



ADVENT

THE NAMES OF GOD

A HOME LITURGICAL GUIDE FOR ADVENT

WHAT IS ADVENT?

We all know what it means to long for something. As humans, whether we are consuming for our immediate needs, or just waiting for the next thing, we fill up with what we need or desire, in order to get through another day.

Sometimes though, we acutely feel a deeper sense of longing that extends outside of daily wants and desires and stirs up something bigger than ourselves. God created us to be creatures who long for and desire to be filled with something that we can not find in this world. Even still, we will try to find this meaning and satisfaction in our relationships, our careers, our bank accounts, foods, drinks and gifts. In the end, just like the Christmas tree that gets brittle and gifts that are forgotten, we find that we can not satisfy our deepest longings with the things of this world. (see Titus 2:11-14, Col 1:26-27).

The season of “Advent” which is derived from the Latin word for “coming,” serves to stir up our desires, and longings and focuses them on the only one who can truly satisfy. During this season which marks the beginning of the Church year, we celebrate Jesus, who came to you and I to give us everlasting life and establish His Heavenly reign in our hearts and to fill us with everlasting life. Advent is also a time that we long for the second coming of Jesus when He will physically bring His Kingdom to earth and restore all things to sinless perfection. A place and time where we will have all we need and have it abundantly through our King, Jesus. As we spend time longing for and waiting this season, may your hearts be comforted with the truth and life of Jesus Christ who is the only one who can truly give us life and meaning this Christmas, and may you also wait well for Him to return as He promised to do.

WHAT IS LITURGY?

Christian Liturgy is the action and form of worshipping God in a variety of ways that starts with and is primarily inspired by and rooted in the Holy Scriptures. Liturgical practice serves to help us train our actions and habits more toward a love for God by helping to engage us as we worship Him.

Through consistent participation in a Christ centered Liturgy, we begin to see God as the root of, and the abiding presence in all things of life whether big or small. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 says,

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Christ centered liturgies help us in our desire to dwell more on who God is, and as we do this, the more it becomes part of our nature, our love, our default. Our hearts and minds begin to be re-shaped, and the aim of our love re-directed toward God and His Kingdom.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Our desire for this Liturgical Advent guide is to help to serve your home this season by giving you both practical and organic suggestions on how to dwell deeper and more frequently on the mystery of the Incarnation.

Each week, the guide starts with a short devotional based upon the various names of God being preached at your home church, followed by four “episodes” that you can participate with throughout the week.

Begin each week with the devotional. While you read this section, make it special by taking time to do a favorite Advent tradition such as, lighting an Advent candle, listening to Christmas music, or putting up some decorations. Read and meditate on the devotional and take time to journal or discuss. If with kids, you might ask some follow up questions.

Through the rest of the week, use the four “episodes” at various times whether alone or with others to go deeper. These can be done at the breakfast table, your favorite chair, the car ride into school or at lunch. The length of time spent on each episode is not crucial, however engaging frequently with the various episodes will serve to help you steep in and dwell in the truths of God deeper.

May your, conversation and hearts be more and more directed at Jesus Christ, God with us, Immanuel. Blessings.

***Special thanks to those who worked to put this guide together:**

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PREFACE

God has revealed himself to us in many many ways (Hebrews 1:1). His character is complex and multifaceted, yet he is constant and one. Throughout scripture he is given many names, His name is given several different qualifiers, not to limit Him, but to reduce him into a form we can understand. We sometimes cannot understand a thing, until we have seen the thing in a lot of different ways. God is most fully revealed to us through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:2). In a sense, Jesus is his most important name. Jesus, when he was born here on earth, brought a complete manifestation of the character of God. We then expect to find a fulfillment of all God's character, and even God's ultimate nature, in the person of Jesus Christ.

By looking at Jesus, we can really, truly, learn about God.

Following, we will look at four names of God in Scripture and will learn exactly how the God of the universe chose to present himself. Take care to notice, that often he looks different than we might expect. Each of these names finds their perfect fulfillment in the life of Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we also celebrate God's faithfulness, his graciousness, and his loving-kindness, not as something distinct from Jesus, but as something distinct in Jesus.

THIS IS OUR GOD

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD

THE LORD IS PRESENT

THE LORD OUR BANNER



ISAIAH 9:2

THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT;

THOSE WHO DWELT IN A LAND OF DEEP DARKNESS, ON THEM HAS LIGHT SHONE.

“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. IN HIS DAYS JUDAH WILL BE SAVED, AND ISRAEL WILL DWELL SECURELY. AND THIS IS THE NAME BY WHICH HE WILL BE CALLED: ‘THE LORD IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’”

JEREMIAH 23:5-6

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

What is righteousness? Like any word repeated over and over, it has lost its meaning. It is commonly used to refer to matters of justice. One either judges righteously, or is judged to be righteous. We can think similarly think of the

term upright. We also know a word that is its opposite, iniquity. Iniquity literally means to be crooked or bent.

On the other hand, God is perfectly righteous. Not a thing in Him is out of place, everything is in order. He is perfectly upright. As a consequence of that, he is perfectly just. This means that any iniquity will either be straightened or destroyed.

This poses a problem for us, doesn't it? Would any of us like our deeds, our iniquity to be visited upon us? We deserve God's wrath, every one of us. We have a righteous judge and we are a crooked people. All we like sheep have gone astray, each one to his own way. We are, all of us, enemies of God. But, God's love is far too great to leave his sheep scattered. He loves us far too much to leave us to our own devices.

That's why he came. He came as a man, to be made sin for us, though he knew no sin. So that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness and bear our iniquity on himself. We then, are not repaid according to our deeds, but according to his. God's wrath is no longer centered upon us. We are made righteous in his sight, not by any deed of our own, but by the work of Christ, to the glory of God the Father.

In the birth of Christ, we see God's perfect plan of reconciliation. We see our burden of sin lifted and carried away from us. We are given the right-ness, the good-ness, and perfect-ness of Christ.

GALATIANS 5:5 FOR THROUGH THE SPIRIT, BY FAITH, WE OURSELVES EAGERLY WAIT FOR THE HOPE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

EPISODE 1: TABLE QUESTIONS

- Think about what makes you most joyful, or sad in the season of Advent?
- What is something are you currently longing or waiting for?
- Where does Jesus' righteousness need to transform something that is broken in your life right now?

EPISODE 2: HYMNS

Take some time to explore the words of these Advent Hymns that proclaim the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ bringing with Him perfect Righteousness.

Listen to this Advent hymn and read the text. Consider the following:

- How might we see each day differently if we more often mediated on the truth of a perfect, righteous Kingdom built by, reigned by and ushered in by Jesus Christ?
- How can you be set free by the Righteousness of Jesus today?

[Come Thou Long Expected Jesus](#)

[Red Mountain Church, "Silent Night"](#)

[Kings Kaleidoscope, "Joy Has Dawned"](#)

EPISODE 3: PRAYER

Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord, and remember not our sins for ever.

Your holy cities have become a desert, Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation; our holy and beautiful house, where our ancestors praised you.

Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

We have sinned and become like one who is unclean; we have all withered like a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away. You have hidden your face from us, and abandoned us to our iniquities.

Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know me and believe me. I myself am the Lord, and none but I can deliver; what my hand holds, none can snatch away.

Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

Comfort my people, comfort them; my salvation shall not be delayed. I have swept your offenses away like a cloud; fear not, for I will save you. I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your redeemer.

Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

-“The Advent Prose”- Common Worship: the Times and Seasons, The Church of England

EPISODE 4: ACTION

"In the midst of all the confusions of our day, it is important that we find out that Jesus Christ is the Lord of all righteousness and the Lord of all wisdom".

-AW Tozer

- Write out some things you need to do today/this week.
- No matter how big or small, consider how the righteousness of Jesus might redeem each one and help you live them out with purpose as sons and daughters of the King.



“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT. HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES. HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS. HE RESTORES MY SOUL. HE LEADS ME IN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE. EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL FOR YOU ARE WITH ME; YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME. YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES, YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL; MY CUP OVERFLOWS. SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND I SHALL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.” - PSALM 23

THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD

Israel was a nation of shepherds. Their father, Abraham, was a shepherd, as was Jacob. Jacob's sons were shepherds. Moses was a shepherd, as was David. Israel's kings were called to be shepherds of their people. Moses, the Judges, the Kings, and the prophets; all of them were shepherds. At least they were supposed to be.

They failed. They did all the things that shepherds were not supposed to do. They mislead and scattered their people, and neglected to protect them from all the dangers of this world. But the problem wasn't that they were bad shepherds. It was that they were bad sheep. God expected them to follow and obey him as their Shepherd, but they rejected God's Word. So God promised that a new shepherd would come, one that would lead his people well! This Shepherd would be a perfect Judge, Prophet, and King.

However, we have seen so many bad shepherds, that when we see a good one, it seems like a contradiction. We expect prophets to bring nothing but woes, but Jesus brings hope. We expect judges to be unrelenting, but Jesus is merciful. We expect Kings to be powerful and rich, yet Jesus is poor and meek. Jesus knew that to be a perfect King, he needed to completely surrender to the will of the Father. He left behind all glory and splendor, and humbled himself. To the point of death. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and spoke not a word in defense.

It is that very submission, as well as his perfect righteousness, that has qualified him to be King; and as King, he has qualified us to take part in his Kingdom; a Kingdom with a Good King, unlike any other. He was the Good Shepherd, because he gave his life for his sheep. The birth of Christ, marked the beginning of a lifelong divine "sheephood", a life of complete submission to the will of the Father.

EPISODE 1: TABLE QUESTIONS

- Who is one person that leads you?
Who is someone you lead?
what is hard about leading or being led?
- If Jesus was in your shoes how might He lead or be led by others?
- Identify one aspect of your day/week where you could allow Jesus, the Good Shepherd to guide and care for you.

EPISODE 2: SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Ezekiel 34:11-16

“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

- Mediate on God being our Shepherd

EPISODE 3: HYMNS

[-O Come O Come Emmanuel](#)

[-God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman](#)

- While listening to your favorite version of these hymns, go deeper while reading the text. Use the text also as a meditation for your heart. Maybe commit some of the verses to memory!

EPISODE 4: REFLECTIVE READING

-Phillip Keller, "A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23"

"Now the beautiful relationships given to us repeatedly in Scripture between God and man are those of a Father to His children and shepherd to his sheep. These concepts were first conceived in the mind of God our Father. They were made possible and practical through the work of Christ. They are confirmed and made real in me through the agency of the gracious Holy Spirit. So, when the simple-yet sublime- statement is made by man or woman that, "the Lord is my Shepherd" it immediately implies a profound yet practical working relationship between a human being and his Maker. It links a lump of common clay to divine destiny- it means a mere mortal becomes the cherished object of divine diligence. This thought alone should stir up my spirit, quicken my own sense of awareness, and lend enormous dignity to myself as an individual. To think that God in Christ is deeply concerned about me as a particular person immediately gives great purpose and enormous meaning to my short sojourn upon this planet."

- Meditate on God being our Shepherd



“... AND THE NAME OF THE CITY FROM THAT TIME ON SHALL BE, THE LORD IS THERE.”

EZEKIEL 48:35

THE LORD IS PRESENT

Our God is a communal, gregarious, personal God. He wants to be known by us, he wants to be with us. Unfortunately, human history is one long story of us rejecting his presence. No, we don't always reject his existence. We know that He is. We know that He exists. But too often we reject WHO He is. Our God is the creator of heaven and earth, the author of life itself, and when we choose to go our own way we are not only rejecting his authority, we are rejecting his character, and his presence.

If someone said they loved you, yet they rejected one of the most fundamental parts of who you were, would you believe them? This is why God feels distant sometimes. When we are occupied with ourselves, pursuing our own ways, we aren't merely passively forgetting about him, we are actively rejecting him. We knew Him in the garden, and rejected him. We rejected him in the tabernacle, and we rejected Him in the temple. At every turn He showed Himself to us, and every turn we despised him .

Then, he gave us the most complete, comprehensive, and personal revelation he could. Himself. In the form of a man. Jesus was the entire character of God, expressed in human form, the perfect expression of himself. Jesus said to know Him was to know the Father, but even this beautiful image would be rejected. People attributed his miracles to the Satan. They called his teaching heresy. And when he claimed his name as His own, they crucified Him. But some did, and some do still, recognize his presence.

Their answer to His presence is worship and obedience. To those, He gave a beautiful, marvelous promise. He said that he would be with us until the end of the age and not only that. He gave us a future hope, a new garden, where God's presence dwelt freely. A new city, where God's presence is not simply there, it is its defining characteristic. He promised that those who accepted the presence of His Son, would dwell with his presence in eternity.

The birth of Christ was the unveiling of the Holy personality, as well as the hope and promise to every believer, those who would have him, that they would dwell with him in eternity.

ISAIAH 7:14
BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL

EPISODE 1: TABLE TALK

- What space/place will you occupy today/this week?... How might you bring the “presence” of Jesus Christ there?
- Talk about the things that occupy a lot of your time and attention and prevents you from being present with those you do life with...what would it look like to intentionally “fast” from something in order to be more present with those you do life with?
- What space could you create in your day/week to be more fully in the presence of God?

EPISODE 2: SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Luke 1:68-75

*“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*

- Meditate on God being a God that is Present

EPISODE 3: PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 139:1-12

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

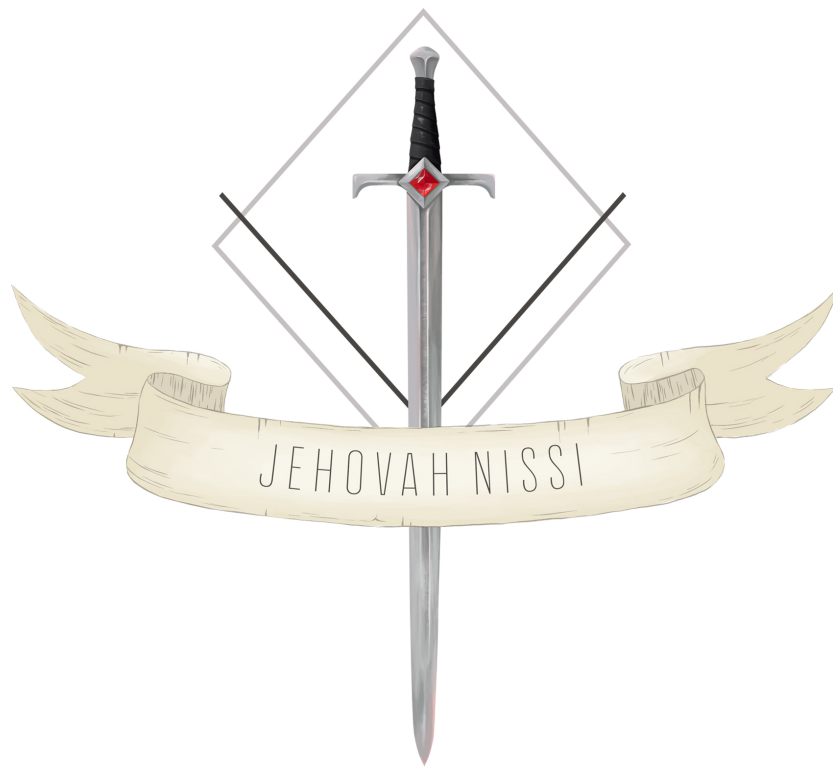
- As you read the words of the Psalmist, pray them as if they were your own. Take the time to pause, meditate and repeat.

EPISODE 4: REFLECTIVE READING

-“On the Incarnation” - St Athanasius of Alexandria

"When God the Almighty was making mankind through His own Word, He perceived that they, owing to the limitation of their nature, could not of themselves have any knowledge of their Artificer, the Incorporeal and Uncreated. He took pity on them, therefore, and did not leave them destitute of the knowledge of Himself, lest their very existence should prove purposeless. For of what use is existence to the creature if it cannot know its Maker? How could men be reasonable beings if they had no knowledge of the Word and Reason of the Father, through Whom they had received their being? They would be no better than the beasts, had they no knowledge save of earthly things; and why should God have made them at all, if He had not intended them to know Him? But, in fact, the good God has given them a share in His own Image, that is, in our Lord Jesus Christ, and has made even themselves after the same Image and Likeness. Why? Simply in order that through this gift of Godlikeness in themselves they may be able to perceive the Image Absolute, that is the Word Himself, and through Him to apprehend the Father; which knowledge of their Maker is for men the only really happy and blessed life.

- Read the words of early Church Father, Athanasius as you ponder God's presence through the wonder of the Incarnation



“AND MOSES BUILT AN ALTAR AND CALLED THE NAME OF IT, THE LORD IS MY BANNER, SAYING, “A HAND UPON THE THRONE OF THE LORD! THE LORD WILL HAVE WAR WITH AMALEK FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.”

EXODUS 17:15-16

THE LORD IS OUR BANNER

The word “banner” is the Hebrew word nissi. It comes from the verb meaning “to raise up.” One of the first places we see it in scripture is in this passage in Exodus, following a victorious battle. Thus the word “banner” has been made almost interchangeable with the word “victory”. But victory over what? In this case, it was the Amalekites, an enemy of Israel.

However, in a few short years, they would be the enemy. Moses would look over his people, a mass of grumblers, and a people who had forgotten the LORD (see Numbers 21:6-9). As a punishment for their unfaithfulness, they were plagued with hordes of serpents.

Then, the LORD told Moses to make a new banner. This banner was a bronze serpent*. When Moses lifted this banner, it was not because Israel had won anything. Just as God had taught a lesson to the Amalekites, He now was instructing his people. Israel quickly learned that victory would not always belong to them. In fact, how could anyone see victory in this banner?

It seems odd then in the outset, when Christ chooses this story in Numbers specifically to describe his life's mission.

“No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 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 3:13-15

As we see his story unfold, we see that Christ knew true victory would look like utter loss to the world. We recognize that the Son of Man had to die to save us from our sin. Thus we look at the Son of Man, raised up on a cross, and we can't help but mourn our sin. However, soon we can come to a place where we marvel at something much greater: that Jesus was raised up! The Son of Man, who descended from Heaven and into the grave, ascended back into life, and ultimately back into the Glory of His Throne in Heaven. All this so we could have victory. It is not a victory we have won, in fact we have, in many ways, been the enemy. But, by pure grace we are no longer at odds with God, and no longer slaves to our sin.

The birth of Christ is the final charge of a zealous God, who in His grace, by His cross counted us not as enemies to be destroyed, but as Sons and Daughters and fellow victors!

*Note: the Hebrew word translated “rod” is the same one translated “banner” in the Exodus passage.

LUKE 2:14

**“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG THOSE WITH WHOM HE IS PLEASED!”**

EPISODE 1: TABLE QUESTIONS

- What battles are you fighting right now?
- Where has God been a banner over you and your fight against sin?
- How could the life of Jesus inside you seal the victory over sin that you are struggling with?

EPISODE 2: SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Numbers 21:7-9

And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

John 3:14-16

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. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- Meditate on how Jesus Christ coming into the world secures for us a Spiritual battle over the sin and death of this world.

EPISODE 3: REFLECTIVE READING

Timothy Keller, “*The Songs of Jesus*”

Psalm 20

*May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble!
May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!
May he send you help from the sanctuary
and give you support from Zion!
May he remember all your offerings
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices! Selah
May he grant you your heart's desire
and fulfill all your plans!
May we shout for joy over your salvation,
and in the name of our God set up our banners!
May the LORD fulfill all your petitions!
Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed;
he will answer him from his holy heaven
with the saving might of his right hand.
Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.
They collapse and fall,
but we rise and stand upright.
O LORD, save the king!
May he answer us when we call.*

Before a Battle. How do you get ready for some great challenge? It could be a conflict or a surgery or an undertaking that is very dangerous. The people here are on the eve of a great battle and the temptation is to look to the military might as their hope (verse 7). Instead they look to the Lord and to the king he has sent them (vs 1-6). Because God answers *him*, God's king (verse 1) he answers *them* (verse 9). How easy for us to place hope in analogous things- family, money, doctors, programs. Christians look instead to *their* anointed King, Jesus. God always answers him and honors his sacrifice. (Verse 1-4; cf Hebrews 10:1-22)

Prayer: Lord, I am so anxious because I look to human wisdom, talent, and resources. They can let me down, but you cannot. Even if things don't go as I wish, if they are in your hands I am safe. And I know you will hear my prayer because you always hear my saviors prayers. Amen.

EPISODE 4: REVIEW

Before, or on Christmas Eve, take some time to read the scriptures below and journal or discuss how the foretelling and actual Birth of Jesus fulfills each of the names of God we've looked at the last four weeks:

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD

THE LORD IS PRESENT

THE LORD OUR BANNER

Isaiah 9

- 2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.*
- 3 You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.*
- 4 For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.*
- 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.*
- 6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon[d] his shoulder,
and his name shall be called[e]*

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of 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.

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life,[a] and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed[b] to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" [c] 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" [d]

35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born[e] will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant[f] of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Luke 2:2-21

The Birth of Jesus Christ

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed,[b] who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.[c]

The Shepherds and the Angels

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"[d]

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them 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.

21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

RESOURCES

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Videos/Podcasts/Sermons:

[Are Christians Righteous or Unrighteous?](#)

[Jesus Our Righteousness](#)

Articles:

[“To Fulfill all Righteousness”](#)

[“If God Weren’t Angry”](#)

Poetry & Songs:

Jehovah Tsidkenu (I Once Was a Stranger)- Robert Murrey
Hymns: Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Rock of Ages -

Additional Scripture:

Jer. 23, Is. 59, Num. 14:1-19, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, Rom.
3:21-26

THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD

Videos/Podcasts/Sermons:

[Sheep in Need of a Shepherd](#)

I Am the Good Shepherd - R.C. Sproul (3 part, ~20min total)

[Part 1](#) [Part 2](#) [Part 3](#)

Articles:

[“Living in the Valley - For Now”](#)

[“The Lamb Is My Shepherd”](#)

Poetry & Songs:

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Be Thou My Vision

Additional Scripture:

Gen. 12:1-20, Deut. 17:14-20, Is. 53 Jer. 23:9-22, John 10:1-19

THE LORD IS PRESENT

Videos/Podcasts/Sermons:

["The Lord Is There" \(Ezekiel 40-48\) - Don Carson](#)

["What Does It Mean to Live in God's Presence"](#)

["Heaven and Earth"](#)

Articles:

["What is the Incarnation"?](#)

[The Incarnation of the Son of God](#)

Poetry & Songs:

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus - Red Mountain Music

Additional Scripture:

Genesis 3, Exodus 33, Ezekiel 8 & 10, John 1:1-18

THE LORD OUR BANNER

Videos/Podcasts/Sermons:

[The Son Of Man Must Be Lifted Up -- Like the Serpent](#)

Articles:

["Christmas for the Weary"](#)

["Romans 7 Does Describe Your Christian Experience"](#)

["Lifting Up the Rod"](#)

Poetry and Songs:

There is a Fountain - William Cowper

My Victory - Passion ft. Crowder

Additional Scripture:

Exodus 17:8-16, Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-16, 1 Corinthians 15, Romans 7:21-25



ADVENT

THE NAMES OF GOD