speaks from personal experience when he says, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." He begins with complete dependence. The Lord provides what David cannot secure on his own, green pastures for rest, still waters for refreshment, and the paths of righteousness for his wandering feet. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, David speaks with confidence. "You are with me," he says, and that changes everything.

Centuries later, Jesus stood among the people of Israel and made a bold claim: "I am the good shepherd." With those words, He identified Himself as the very Lord of Psalm 23, the divine Shepherd who had guided and guarded His people all along. But He add more, "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." The Shepherd is not only the guide of His flock but also the sacrifice for it.

This is the gospel. The One who leads us also lays down His life for us. From creation to Christ, we see that the same God who walked with Adam, who called Abraham, and who anointed David, has now come near in the person of Jesus. He not only tends His flock, He redeems it. And one day, this same Shepherd will gather His people from every nation and lead them to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank the Lord that He is your Shepherd, that he is faithful to lead, protect, and provide. Praise Christ for laying down His life to make you His own. Ask God to deepen your trust in His guidance and to help you follow wherever your perfect Shepherd leads.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. How does the cross display the Shepherd's love for His sheep?
3. What comfort can you take today in knowing that the same Lord who shepherded David now shepherds you?

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Psalm 22:1*

**Read [Psalm 22](#); [Isaiah 53](#)**

If we're honest, suffering is one of the hardest parts of life to understand. We ask, “Why does God allow this? Where is He when the pain feels unbearable?” The Scriptures never minimize those questions, but they do answer them, ultimately, in the person of Jesus Christ.

David's psalm opens with words that Jesus will also cry out: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” The details that follow, mockery, pierced hands and feet, lots cast for His garments, are all things that may have figuratively happened to David, but they literally happen to Christ.

Isaiah then describes the Suffering Servant. “He was pierced for our transgressions... crushed for our iniquities... the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Notice how transgressions aren't overlooked. God doesn't sweep sin under the rug. It is all dealt with. Instead of justice being poured out on us because of our transgressions, it was applied to Christ, the perfect substitute.

Both passages move from agony to victory. Psalm 22 turns to praise reaching the ends of the earth. Isaiah promises that the Servant, having poured out His soul to death, will “make many to be accounted righteous.” This is where the long thread from creation to Christ leads. The innocent dying

for the guilty, the forsaken one bringing the forsaken home, the wounded one making sinners whole.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank the Father for sending His Son to bear your sin and sorrow. Praise Jesus for willingly enduring suffering in your place. Ask the Lord to help you see His glory in the cross and to rest in the assurance that through His wounds, you are healed.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. Where do Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 most clearly anticipate the crucifixion?
3. How does the Servant's substitution reshape your view of guilt, forgiveness, and assurance?
4. What transgressions and iniquities do you need to bring to Christ?

*“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14*

**Read [Isaiah 7:14](#); [Matthew 1:20-23](#)**

God with us. Those three words are the heart of Christianity. They summarize the gospel, explain the incarnation, and demonstrate the humility of God.

In Isaiah’s day, the kingdom of Judah was trembling. The threat of invasion was real, and King Ahaz was paralyzed with fear. Rather than trust the Lord, he sought safety in means other than God. Because of his unbelief, God spoke through the prophet: “The Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son.”

The prophecy had an immediate assurance for Isaiah’s generation, but its full meaning reached far beyond the eighth century BC. Centuries later, the angel would appear to Joseph and apply this promise to Jesus: “They shall call his name Immanuel, which means, God with us.”

The incarnation is a mystery. It is the eternal Son of God taking on humanity without ceasing to be God. To paraphrase the Westminster Confession, the second person of the Trinity, being of one substance and equal with the Father took upon Himself human nature. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, He became flesh with all its natural limitations, yet without sin.

In Jesus Christ, two complete and perfect natures, the divine and the human, are united inseparably in one person, without mixing or changing. He is fully God and fully man, the only mediator between God and man. The infinite took on finiteness; the eternal entered time; the Creator joined His creation. In Him, God and man meet perfectly, not for a moment, but for eternity.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank the Lord that He did not remain distant but came near in the person of Christ. Praise Jesus as Immanuel, God with us. Ask the Spirit to renew your wonder at the mystery of the incarnation and to anchor your hope in the presence of Christ that will never depart.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does the name Immanuel reveal about the character and heart of God?
3. How does the incarnation display both the humility and holiness of Christ?
4. In what ways does the truth that "God is with us" strengthen your confidence in His promises today?

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

*Isaiah 9:6*

### **Read [Isaiah 9:1–7](#)**

Isaiah 7 introduced Immanuel, now Isaiah 9 describes who he is. We start with a grim look at the state of the kingdom of Judah. The northern tribes had fallen, and Assyria is on the horizon coming for Judah next. In this moment, Isaiah declares, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder.” These are exactly the words you would want to hear from God in this moment. The reality that the government, and not just any isolated nation, but all nations, all governments, would be upon his shoulder was the hope that God’s people needed. But as we look back at history, we know that the Assyrian invasion did come. Israel was judged for their rebellion. Was this a false hope? Certainly not. This prophecy points to Christ, where true hope is found.

### **Examine each title given to Christ:**

- He is the *Wonderful Counselor*, whose word eradicates confusion.
- He is the *Mighty God*, who conquers sin and death by His power.



- He is the ***Everlasting Father***, of course not in place of our Heavenly Father, but he cares for us and protects us as His own.
- He is the ***Prince of Peace***, who reconciles sinners to God through His blood and will one day bring lasting peace to all creation.

The child promised in Isaiah 7 is described in detail in Isaiah 9, the same Immanuel who not only dwells among His people but rules over them with righteousness and power. Rest in knowing the King has arrived.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Thank God that the promise of Immanuel has been fulfilled. Offer to God the ways that you see Jesus as the Wonderful Counselor who guides you, the Mighty God who saves you, the Everlasting Father who keeps you, and the Prince of Peace who rules your heart.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. How does Isaiah 9 build on the promise of Immanuel in Isaiah 7?
3. Which of Christ's names gives you the most assurance in this season of life?
4. How can you live under the peace and wisdom of Christ's reign this Advent?

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.”*  
*Jeremiah 23:5*

**Read [Jeremiah 23:1-6](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#)**

It comes another example of the prophet Jeremiah speaking of a coming righteous king. This is coming at a time when there was no righteous king to be found among God’s people. What a great promise! The Israelites were under judgment because of the failed leadership of their earthly kings. We can imagine the comfort it would bring to know that there would be a king to come in the line of King David. God promised to do what no human king could:  
“I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.”

Unlike the failed kings of Judah, this One would reign in perfect wisdom, justice, and righteousness. Think about the name that will be given to this coming king: “The LORD is our righteousness.” This is how God’s people are made righteous. Not by themselves, but by the righteousness of their Savior.

The Apostle Paul explains the depth of this truth in 2 Corinthians 5:21: “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” This exchange is referred to as double-imputation. Now, don’t mix up imputation with

amputation! One takes something away, the other gives you something you could never earn, the righteousness of Christ.

When Jesus died on the cross, God took all of our sin, all the wrong we've done, every selfish thought, every disobedient act, and He counted it as if it belonged to Jesus. The other half of the coin is even more amazing: God also took all of Jesus' perfect obedience and counted it as if it belonged to us. When we put our trust in Christ, God looks at us and sees the righteousness of Jesus. There is therefore now NO condemnation for those in Christ (Read [Romans 8:1](#)). Jesus takes our sin, and we receive His righteousness. That's why we can stand before God without fear. When He looks at us, He doesn't see our failures, He sees His Son.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Praise God for sending Jesus, the Righteous Branch, who brings life. Thank Jesus for bearing your sin and giving you His righteousness. Ask the Lord to help you rest in Christ's righteousness instead of your own.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is not only righteous but our righteousness?
3. How does the great exchange of 2 Corinthians 5:21 deepen your understanding of grace?

*“Behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom.”*

*Daniel 7:13–14*

**Read [Daniel 7:9-14](#); [Matthew 26:62-64](#)**

The “Ancient of Days” is seated on His fiery throne, His clothing white as snow, His hair pure like wool. This is God Himself, ruling in holiness and power.

But then Daniel sees someone else enter the scene, “one like a Son of Man,” riding on the clouds of heaven and coming before the Ancient of Days. That phrase “Son of Man” means a human-like figure, yet everything about Him is divine. He’s given authority, glory, and an eternal kingdom. The nations worship Him. No angel or human could ever receive that kind of honor.

What Daniel is seeing here is what theologians call a Christophany, a visible appearance or revelation of Christ before His birth in Bethlehem. This is also what we saw in the fiery furnace, on December 11th. The “Son of Man” in Daniel 7 is the eternal Son of God, shown to Daniel hundreds of years before the incarnation. Later, Jesus will use this exact title for Himself, saying, “You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.” The priests knew He was claiming

to be that same divine figure Daniel saw and they called it blasphemy.

What an incredible thought that the baby in the manger is the same glorious King Daniel saw, the Son of Man who rules every nation and whose kingdom will never end.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Praise Jesus as the eternal Son who appeared in glory long before Bethlehem. Thank God that the King Daniel saw in splendor came in humility to save you. Spend some time considering God's glory and bow your heart in reverence toward him.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. Why is it important to understand that the "Son of Man" in Daniel 7 is a Christophany, an appearance of Christ?
3. How does seeing Christ's eternal power deepen your sense of wonder at His humility in becoming human?

*“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child.” Zechariah 12:10*

**Read [Zechariah 12:10-13:1](#); [John 19:31-37](#)**

What a striking comment given by God, “They will look on me, on him whom they have pierced.” Think about that. God Himself is speaking, and He says that His people will one day pierce Him. It’s hard to even comprehend, how could the eternal, invisible God be pierced? This is a mystery, because the incarnation is a mystery. Without the incarnation, Zechariah 12 could never be fulfilled because God, in His divine nature, cannot suffer or bleed. But when the Son of God took on flesh, this was made possible.

Fast forward five hundred years. On a hill outside Jerusalem, the prophecy is fulfilled. A Roman soldier thrusts a spear into the side of Jesus, and John is sure to make this connection for us. He states, “These things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled... “They will look on him whom they have pierced.” Zechariah’s prophecy continues, “On that day there shall be a fountain opened ... to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.” When we look to the pierced Christ, we see the horror of our sin and the depth of His mercy. What happened to Christ was exactly what was prophesied.

The Old Testament is so consistent in its portrait of Christ. From the seed of the woman in Genesis 3, to the sacrificial lamb in Exodus, to the suffering servant in Isaiah, to the pierced Lord in Zechariah, the same thread runs through every page. God was not changing His plan from book to book. He didn't flip the script between the Old and New Testament. The prophets weren't guessing, they were carried along by the Spirit of God, foretelling the coming of the One who would be pierced, and whose wounds would heal His people.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Praise Jesus as the Lord who was pierced to cleanse you from sin. Ask Him to give you a heart that mourns sin and rejoices in grace. Ask the Lord to expose in you the areas that are "unclean." Repent and receive the forgiveness that Christ freely gives.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. Why does it matter that Christ Himself is the one who is "pierced"?
3. What would it look like for you to "look on Him whom you pierced"?

*“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel... and he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord.” Micah 5:2, 4*

**Read [Micah 5:1–5](#); [John 10:11–18](#)**

If you’ve been walking through this Advent devotional, you’ve seen how every story in Scripture has been pointing to this moment. The same God who promised a Redeemer in Eden, who provided a lamb for Abraham, who rescued His people in the Passover, and who spoke through prophets like Isaiah and Zechariah, He’s bringing all of those promises together in Bethlehem. Let’s look at Micah 5 in more detail.

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah...” Bethlehem was the hometown of David, Israel’s shepherd-king. By calling it “too little to be among the clans of Judah,” Micah highlights its insignificance. It was a pasture town.

“From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel.” Unlike Israel’s failed kings who sought power for themselves, this ruler will perfectly reign over the people of God.

“Whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.” This phrase tells us the ruler’s story didn’t begin in Bethlehem. His “coming forth” reaches back into eternity. This is God himself we are talking about.



“He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord.” Micah shifts from who the ruler is to what He does. He will shepherd His people with his strength.

“And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth. And He shall be their peace.” Micah ends with security and peace, something Judah never fully experienced under any earthly king. His reign brings lasting peace, peace with God through His blood, peace among His people through His Spirit, and one day, peace over all creation when He returns in glory.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Praise God for sending a King who leads with compassion and strength. Thank Him for being the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for you. Ask the Lord to help you rest in His care and trust His leading.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. How does knowing Jesus as your Shepherd-King change the way you follow Him today?
3. What part of your life do you need to entrust to His care as you prepare to celebrate His coming?

*“But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.”  
Malachi 4:2*

**Read [Malachi 3:16–4:6](#); [Luke 1:67–79](#)**

If you have ever watched a magnificent sunset, you may distinctly remember the last ray of sunlight that shot through the trees on the horizon, or over the mountain tops. And when the light was gone, you felt as though you were already forgetting the beauty of that moment. Suddenly, it was all over.

The Old Testament closes with the book of Malachi rather suddenly. The prophets had spoken, there is a future hope that Israel is looking forward to, and suddenly, the silence ensues. The prophecies stop coming from God for 400 years. And right before the silence sets in, God gives one more promise: a sunrise is coming.

We read of the faithful ones in Israel, those who “feared the Lord and esteemed His name” (Read 3:16) were waiting in the dark. They saw the corruption of their nation and wondered if God had forgotten His word. But Malachi assures them, “The Sun of Righteousness will rise.” This imagery is quite stunning. In the ancient world, a sunrise marked victory, it was light overwhelming darkness, warmth driving away the night. This “Sun” is not just a light but a person, the coming Messiah. Every prophecy, from the seed in Genesis 3 to the Shepherd in Micah 5, leads to this rising sun.

Luke's Gospel echoes Malachi when Zechariah prophesies about his newborn son, John the Baptist: "The sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death." (Luke 1:78-79) That sunrise has now come. The child born in Bethlehem is the light of the world. And we, in the midst of a dark cold world, can boldly declare "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5) That's the hope of Advent, Christ is here.

### **Prayer Prompt**

Praise God that the darkness of sin and separation has been pierced by the light of Christ. Thank Jesus for bringing both righteousness and healing, covering your guilt and restoring your joy. Pray for hearts still in darkness, that they too might see the light of salvation in Christ.

### **Reflection**

1. How do today's scripture readings point to the hope of Christ?
2. What does it mean for you that Jesus is the light of the world?
3. How can you celebrate Christmas as someone who has stepped out of the darkness and into the dawn of His grace?

Merry Christmas! Thank you for reading  
“Creation to Christ;” we pray this devotional  
grew both your knowledge of scripture and  
your relationship with Jesus! If you have  
questions, or would like to speak to a pastor,  
we would love to talk with you!

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