

DEVOTIONAL READINGS

Advent Season, 2009

Tuesday, December 1

Read Isaiah 11:1-10, giving thanks for the wisdom and character of the Lord Jesus. Pray for His coming, that He would not delay but would bring His Kingdom to earth.

Read Psalm 72:1-20, rejoicing in the character of the Kingdom of God. Pray that Jesus would return soon and establish His rule here.

Read Luke 10:21-24, giving thanks that God has revealed His Kingdom to His children.

Wednesday, December 2

Read Isaiah 25:6-10, and allow your heart to be filled with the certainty and anticipation of the return of Jesus to establish His Kingdom. Because He came the first time, we can be sure He will come again to fulfill His promises.

Read Psalm 23:1-6, receiving rest in your soul through the gentle ministry of the Holy Spirit, who leads us as the Spirit of Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Read Matthew 15:29-37, giving thanks for this amazing story of the provision of the Kingdom that was brought through Jesus. Ask the Lord to send this kind of power to meet the needs of the multitudes that are coming into His Kingdom during the end-time harvest.

Thursday, December 3

Read Isaiah 26:1-6, considering the blessing that God brings to a nation that is just and righteous in its ways. Pray for our governmental leaders, that they might find God's wisdom to lead according to His ways.

Read the following from Psalm 118, and recognize that the coming of Jesus to the earth was the introduction of the Kingdom of God into the world on a permanent basis. Give thanks to God for the humility, servanthood, and power of this gentle King, our Lord Jesus.

Psalms 118:1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalms 118:8-9 (8) It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. (9) It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

Psalms 118:19-21 (19) Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. (20) This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. (21) I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

Psalms 118:25-27 (25) O Lord, save us; O Lord, grant us success. (26) Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. (27) The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

Read Matthew 7:21-27, understanding that the Kingdom of God is not for those who say the right things, but for those who are obedient to the Word of God by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Pray for courage to obey today what you know God has spoken to you.

Friday, December 4

Read Isaiah 29:17-24, meditating on the beauty and restoration that was set in motion at the coming of Jesus into the world. Pray for the blessing of God to come in its fullness.

Read Psalm 27:1-4, 13-14, allowing the Holy Spirit to touch you with the beauty of the Lord and His temple. Give thanks that the coming of His Kingdom is certain, and pray for that Kingdom to come quickly.

Read Matthew 9:27-31, meditating on the powerful restoration and healing that comes when Jesus touches people. Give thanks that His Spirit is among His people, and pray for the release of His healing power in our midst.

Saturday, December 5

Read Isaiah 30:19-26, allowing the Holy Spirit to comfort you with the certainty of answered prayer. Let your heart be encouraged by the promise of the restoration of all things by Jesus Christ.

Read Psalm 147:1-6, praising the Lord for His grace and mercy to His people. Thank Him for His gracious acts toward those who are broken and lowly.

Read Matthew 9:35-10:8, asking the Lord to touch your heart with the things that touch His heart, namely, the love of the Father for the broken and needy.

Sunday, December 6 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Read Isaiah 40:1-11, rejoicing in the message of the Forerunner, that the Messiah is coming, in Whom is found all our desire. Pray that the Body of Christ would joyfully prepare for His soon return.

Read Psalm 85:1-13, giving thanks that God hears the cries of His people, and that in Jesus the righteousness and mercy of God meet in perfect unity, bringing salvation to those who call upon Him.

Read 2 Peter 3:8-14, allowing the sober expectation of the Day of the Lord to fill your heart. Prayerfully consider what your life is to be like in the anticipation of His coming.

Read Mark 1:1-8, turning your hope toward Jesus in a fresh way as you await His intervention in these last days.

Monday, December 7 SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Read Isaiah 35:1-10, rejoicing in the promises of God, and remembering that because Jesus came to earth as a baby, we can be certain that these promises will be fulfilled.

Read Psalm 85:1-13, again allowing the Holy Spirit to minister to you, encouraging your heart with the truth of these words of comfort. Give thanks to the Father for His Son Jesus, Who brings all these things to be.

Read Luke 5:17-26, giving thanks that the coming of Jesus means the forgiveness of sins and the healing of diseases. Let your heart be taught that for Jesus, healing and forgiveness are simply part of the same reality.

Tuesday, December 8

Read Isaiah 40:1-11, allowing the Holy Spirit to comfort you with the words of the prophecy that all our sins have been forgiven, and that the Lord Jesus has come to heal and to lead His people as their gentle shepherd.

Read Psalm 96:1-13, and actively join the whole creation in the praise of the Lord Jesus, Who restores all things.

Read Matthew 18:12-14, giving thanks that the Father's design is for our healing and rescue, and that at the end of things, our blessing will be eternal joy.

Wednesday, December 9

Read Isaiah 40:25-31, giving thanks that your situation is not hidden from the Lord, and that the One Who numbers the stars knows and cares for you.

Read Psalm 103:1-10, blessing the Lord with the writer for all that God has done for you, and remembering that all these things come to pass through Jesus our Lord.

Read Matthew 11:28-30, and then come before the Lord, allowing the Holy Spirit to take from you the things that burden your heart and your mind.

Thursday, December 10

Read Isaiah 41:10-20, seeing how the Lord takes those who are crushed and hopeless, promises Himself to them, and restores them. Give thanks to the Father, Who will act on your behalf as you ask Him and trust Him.

Read Psalm 145:8-13, joining the creation and the faithful ones of God in proclaiming His goodness to us through our Lord Jesus.

Read Matthew 11:11-15, accepting Jesus' own testimony that John the Baptist was right in proclaiming Him as the Messiah. Be encouraged that all Scripture is fulfilled in Jesus' life.

Friday, December 11

Read Isaiah 48:17-19, asking the Holy Spirit to give you even greater understanding about the blessings of God's Kingdom that have come to us through Jesus Christ. Give Him thanks for these things.

Read Psalm 1:1-6, understanding that those who follow the Lord Jesus, obeying Him and serving Him, will have the light of life.

Read Matthew 11:16-19, and see that Jesus' point was that the people had refused to commit themselves to the teachings and example of those they thought were good teachers. Make a decision today to follow Jesus, and obey Him with all your heart.

Saturday, December 12

Consider this reading from the ancient book of Sirach (an inter-Testamental historical book), giving thanks to God that He sent His prophets to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus to come:

Like a fire there appeared the prophet Elijah whose words were as a flaming furnace. Their staff of bread he shattered, in his zeal he reduced them to straits; By God's word he shut up the heavens and three times brought down fire. How awesome are you, Elijah! Whose glory is equal to yours? You were taken aloft in a whirlwind, in a chariot with fiery horses. You are destined, it is written, in time to come to put an end to wrath before the day of the Lord, to turn back the hearts of fathers toward their sons, and to re-establish the tribes of Jacob. Blessed is he who shall have seen you before he dies. This is the Word of the Lord.

Read Psalm 80:1-2,14-18, and let your voice be lifted up in petition to the Lord to come and help His people. Give thanks that through Jesus, we are certain that our prayers are heard and answered.

Read Matthew 17:10-13, understanding that through the prophet Elijah, through John the Baptist, and ultimately through Jesus Himself, God has released His Spirit to restore all things in the earth. Rejection and persecution is part of the process, but God's victory is certain.

Sunday, December 13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Read Isaiah 61:1-11, giving thanks for the joyful restoration that Jesus brings to His broken people. Consider that the beauty in verse 3 speaks of bridal garments, and rejoice in His love for you as part of His Bride!

Read Luke 1:46-54, considering the wonderful reality that God chose a human girl to bear His Son, and that He would exalt and magnify us by living within us and taking us to Himself forever.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, asking the Holy Spirit to make you – body, soul, and spirit – a suitable dwelling-place for His Presence.

Read John 1:6-8,19-28, giving thanks for the ministry of John the Baptist, and calling upon the Lord to raise up the voice of the Forerunner in this day, that the Church may be prepared for the coming of the Lord.

Monday, December 14 THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Read Numbers 24:1-7, 15-17, and observe the wonder that Balaam, a pagan psychic, was given true revelation from God concerning His love for Israel. He even saw the coming of Christ, 1450 years before He was born as a child. What a wonderful God we have, Who reveals His plans even to unbelievers.

Read Psalm 25:1-22, giving thanks to the Father that through Jesus, He has shown us the way. Praise Him that in His kindness He has given us the power to please Him by changing our hearts inside.

Read Matthew 21:23-31, considering Jesus' challenge to the religious leaders that to believe something means to put faith in it by practicing it, or by doing what is taught. Set your will to obey the Lord today in what you know to do.

Tuesday, December 15

Read Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13, and worship the Father, for He has responded to His rebellious people with mercy, and has placed within them a truthful and humble heart, through the Presence of Jesus.

Read Psalm 34:1-6, 16-22, giving thanks to the Lord that He is the healer of those who are ashamed, and that protects and is close to the brokenhearted. Worship Jesus, Who brought this reality to earth in the flesh.

Read Matthew 21:28-32, and recognize that God will choose any people who will obey Him, and let this fact lead us to repentance and obedience to the Lord Jesus.

Wednesday, December 16

Read Isaiah 45:6-8, 18-25, realizing that God has orchestrated all of history to culminate in the worship of Himself and the acknowledgment of His power and holiness. Worship Jesus, Who is our life.

Read Psalm 85:8-13, considering that because Jesus has come, the character of His Kingdom is already here and can be experienced in the church. Give thanks to Him, and pray for the outpouring of His Spirit to bless and benefit mankind.

Read Luke 7:18-23, seeing that the Kingdom of God involves the miraculous works of Jesus. Pray for the willingness to go where this is happening and be part of what Jesus is doing today.

Thursday, December 17

Read Isaiah 54:1-10, rejoicing again that the coming of Jesus assures us that all these promises are sure to be fulfilled.

Read Psalm 30:1-12, giving thanks for the salvation that has come through Jesus, and that He brings rejoicing to the mournful places in our hearts.

Read Luke 7:24-30, seeing the importance of receiving the preparation of repentance that God requires before He will do new things in us.

Friday, December 18

Read Isaiah 56:1-8, seeing that as we prepare for the coming salvation of the Lord, it is good to practice Godly living and joyful prayer.

Read Psalm 67:1-7, speaking aloud this blessing of the Lord upon your own household and upon all with whom you have relationship.

Read John 5:33-36, rejoicing that even as Jesus bore witness to Himself through His mighty works, so the power of God will be released again in this time to testify to the lordship of Christ.

Saturday, December 19

Read Isaiah 7:10-14, understanding and giving thanks that God had planned from ages past to bring forth Jesus from the Virgin, and that His Presence would be with us.

Read Psalm 24:1-6, and present yourself to the Lord, that His cleansing power may prepare you to stand in His Presence through the blood of Jesus.

Read Luke 1:26-38, considering the humility of Mary to receive such a Word from God, when the implications for her were so astounding and complex. Ask the Lord for grace to receive His plans for your life with joy and humility.

Sunday, December 20 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-16, giving thanks for God's eternal plan to establish an everlasting throne for the House of David, that this was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Read the following from Psalm 89, giving thanks for the faithfulness of God to establish His promises forever:

Ps 89:1-4,26-28 I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations. 2 For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up forever; your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens." 3 "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: 4 'Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations.'" Selah 26 He shall cry to Me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.' 27 Also I will make him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. 28 My mercy I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall stand firm with him. (NKJ)

Read Romans 16:25-27, giving thanks for the mystery of the ages that is revealed in Jesus Christ, that we are redeemed as sons and daughters of the King!

Read Matthew 1:18-25, again giving thanks that Jesus is the fulfillment of all things.

Monday, December 21 FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Read 1 Samuel 1:24-28, considering the miraculous birth of Samuel, and how his dedication to God by his parents was a picture of what would happen with Jesus.

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-8, praising God through Hannah's song for His mercy and grace to those who call upon His Name.

Read Luke 1:46-56, praising God through Mary's song for His plan to save those who depend upon Him.

Tuesday, December 22

Read Malachi 3:1-4, thanking God that His purifying work is for the purpose of restoring us to the Father.

Read Psalm 25:4-14, allowing your mind and heart to be settled in the truth that God's ways are good, even those ways that seem difficult to us. Pray for wisdom to see His purposes in your life today.

Read Luke 1:57-66, considering the importance of the birth of John the Baptist, and the anticipation it created to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus.

Wednesday, December 23

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-16, giving thanks for the faithfulness of God expressed in the fulfillment of His promise to David that the kingly authority on his house would last forever in Christ. Understand that all His promises to you are certain in Christ as well.

Read the following from Psalm 89, praising the Father for His faithfulness to His children through the generations.

Ps 89:1-4,26-29 I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up forever; your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens. I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: 'Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations.'" Selah

He shall cry to Me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.' Also I will make him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. My mercy I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall stand firm with him. His seed also I will make to endure forever, and his throne as the days of heaven.

Read Luke 1:67-79, giving thanks for the fulfillment of all these promises. Give thanks also that the Spirit of the Forerunner is being released in the Church in this time, to prepare the way for the Second Coming of the Lord.

Thursday, December 24

Read Isaiah 62:1-5, thanking God that because of the coming of Jesus, all things are made whole and new. You now belong to the King, and your life is full by faith in Him.

Read Psalm 96:1-13, worshipping and praising God for His wonderful salvation through Jesus.

Read Luke 2:1-14, giving thanks to God for His unspeakable gift of love and mercy. Commit your life to Him in a new way, to live in worship and thanksgiving for His grace to you.

Friday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

Read Isaiah 62:11-12, rejoicing and celebrating the coming of the One Who will fully restore the glory of the Lord to His people.

Read Psalm 97:1-12, giving thanks to God for the Light Whom He has sent into the world for our redemption.

Read Titus 3:4-7, worshipping God for His lavish gifts of kindness and love made personal in Jesus Christ.

Read Luke 2:15-20, and consider in your heart the wonder of this salvation: God has come to earth to meet us and save us!

Saturday, December 26

Read Isaiah 52:7-10, considering that God calls beautiful the very feet of those who speak of the peace brought by God through Jesus Christ. Pray for those with whom God would have you share the gospel during this season.

Read Psalm 98:1-6, worshipping God for His salvation that extends through all the earth, to all who call upon His Name.

Read John 1:1-18, thanking and praising Jesus for coming to earth to reveal the Father's love to us.

Sunday, December 27 HOLY FAMILY

Read the following from the ancient book of Sirach (an inter-Testamental historical book), considering the importance of Jesus' birth into a human family, that He might be for us an example of reverence and submission:

The Lord sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority He confirms over her sons. He who honors his father atones for sins; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. He who honors his father is gladdened by children, and when he prays he is heard. He who reveres his father will love a long life; he obeys the Lord who brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate with him; revile him not in the fullness of your strength. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, it will serve as a sin offering - it will take lasting root.

Read Psalm 128:1-5, considering how Jesus came as a man to live out these principles as a pattern for us. Give thanks to Him for his willing and sacrificial obedience, and for the Holy Spirit Who enables us to do the same.

Read Colossians 3:12-21, meditating on the character of life that comes to those who are in relationship with Jesus. Give thanks to the Father, Who works these things in us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Read Luke 2:41-52, again considering the wisdom and strength given to Jesus as He modeled submission in a human context. Pray for wisdom to live simply in this way.

Monday, December 28

Read 1 John 2:3-11, seeing the importance of walking in obedience to the commands of Jesus. Only in this way can we truly come to know Him in His full identity as God's Son.

Read Psalm 96:1-6, allowing your heart to be lifted up in praise to God for the wonderful gift of His Son.

Read Luke 2:22-35, considering the joyful fulfillment Simeon must have felt as he saw the Christ-child. Ask the Lord to give you eyes to see His reality in our time.

Tuesday, December 29

Read 1 John 2:12-17, giving thanks that the Gospel of Jesus Christ touches people at all levels of maturity and wisdom. Pray that God would strengthen you to be purified from the world's influences.

Read Psalm 96:7-10, giving thanks that you are part of His family, the Body of Christ around the world that praises His Name today.

Read Luke 2:36-40, again giving thanks that all the promises of the Scripture are fulfilled in Jesus. Ask for grace to see the fruit of the Kingdom in the small seeds, even as Anna saw full deliverance in a little child.

Wednesday, December 30

Read 1 John 2:18-21, giving thanks to the Father that as one of His little children, He has given you His Holy Spirit to teach you all truth.

Read Psalm 96:1-2,11-13, praising the Lord and giving thanks that His salvation has come into the world through Jesus.

Read John 1:1-18, considering the place Jesus holds as the Creative Word of God made flesh. Honor Him as your Lord, and commit your life to Him in a new way for this coming year.

Thursday, December 31

Read 1 John 2:18-21, seeing that truthfulness is one of the primary indicators of relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. Give thanks that Jesus is the Truth, and that as we follow Him this year, we can anticipate growing in the knowledge of the Truth.

Read Psalm 96:1-13, joining with the whole creation in singing a song of praise to the Lord for His goodness and His sovereign rule which we enjoy.

Read John 1:1-18, giving thanks again that Jesus is full of grace and truth, and that we can trust His Word above all else.