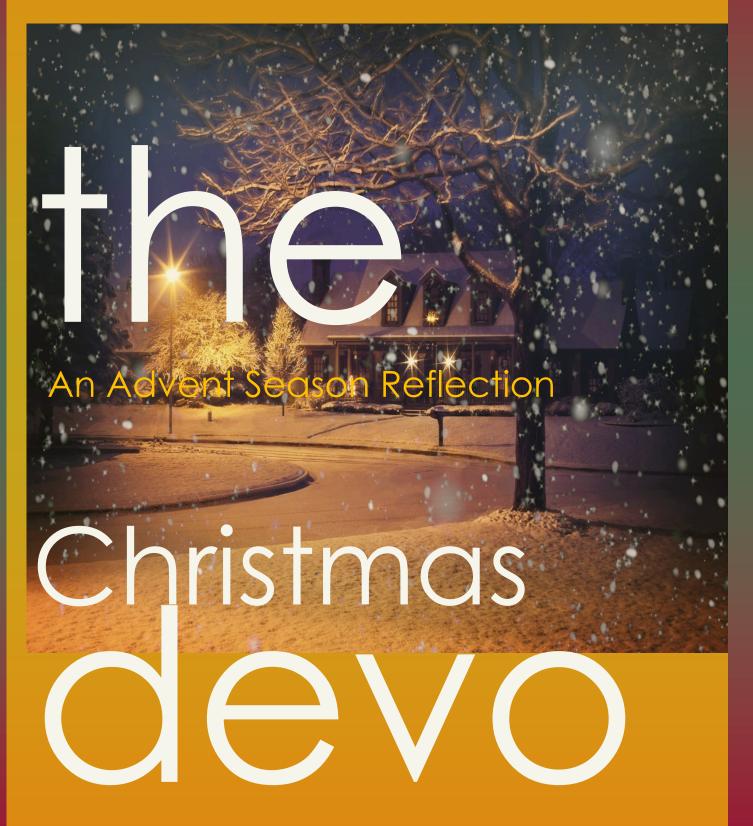


Isaiah Prophecies Fulfilled In Jesus Christ



CHRISTMAS DEVO SERIES ||

—A Journey Through the Five Weeks of Advent

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to Equip Church's Christmas devo series as we reflect and embrace this sacred time of devotion and reflection leading up to Christmas day.

We have prepared this devotional for your use as you journey through the five weeks of Advent in remembrance and great expectancy of the celebration of the birth our Lord Jesus Christ. As you read, may you take time to engage in the prophecy from the prophet Isaiah fulfilled in Jesus Christ and explore a prayerful time of devotion on the birth and ministry of Our Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Equip Church has prepared this prayerful devotional series as a help to all people as we prepare our hearts to receive the Messiah. The Incarnation of Christ is a time of great joy, expectation and anticipation. We await Emmanuel—God with us! It is the fervent hope of Equip Church that we can spend this precious time together in preparation for this blessed event.

May God richly bless and keep you as you love and lead in Him.

Equip Church | Academy | Care

A Christmas Devotional

A CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

This season is a joyous one as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We remain uplifted and it is Jesus, who brings us His peace, that is the source of this joy. This year let's take a deeper look at the benefits we receive from His Incarnation. What can we learn? Each week in Advent is an opportunity to learn something about what has been accomplished by the Birth of Christ. We can take this time to prepare for His coming, to seek Him and to understand more about His nature and our relationship to Him.

As you contemplate and pray each week be mindful of these questions listed below. The Goal of this devotional is to celebrate the Incarnation of Christ and to increase our understanding of the nature of God and how we can develop an intimate relationship with Him.

A Personal Time of Reflection

- 1. What has God shown you about Himself during this sacred time as you have gone deeper with Him?
- 2. What have your reflections revealed to you about yourself this season?
- 3. How might you apply what you have learned toward your practical application to life and ministry?

A Christmas Devotional

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A prayerful time of reflection on the sovereignty of Christ who rules over Nations

CHRISTMAS DEVO SERIES || Isaiah 40:3-5

—A Preparation Through Repentance and Faith

First Week of Advent

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way for the Lord; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'"

A PRAYERFUL DEVOTION

Father, we give You praise and gratitude for Your faithfulness. You are our Good Father who directs us and prepares us for our Salvation. During this time of year, we come together to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. We prepare for the Glory who will come among us.

Father we prepare first by fostering a repentant heart within us. We pray to "bear fruits worthy of repentance". We pray for strength and determination to transform our lives as we see sinful ways within us. We pray for the understanding that is needed as we make straight the crooked places and smooth the rough places. We pray to remove all these obstacles that come between us and Our Lord and Savior.

Father, we work toward the transformation and the sanctification of our entire being—spirit soul and body. We come before You with anticipation for Emmanuel. We await our Salvation to be with us.

Isaiah 40:3-5 . . .

"John answered saying to all, 'I indeed baptize you with water, but One mightier than I is coming whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire." Luke 3:16-17

Father, we pray to increase in faith. We have our faith in Jesus, born to be our Salvation. We continue in faith to receive the saving grace He has won for us and to be counted among the wheat. We pray to straighten our path and to walk in the Spirit and to keep the commands of the Word.

We Pray in the Beloved Name of Jesus Christ, Amen

Let us pray . . .



CHRISTMAS DEVO SERIES || Isaiah 7:14

—A Focus Upon the Divinity of Christ as the Son of God

Second Week of Advent

"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel,"

A PRAYERFUL DEVOTION

Father Your greatness abounds! Creator of Heaven and earth—Your ways are so very far above us that we can never fully comprehend them. You created us in Your image, morally innocent before our fall.

Father Your love abounds! You have not forgotten us in our iniquity. Your divine providence is working for us in every day of our lives.

Father Your mercy abounds! Your divine intervention provides for the means of our salvation through the divine birth of Jesus Christ.

Father Your forgiveness abounds! No one but You, Lord can accomplish our redemption. Our sin is against You, our Holy God. You forgive us and You send Your Son, Jesus who comes to save us and not to condemn.

Isaiah 7:14...



The Eternal Son, who was with You at the creation of the world, comes to us born of a virgin. He is made flesh for the love He bears for His creation. Jesus is conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit—a supernatural birth by the power of God. Therefore, the divinity of Jesus as the Son of the God now among us is established. Praise to our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit who are united in One will, working toward our redemption.

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you will conceive in your womb and bring forward a Son, and shall call His name Jesus, He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest; the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:31-33

Lord Jesus, we worship and adore You, Son of God the Father, born of a virgin. Born a babe and born a King, You are the Joy of the World! Emmanuel—God is with us!

We Pray in the Divine Name of Jesus Christ, Amen Let us pray . . .

CHRISTMAS DEVO SERIES || Isaiah 11:1-2 — Christ as a Descendent of David

Third Week of Advent

"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge of the fear of the Lord."

A PRAYERFUL DEVOTION

Thank You Father for the faithfulness of Your Word. You have revealed Yourself to us through it. Jesus Christ is Himself the Word made flesh. He is the Communicator, who links us as both Son of God and Son of Man. Thank You, Jesus the fulfillment of all prophecy—the Rod from the stem of Jesse.

Thank You Father that You gave Your Son to be made a man. Jesus took our frailty upon Himself, but Your Spirit of wisdom knowledge and understanding was upon Him. Jesus lived in unity with You, as He came to accomplish Your will.

Thank You Jesus for all You have sacrificed for us and the world. You are King in Heaven but came to us as a child and dependent. You lived as a man, enduring all the trials we face as men and women. You faced temptation, rejection, suffering and even death. You have built our confidence in You as we face the trials before us.

Isaiah 11:1-2 . . .

Your life on earth is an example to us. You have shown us the way to live with love and forgiveness. You gave us the priority to love God first and above all else, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. You have taught us to forgive others their trespasses as we pray for God to forgive us. God will forgive us as we forgive others. We all fall short of the glory of God, but we can place our faith in You and the saving grace You have won for us by Your sacrifice.

Thank You, Jesus, our High Priest and Intercessor who stands in the gap. You provide our righteousness before the Father. Through Your Incarnation You have shown us the example of obedience and following the will of God for our lives.

"...I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will. From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus" Acts 13:22c-23

We Pray in the Beloved Name of Jesus Christ, Amen

Let us pray . . .



CHRISTMAS DEVO SERIES || Isaiah 9:6
—A Child is Born

Fourth Week of Advent

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulder, And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

A PRAYERFUL DEVOTION

Heavenly Father, we are joyful today in Your presence. Today we celebrate You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For You have sent Your Son as Messiah, Your Anointed One is given. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of all. He is given to judge all, and the government of His creation rests upon Him.

Wonderful Counselor, we praise this Holy Name. You reveal Yourself in these Holy Names and we see the wonderful deeds You perform. We adore You, our Lord and Savior. You are our High Priest and Intercessor before the Father. You are the Lamb of God who saves us. You are the Word become flesh, our Teacher and Shepherd and through You we may obtain eternal life.

Mighty God, our Sovereign King all honor and glory are Yours. Your power and might is our confidence as we depend upon Your divine providential care. By You all things are possible. In reverence we approach You with humility and in prayer, and in praise. We pray for wisdom and understanding as we strive to follow the Word you give.

Isaiah 9:6 . . .

Everlasting Father, we praise Our Lord, Jesus Christ, You are the Alpha and the Omega. You are the Beginning and the End. All things are created by you, and we are Yours. We strive to follow the example You have given by Your life. Our faith is in You, Jesus, that we may receive Your saving grace and live eternally with You in Heaven.

Prince of Peace, the victory is Yours. We give thanks for the love You bear us. You have defeated sin and death. You have restored our righteousness before the Father that we may have eternal life. No matter what we endure, in the end all things will be made to the good for all those who love and follow You. We stand on the eternal promises You give. We pray for Your peace and comfort which surpasses all understanding. You have come for our salvation.

"For there is born to you today in the City of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

We Pray in the Beloved Name of Jesus Christ, Amen

Let us Pray . . .



CHRISTMAS DEVO SERIES || Isaiah 11:10

—Christ to Rule Over Nations

Christmas Day

A PRAYERFUL DEVOTION in preparation for Christmas Day:

"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people, for the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

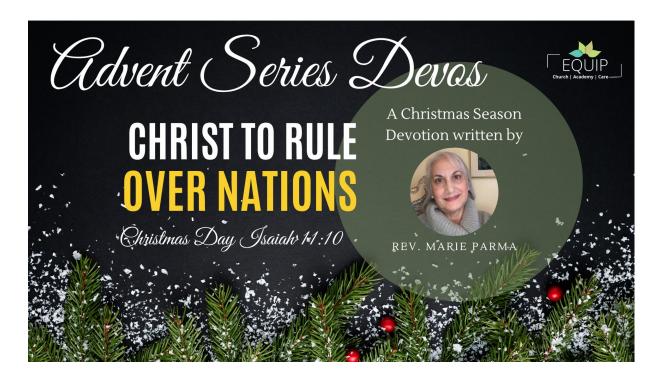
Father, on this glorious Christmas Day we give You thanks for this Most Precious Gift, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank You for this gift of love, this gift of hope. Our hope is in Him who is born fully God and fully Man—Emmanuel is with us!

Joy to the world is given and we will have rest in Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. You have come as a babe, unassuming in appearance. You have come to us in all humility. You set aside Your heavenly glory for love of us. You have come to save the world, and we seek to know You.

Born in a manger, You are among the meek without riches and without the status of King. Your first coming is accomplished in anonymity. Love is born today.

Born in a manger, as You lay wrapped in swaddling, Your Heavenly Host announce your arrival: "Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you

Isaiah 11:10 . . .



Born in a manger, the shepherds seek out the Great Joy who has come—Our Christ, our Messiah. "Then the shepherds returned praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen as it was told them. Luke 2:20

Born in a manger, You have come and showed us the way to walk in humility, to love and to serve. You have taught us and provided the way to victory and eternal life with You. You have come as our Good Shepherd, our Prince of Peace, our King of Kings and Ruler over all the Nations. We give thanks and praise Your Holy Name!

"And again, Isaiah says: 'There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope." Romans 15:12

We pray in the Glorious Name of Jesus, the Christ, Amen

Let us Pray . . .

Here's More on Equip . . . Church | Care | Academy

- Equip has a Biblical mandate to love and support others.
- 2 Equip is redefining Pastoral Care ... in the church, in the community, in the college and, most importantly, in caring.
- We proclaim, teach, train, empower, and equip others to do the same, resulting in the world believing that Jesus is Lord and that God loves them.
- 4 The Vision of Equip is to bring "A culture of authentic compassion and care to the point of need based upon Ephesians 4:11-12 & Matthew 25:40 so that the world will more easily find and know Jesus."
- The ongoing Mission of Equip "exists to bring a culture of hope, care, and Kingdom advancement to the point of need by providing diverse avenues of Spiritual Care so that many are encouraged, inspired and enabled for Spiritual resiliency, sustainability, and hope resulting in the world believing that Jesus is Lord and that God loves them"

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