

Advent, the Latin word for *arrival* or *coming*, is the traditional period leading up to Christmas in which we reflect on Jesus' arrival and presence with us. We hope that this short set of readings from the Bible will encourage and inspire you with the wonder of what it means for God to have lived amongst us, as a baby in Bethlehem, the joy of Jesus' presence in our hearts daily, and the hopeful expectation of his coming again in glory. The passages are grouped in threes around a central image – a picture of the God who became human – intended to provide a focal point for your own reflection and prayer.

The twenty-four passages can be read in different ways:

- One passage each day during December, leading up to Christmas
- One theme each day of the seven days before Christmas, with “The Coming of Jesus” on Christmas day
- Two themes for each weekend in December



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Advent
Readings

THE CALL TO REPENTANCE

The unfolding story of the people of God in Scripture exposes humanity's inability to live faithfully and rightly. Yet, God offers hope and a call for broken people – He will act to bring justice and redemption for those who turn to Him in repentance.

[Joel 2:12-17](#) | [Malachi 4](#) | [Luke 3:1-17](#)

THE KING ON MOUNT ZION

Since Abraham, one of the most consistent pictures in the Old Testament of God's leadership of his people – and the flourishing that this brings – is that of a King on a mountain. Through Israel's prophets, this picture became one of expectant hope – that God would establish His Kingdom of peace on Earth by sending a King.

[Psalm 2](#) | [Isaiah 2:1-5](#) | [Micah 4:1-5:4](#)

THE BRANCH OF DAVID

Central to Israel's story is God's promise to David that a descendant of his royal house would sit forever on the throne. As the line of kings declined into Exile, the prophets began to speak of a coming leader – the "Branch" – who would fulfil this promise.

[Isaiah 11:1-9](#) | [Jeremiah 33:14-18](#) | [Zechariah 3](#)

THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

The hope that builds throughout Israel's Scriptures is that despite their unfaithfulness to God, He has not abandoned them. He would act again as He did in the Exodus to put the world to rights – bringing justice to the oppressed, life to the dead, and unity to the divided.

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#) | [Isaiah 52:1-10](#) | [Ezekiel 37](#)

THE RECONCILIATION OF THE BRIDE

One of the most powerful and intriguing images that Scripture has for God's people is of an unfaithful bride who has betrayed her vows. Yet, God's continued message is that He is coming to prepare His people to enter into a restored relationship.

[Isaiah 61](#) | [John 3:16-21, 27-36](#) | [Revelation 19:6-16](#)

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Light dispels darkness. The birth of Jesus was the breaking in of radiant light into a world that had fallen into gloom, and the dawn of God's revelation of who He truly is.

[Isaiah 9:1-7](#) | [John 1:1-14](#) | [John 8:12-30](#)

THE SON OF GOD

The astonishing claim of Christianity is that Jesus is both Man and God: if we want to fully understand who God is – His nature, character and purposes – we are to look at a first-century Jewish carpenter.

[Hebrews 1](#) | [Luke 1:26-55](#) | [Colossians 1:15-23](#)

THE COMING OF JESUS

Like the wise men, we come to worship before God – not under a pillar of fire, or before a golden statue, or in a glorious temple – but kneeling before a baby.

[Matthew 1:17-25](#) | [Luke 2:1-32](#) | [Philippians 2:1-11](#)