

O COME
LET US

*Adore
Him*



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL 2020

Belmont Baptist Church

Advent is the special time to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into the world as Lord and Savior. It is a time to prepare our hearts and remember the true meaning of Christmas. This booklet is written to encourage and help us as we celebrate this special time. Written by members of Belmont Baptist, each day's devotional writing will help you to focus on the meaning of Christ's birth and to better know the person of Jesus Christ on a daily basis. May you be blessed each day.

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Isaiah 11:1-5

Out of Destruction

Before Isaiah described the coming of the Messiah, he prophesies the Lord's destruction of the proud through the imagery of mighty trees being chopped down (Isaiah 10:33-34). Picture a barren land full of stumps. Next, we see the Lord looking over the stumps and choosing to cause a shoot to spring forth from one of them; the stump of Jesse, King David's father. This shoot is far from lifeless and weak. Rather, it is filled with the Spirit of the Lord! Out of a barren land comes a shoot full of:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Counsel
- Might
- Knowledge
- Fear of the Lord
- Righteousness
- Faithfulness

As we enter into this Advent Season, let's ask ourselves "Am I looking to dead stumps for life or am I delighting in the Root of Jesse, namely Jesus Christ, who has sprung up and is full of the Spirit of the Living God?" Let us draw life from Jesus and so bear fruit in the areas of barrenness around us (John 15:1-4)!

Day 2 | *Jim and Carol Howell*

Isaiah 7:10-17

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

And Ransom captive Israel, Until the Son of God appears.

This is the first stanza of the familiar hymn that is frequently sung during the season of Advent.

It refers to the Israelites who had been captive to their adversaries on more than one occasion. God first brought the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt. For a while they worshiped God for saving them. However, over time they drifted away from God and began worshiping other gods. God would then punish them by allowing their adversaries to overtake them. Even then they would sometimes adopt their captor's culture and worship their captor's gods. If they would only again turn to God he would ransom them from their captors.

The Israelites were anticipating a strong political or military leader to come and, once and for all, this leader would bring them freedom from their adversaries who sought to overthrow them.

In Isaiah 7, the Lord spoke unto King Ahaz of Judah, saying, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (God with us). This would be their savior. This was hardly what they had been expecting.

Another song frequently sung at Christmastime is the familiar "Oh Holy Night". The first stanza includes, "Long lay the world in sin and error pining. 'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth."

Just like the Israelites of years ago, our real captor is not a tangible enemy but sin itself. The one constant is that their true savior then is the same as our savior today, JESUS CHRIST!

Day 3 | *Jessica, Kevin, and Luke Ohanian*

John 1:1-5

An Introduction to Jesus

This passage of scripture is a very important one, because it introduces us to Jesus. He is the Word. He is the Son of God, sent to the world to share the good news about salvation and the opportunity to spend eternity in the company of God the Father and God the Son. As we use words to express our thoughts and intentions, God the Father uses Jesus as His words to share His thoughts and intentions. Jesus has been with God since the beginning. He was there during creation, and there is nothing on this Earth that did not come by the Father and the Son. This passage also refers to Jesus as the Light. It is through Him that we can conquer the darkness of this broken world. We must always look to the light, be the light to others, and use the light to guide us down our pathways of life. This light, Jesus, will never dim. We will always have the promise of salvation from the Father and the Son, and no amount of darkness can ever take that away. In a time of much conflict and turmoil, this passage reminds us that we are so very blessed, that we can always look to the light for hope. As Christians, we have never been alone, and we never will be.

Day 4 | Dawn Sandoval

John 1:14-17

Seeing is Believing

"So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, 'This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.' " From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ."

Have you ever had things in your life that you had to see in order to believe? Well, God sent Jesus, his only son, to earth to physically represent his word, his unfailing love, his mercy, and his grace. God wanted Jesus' life to preach the gospel, often in the absence of words. Jesus was a living, breathing example of God's words in action. John the Baptist testified about Jesus to the crowds. However, it wasn't until Jesus arrived that people began to believe.

Let us go about preaching the gospel with our lives! Let us use words only when necessary!

Day 5 | Rooted Youth Ministry

Romans 8:18-25

Unimaginable Future Glory

The Gospel of Christ is much more than saving us from sin. It also contains the promise of the Future Glory that we receive as an inheritance through Christ as adopted Sons of God. Paul writes a lot about suffering in our earthly lives, and rightfully so. Paul spent a good part of his adult life in prison and plenty of our Holy Scripture was written from there. How did Paul stay so positive and focused on the future when his "right now" was so miserable? He says in verse 18 that "our suffering holds no comparison to the Glory that is coming."

Legally speaking, for those who trust Christ as their Lord and Savior, the adoption is sealed. Jesus says no one can pluck them from his hand. The more we seek him in our daily lives, the more we understand the hope that is contained in our adoptions. Suffering doesn't last so long or sting so badly.

The hope we have as Christians is not just an eternal home in heaven. It's GLORY! Full, complete, perfectly designed, unending GLORY. It's a new Heaven, a new Earth, a new Heavenly Body, a new walk with Jesus face to face.

Day 6 | Carissa & Keegan Divant

1 John:5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

The very nature of God is that He is pure and Holy. If He is light, then by definition it is literally impossible for any darkness to be present. If we choose to walk in darkness, to live as we did before hearing the gospel, then we are lying to those around us and we're lying to ourselves. We also don't get to experience the greatest joy which is fellowship with the Father.

How, then, do we make sure we're walking in the light? In 2 Corinthians, Paul says to examine yourself to see if you're in faith (or in the light). If Christ is in us then we can expect to walk in the light. And, if we're walking in the light, then we have credibility when we share the good news of Jesus Christ. During this time, let's examine our daily walk to ensure that we are in the light so that we may fully enjoy fellowship with our perfect and eternal Father.

This fellowship also extends to one another. There will always be things in life that make fellowship with others hard this time of year, things like busy schedules, overwhelm, grief, and even hurt. In many ways, this year has added new challenges that would make it easy to neglect the fellowship that God calls us to but the truth is we need it now more than ever. How can you be creative this year to make fellowship with others a priority even if it looks different? What can we do as believers to look past the chaos around us and focus on God's light this holiday season?

Day 7 | *Ruthie and Alena Ward*

Luke 1:11-17

Zechariah trusted that God was going to do what he promised through his son John, and in the same way we can trust the Lord in our lives. Whenever we are asked by God to do a specific task we should accept it and trust him in it. In the book *Through the Gates of Splendor* by Elizabeth Elliot, Jim Elliot was called to go to Ecuador. He joined up with four missionaries that were led to do the same thing. They were led to a tribe known as the Aucas, but this tribe was known to kill any outsiders due to previous negative encounters. However, this did not stop these five missionaries. The five men were eventually killed by a clan of Auca men while attempting to befriend them. We should be like these five brave men, trust God, and live for Him. "Wherever you are, be all here. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God." stated Jim Elliot.

Put your full trust in Jesus because he has a plan, a hope, and a future for you. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" Jeremiah 29:11.

Day 8 | *Liz Hogan*

Luke 1:18-25

When the angel of the Lord appeared to, Zacharias, this priest was troubled and fearful. His fear is quite understandable, we as we can only imagine the imposing and powerful visage of a celestial being. I am sure that most of us would tremble at such a sight.

On the other hand, it is hard not to feel a little scorn when Zacharias questions the news the angel brought him. After hearing that he will become a father of a baby who will be the forerunner to the Son of God, Zacharias asks, "How can you know this for certain?" (v18). Really, Zacharias!? One of the heavenly hosts is standing before you with miraculous news from God, and you question him?

Yet, after thinking it over, my scorn turns to shame, as I remember the many times I have questioned God's promises to me. How can you love me? Will our finances stretch through this month? Will my loved ones know you? Am I safe? God's has never failed me or forsaken me, but still I question.

Zacharias may have had an angel, but I have the Word of God, the Holy Spirit's guidance and Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. How can I ever be nonchalant about these gifts or forget them in times of trouble and fear? Forgive me, Lord, for judging Zacharias. Thank you, Jesus, for loving us so much that you left your heavenly home to bear our sins and lead us in the path of righteousness.

Day 9 | *The Higgins family : Josh, Brandy, Claire (14), Judson (9), Lillian (10)*

Luke 1:26-33

The Good News

Mary was given some miraculous information from the angel Gabriel. Look at the amazing news she received; she was going to have a son from miraculous birth – God's own SON! Here are his names and titles as announced by Gabriel:

- Name is Jesus (means; Yahweh is salvation),
- He will be great, son of Most High
- The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,
- He will reign over the house of Jacob – forever!
- His kingdom will have no end.

That is a long list of awesome names & titles. Which name/title stands out to you? Which name/title do you know the least about? Which name/title do you know the most about?

Mary was told by the angel "Do not be afraid." This long list of names and titles of our awesome Savior puts our mind at ease. God has sent salvation from the Most High God, Jesus has been given the throne and will reign forever – His kingdom has NO END.

This season, let's meditate on the Good News. The world is full of bad news, but our Jesus, his kingdom reigns forever and we are a part of it! Now, that is a reason to celebrate!! Spend some time digging into one of his names or titles as a family. Learn something new about our awesome Savior! When you love someone, you want to know ALL about him.

As a family choose one name or title to pray and praise God for! Together, let's learn, meditate, worship and praise our Awesome God!! Merry Christmas with love, peace and joy abounding.

Day 10 | *Liz Hogan*

Luke 1: 34-38

When the angel, Gabriel, announced to Mary her role in the birth of the Messiah, I wonder what thoughts and questions must have coursed through her mind. I can imagine the concerns flitting to and fro in just a matter of seconds. Who me? What will the neighbors think? Will Joseph forsake me? These would be the questions that would bounce through my mind if I had been her.

She asked only one question. "How can this be as I am a virgin?" Gabriel answered, "...for with God, nothing is impossible." (v37). If she was unsettled and unsure, these words cleared her mind immediately, for she said, "Behold the bond servant of the Lord; may it be done according to your word." (v38). In just one split second she humbled herself to her God willing to trust and obey.

Oh that we could all rest in faith as quickly as Mary. In just a split second listen to God's words, and trust God to fulfill us with His love and plans for each day. Like Mary, become His bond slave, knowing that we can obey Him as we remember that His yoke is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30).

Day 11 | *Scott, Jillian & Hayley Hanten*

Luke 1: 39-45

In these few verses we see how powerful the Holy Spirit is in our everyday lives and how God's sovereignty truly reigns over all. John the Baptist, as a baby still in his mother's womb, is filled with the Holy Spirit when he was in the presence of Jesus while Jesus was still in His mother's womb. We also see how Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit when she sees Mary. Elizabeth cried out in a loud voice, an expression of praise, not toward Mary but in praise of the child Mary was carrying. Elizabeth's profound expression of calling Mary's child "my Lord" shows her faith that Mary's child would in fact be the promised Savior. Elizabeth's response can only be attributed to the Holy Spirit filling her. This is the same Holy Spirit that all of us believers have inside us, and we can rely on for guidance in every area of our lives.

Day 12 | *J & Cheryl Entwistle. Eloise, Myles, Sigge, Paxton & Jude*

Luke 1:46-55

Encourage One Another, Glorify God

Not only do I love this song of praise to Our Savior, I love the driving force behind it. Luke's account of Mary's song of praise stemmed from this overwhelming sense of joy because of God's calling in her life. Had Mary forgotten or not fully understood? Absolutely not! But it was her sister in Christ, a fellow believer, who was experiencing that same joy with her. God has created us to be relational, we "are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:5). God's plan for your life is beautiful, but the plan He has for His children together creates this masterpiece that we can never comprehend. Let us remember to live that joy together, encourage one another and ultimately, point each other to the one who designed it all.

To be honest, if God told me I was going to be remembered for "all generations", I would have a hard time suppressing the pride that would want to creep into my mind. Mary's praise to Our Heavenly Father demonstrates where all of our joy comes from, and where that credit is due. God alone is the One that deserves all glory for the work He does in our lives. We are specks of color in this masterpiece he is creating, but He has a plan, one that has us working together, encouraging one another, living a life that ultimately glorifies Him. And that truth should drive us to give Him all the praise He is due.

Merry Christmas!

Day 13 | *Leigh Kaiser*

Luke 1:57-66

Rejoice and Obey

There are a couple of things that stand out in this passage:

First that Elizabeth's neighbors heard what the Lord had done and rejoiced WITH her. Scripture doesn't say they were jealous or made fun of her ; it says they rejoiced because God had shown Elizabeth great mercy. What if we celebrated with our neighbors (friends, family, and fellow believers) when God blesses them, instead of allowing jealousy or bitterness to creep in?

Second, Zechariah and Elizabeth follow God's instruction in naming their baby John, which goes against tradition and culture. They are blessed because of their obedience (Zechariah gets his voice back!). Word of the Lord's work spread throughout the hill country, and people marveled at what He had done. They knew that John would be someone great because the hand of the Lord was with him. How often do we give in to the suggestions of friends and culture? Do we ignore God's instruction and do what is traditional, easy, and doesn't cause disruption?

In today's culture, obedience to God is radical. Are we willing to be firm in our belief and trust in Christ so that His fame will spread? Let us rejoice with others when they are blessed in ways that we aren't. May we obey God instead of giving into the evils of the world. When we declare His praise, His fame will spread throughout our neighborhoods, cities, and to the ends of the earth!

Day 14 | *Ayana Stone and Megan Keaton*

Luke 1:57-80

In the passage before 1 Luke 67-80, Zechariah cannot speak because his voice is taken away until John the Baptist, his son, is born. In 1 Luke 67-80, when Zechariah gets his voice back and is filled with the Holy Spirit, the first thing he does is praise the Lord. He goes on to describe the coming of John and Jesus to show that God always remembers his promise. He speaks of Jesus before he speaks of his son. When Zechariah speaks about John, he says that John and Jesus are not equal, John is the prophet of the Lord Jesus, who will bring peace to God's people. John will tell the people about Jesus, and how he will save them. John is to prepare the way for Jesus. As we dwell in this holiday season celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, we should remember that God remembers; he remembers the promises he made and will act on the behalf of his people when the time is right. We should go out and spread the word and let others know that Jesus is our Savior, and God keeps his promises. It is always a good time to tell someone about Jesus.

Day 15 | *Tim and René Ward*

Luke 2:1-7

The word sovereign is defined as “possessing supreme power to an unlimited extent” by Merriam Webster. The sovereignty of God gives Him the ability to orchestrate His plans as He sees fit. His plans always supersede our thoughts or our ability to think about what we believe should be happening in the world. Mary and Joseph were required by law to return to Bethlehem in order to register for the census. This was inconvenient, uncomfortable, and difficult, since Mary was nine months pregnant. We see the government making “decrees”, regulations and mandates that we consider uncomfortable and difficult as well. However, the Lord is in control of all these seemingly small details, and He promises to use earthly leaders and their decisions to carry out His perfect plans.

In this instance in Luke, prophecy was given in the Old Testament that was fulfilled through Caesar’s mandate, and our Savior was born according to scripture in the place the Lord had planned long ago. Though times are challenging today with the political climate, changing regulations and daily inconveniences, God remains completely sovereign in all the details. After all, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth, to die on a cross and raise three days later in Jerusalem for the forgiveness of sin. All perfectly orchestrated by our Sovereign Heavenly Father. Trust in Jesus, He is Lord!

Day 16 | *Morgan Family*

Luke 2:8-12

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over the flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news and will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’”

Just as the shepherds, we must continue to live and work. But, oh is there good news, and as the angel said we shall not be afraid, for the Messiah, our Lord, is born. So, “do not be afraid,” for there is hope in the Lord, our God, and “great cause for joy for all the people.”

During this time of reflection and preparation to celebrate the arrival of our savior the Lord Jesus Christ, let us remember the everlasting hope and joy that He brings; the security in knowing that all is right with Him; that He carries the world in His hands; and, most importantly, He, and He alone, has saved our fallen world. Look around and take in all that He has blessed you with and know that He loves and cares for you so much that He died to save you.

May you and your family be blessed during this season.

Day 17 | *Joel & Elisha Kirby, Seth & KJ*

Luke 2: 13-18

Merry Christmas! That is what many folks say this time of year. This year, when you tell someone Merry Christmas, try to align your well wishes with the Birth of Christ and what that means to a fallen world and more specifically, what it means to you.

The news was so great even the heavenly host of angels came to proclaim it and give God his glory. Think about that.....when we remember and reflect that Jesus left his throne to take on the form of a servant, born into a world of grief, we may be able to better express why Christmas is so "Merry" for us as followers of Christ. Pray that more people around us will open their lives to Jesus and know why you say Merry Christmas the way you do!

Day 18 | *Rick and Sherri St. Pierre*

Luke 2:19-20

19 “But Mary treasured and pondered all these things in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. “

To ponder means to weigh carefully in the mind; consider thoughtfully. Mary weighs everything that has happened to her. From the angel Gabriel telling her that she will conceive and bear a son, who will be called Jesus, to giving birth in a manger. There is so much for her to take in.

How often do we just sit with God and ponder the things that have happened or are happening to us? Many of us are always thinking of what is next, what is in the future and what will we be doing. God wants us to sit with him and ponder the things He has given us or done for us. We may not know why things turn out the way they do or why things happen a certain way, but if we take the time to ponder on where we have been, often we can see how and why God orchestrated it.

In verse 20, the shepherds give praise to God for everything they had seen and heard. These shepherds were just ordinary men who witnessed something magnificent. Just as they praised God, so should we. Not only for what He is doing in our lives, but for the single fact that He sent Jesus to save us.

During this Christmas season, make time to ponder the wonders of God and what He has done in your life. Give Him the glory and praise for sending His son Jesus as our greatest gift.

Day 19 | Ross Family

Luke 2: 28-35

For my Eyes Have Seen Your Salvation

Righteous and devout, this man of God...

A lifetime praying...

A lifetime waiting...

*Obediently trusting and believing the Consolation of Israel,
the Messiah, would soon be revealed.*

God made a promise...so, he waits.

Waiting is rarely easy or enjoyable. Just as we finish one waiting period, we are faced with another.

The Holy Spirit promised Simeon he would see the Messiah! Remaining in prayer, hopeful, and with anticipation, "Will today be the day?" Simeon waited with obedience.

Peering into the eyes of the tiny infant child,

Glimpses of peace, comfort, and grace burn into his soul.

He knows, this life is complete...the wait is over!

Years he has prayed for this day

Decades of promises from Yahweh

Finally...The Messiah. The King.

Simeon waited a long time for the best gift he could ever receive - Jesus.

In our waiting period, may we bring praise, glory and honor.

O' come let us adore Him!

Day 20 | *Pam Hamilton*

Luke 2:36-38

Anna was a prophetess, whose vocation was prayer. Her name signifies "grace" or "gracious," and we see examples of her being a gracious woman in scripture. She was very advanced in years, perhaps 91 years old or more. Anna had been a widow for much of her life, and yet, we read that she had a wonderful ministry throughout those years.

Widowhood was not her choice in life, and, yet, she embraced her situation for many, many years and became a prayer warrior, with a wonderful ministry. We read in verses 37 & 38 that "Anna never left the temple, but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem."

What a wonderful ministry, in the midst of great sorrow in her life.

What do we do when life brings unexpected or unwanted circumstances into our lives? We can choose to become bitter or better persons.

Anna became a better person and for many, many years was a blessing to many. May we become better people each day!

Luke 2:39-40

Fully Human

"When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him." Luke 2:39-40 (NASB)

Jesus is referred to by Luke as "the Child" in verse 40. What a remarkable Child! He was treated by His parents as any other Hebrew baby boy was treated under the Law. On the eighth day Jesus was circumcised and the family moved back to Nazareth after Mary completed her purification.

Verse 40 further emphasizes the fact that as a human, Jesus still had some growing to do concerning his physical body. He "continued to grow and become strong." He also "increased in wisdom," thus indicating that He developed in His intellectual growth. Jesus was a typical human baby who required the constant care of a mother and father. It is also interesting that, "the grace of God was upon Him". As a human Jesus needed the grace of God to help Him live in human form.

These few verses give us insight as to why the writer of Hebrews says, "This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin" (4:15 NLT). This is the Savior we celebrate every day and especially on Christmas.

Day 22 | *Pam Hamilton*

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

In reading these verses, we learn that we have been reconciled to God through Christ. What does it mean to be reconciled?

The dictionary states that to be reconciled is to "restore friendly relations between and to cause to coexist in harmony." It can also mean to "restore harmony and to settle or resolve."

What are we settling or resolving with God? It is our sins that have kept us from reconciliation with God....from "friendly relations...from restoring harmony." We learn in verse 18 that God "reconciled us to himself through Christ...not counting men's sins against them." What a joyous, incredible act of love on God's part. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (vs 21)

This is the meaning of the birth of Christ. He became sin for us and through his birth and death on the cross, we are reconciled to God.

How wonderful that we can live in harmony with God...with our sins "settled and resolved."

As we celebrate Christ's birth, embrace the joy we can have to live "reconciled" with God through all eternity.

Day 23 | Wesley, Whitney, and Wynston Williams

Mathew 2:7-12

Servants of Jesus and Humble Leaders

Herod thought he was slick – He wanted to kill Jesus!!! Herod sent a few “wise men” to go find Jesus in order that he may “worship Jesus” when he truly felt threatened and knew he would lose his throne! Interestingly, the wise men he sent likely had no true knowledge of who Jesus truly was – The Way the Truth and the Light! Funny enough, the actions of the wise men served to reveal how all nations would worship Jesus!

The question is, “Are YOU seeking Jesus?”. Are you worshiping him? These wise men traveled miles (with no car) to find Christ, yet we at times struggle to even travel out of bed. Let today be the day you get out of bed and travel as far as necessary to get to Jesus. Spend time today worshiping Jesus as the wise men did, with HUMILITY, EXCEEDINGLY and with GREAT JOY! Trust us – It will be more than worth the travel...

Isaiah 9:6-7

The King is Coming!

The northern kingdom of Israel was under attack. They had turned their backs on God and were living immorally. The Assyrian empire took advantage of their weakened military situation and crushed Israel in a humiliating defeat in 722 B.C. Surely during this upheaval, they remembered the words that had been given them three years earlier by Isaiah the prophet.

Isaiah 9:6-7 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. 7Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

These prophetic words pointed forward to a time that would come. A time when a very special child would be born. He would be a King and the weight of the government would eventually be on his shoulders. He would be a Wonderful Counselor to end all confusion. He would be a Mighty King with all the power. He would be an Everlasting Father who loves perfectly. He would be the Prince of Peace to end all turmoil. In the middle of a raging political scene this would have brought them hope. It brings us hope too.

When Jesus returns he will set up this literal Kingdom on earth. He will sit on the historic throne of David and he will rule with justice and righteousness. But before this baby would grow up and carry the weight of the government on his shoulders he would first have to carry a cross. He is a King that would first redeem his people and then rule his people. As we celebrate Christmas this year, let's remember that the baby who was born is our King. Let's pray right now for his soon return and for his Kingdom to be fully established.

DAY 25

O Come All Ye Faithful

*Read and/or sing the words to this joyous hymn
which proclaims the truth of our Lord and Savior's birth!*

O come, all ye faithful , joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels!

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord*

Oh, sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Oh, come, oh come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord*

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES
