

The Year Long Celebration of God Advent Bible Reading

Week One: Repentance in Light of the Second Coming

This week we consider the fact that when Jesus returns He will bring blessings and curses with Him. All will receive from God “according to what he has done” in this life. For this reason, we should be wise servants who will be found obeying when Jesus returns. But since we are all sinners, this is also a time to focus on confession and repentance as we anticipate His second coming.

Care should be given to help unbelievers see their need and responsibility to God.

Every Sunday another candle may be lit, and every day should include Scripture reading, discussion, prayer, and the enjoyment of a treat or gift to symbolize the joy of submission to God and relationship with Him.

- **Day 26, The First Sunday**
 - **Matthew 24:30**, “And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.”
- **Day 25**
 - **Matthew 24:42-46**, “Be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. 43 But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44 For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will. 45 “Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.”
- **Day 24**
 - **II Peter 3:10**, “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.”
- **Day 23**
 - **Revelation 22:12**, “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.”
- **Day 22**
 - **Luke 21:34-36**, “Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; 35 for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. 36 But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”
- **Day 21**
 - **Colossians 3:4-7**, “When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience.”
- **Day 20**
 - **Revelation 1:7**, “Behold, HE is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.”

The Year Long Celebration of God

Week Two: Longing for the Second Coming

This week we appreciate the discipline of waiting. We cannot rush the Lord's time table, and we must learn to be patient, content, and at peace with waiting.

However, it is appropriate to long deeply for eternity with the Savior. It's too easy to be distracted by the world around us. It would behoove us to zealously anticipate the Lord's return.

Care should be given to help unbelievers understand that they were created for communion with God.

Every Sunday another candle may be lit, and every day should include Scripture reading, discussion, prayer, and the enjoyment of a treat or gift to symbolize the joy of submission to God and relationship with Him.

- **Day 19, The Second Sunday**
 - **John 14:3**, *"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."*
- **Day 18**
 - **Hebrews 9:28**, *"So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him."*
- **Day 17**
 - **Titus 2:13-14**, *"Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."*
- **Day 16**
 - **I Thessalonians 4:16-18**, *"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words."*
- **Day 15**
 - **I John 3:2-3**, *"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*
- **Day 14**
 - **I John 2:28**, *"Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming."*
- **Day 13**
 - **Revelation 22:20**, *"He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."*

The Year Long Celebration of God

Week Three: Prophecies Concerning the Incarnation

This week we revel in the glorious Old Testament Messianic prophecies. Not only do they herald the coming of our salvation and “God with us,” they also remind us that God is trustworthy. If all of the prophecies concerning Christ’s first coming came to be, we can trust the prophecies concerning His Second Coming.

Care should be given to help unbelievers understand that the Jesus came to give them life more abundant than they could ever achieve on their own.

Every Sunday another candle may be lit, and every day should include Scripture reading, discussion, prayer, and the enjoyment of a treat or gift to symbolize the joy of submission to God and relationship with Him.

- **Day 12, The Third Sunday**
 - **Genesis 3:15**, *“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”*
- **Day 11**
 - **Micah 5:2**, *“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”* (fulfilled in Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-6)
- **Day 10**
 - **Isaiah 7:14**, *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”* (fulfilled in Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 1:26-31; Matthew 1:23)
- **Day 9**
 - **Isaiah 61:1-2**, *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; 2 To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn.”* (claimed by Christ in Luke 4:14-19)
- **Day 8**
 - **Jeremiah 31:15**, *“Thus says the Lord, ‘A voice is heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more.’”* (in regard to Herod’s attempt to destroy the infant Messiah fulfilled in Mathew 2:16-18)
- **Day 7**
 - **Isaiah 9:6**, *“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 Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”*
- **Day 6**
 - **Isaiah 53:3-6**, *“He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.”*

The Year Long Celebration of God

Week Four: Preparation for the Incarnation

This week we follow the events leading up to the birth of Christ, taking time to appreciate all of the important details the Lord provides.

Care should be given to help unbelievers understand that they must submit to the Messiah in order to fulfill their created purpose.

Every Sunday another candle may be lit, and every day should include Scripture reading, discussion, prayer, and the enjoyment of a treat or gift to symbolize the joy of submission to God and relationship with Him.

Given the length of these passages, we encourage you to read from your Bible.

- **Day 5**, The Fourth Sunday
 - **Luke 1:5-24**
- **Day 4**
 - **Luke 1:26-37; Matthew 1:18-25**
- **Day 3**
 - **Luke 1:39-56**
- **Day 2**
 - **Luke 1:57-80**
- **Day 1**, Christmas Eve: the 5th Christ Candle may be lit this evening.
 - **Luke 2:1-20**

The Year Long Celebration of God

The Twelve Days of Christmas

In Scripture the number twelve often symbolizes authority or completion. The Twelve Days of Christmas are a celebration of the fact that we are done waiting for the Messiah's first coming.

The following Scriptures expand on the early years of Christ, cover the beginning of His ministry, highlight key lessons from His teaching, and end with His High Priestly Prayer (right before His betrayal). Each passage calls us to believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

- **First Day of Christmas**, December 25-26
 - **Matthew 2:1-12**
- **Second Day of Christmas**, December 26-27
 - **Matthew 2:13-23**
- **Third Day of Christmas**, December 27-28
 - **Luke 2:21-40**
- **Fourth Day of Christmas**, December 28-29
 - **Luke 2:41-52**
- **Fifth Day of Christmas**, December 29-30
 - **John 1:1-18**
- **Sixth Day of Christmas**, December 30-31
 - **John 1:19-34**
- **Seventh Day of Christmas**, December 31-January 1
 - **John 3:1-21**
- **Eighth Day of Christmas**, January 1-2
 - **John 3:22-36**
- **Ninth Day of Christmas**, January 2-3
 - **John 5:18-24**
- **Tenth Day of Christmas**, January 3-4
 - **John 8:12-30**
- **Eleventh Day of Christmas**, January 4-5
 - **John 10:1-18**
- **Twelfth Day of Christmas**, January 5-6
 - **John 17:1-26; John 20:30-31**