

ADVENT: A JOURNEY OF CELEBRATION

A **JOURNAL** FOR THE JOURNEY



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Hi everyone,

Welcome to **ADVENT**, a beautiful time of the year when Christians around the world begin to reflect on the coming Christ. Taken from an ancient word that simply means *coming* or *appearance*, **Advent** covers the four weeks running up to Christmas. And while most of us might be rushing around thinking more of presents, cards, food, parties and travel arrangements, it's good to stop and think about the Christ of Christmas.

As part of this year's festivity we'd like to invite you to join us on a journey of celebration, a pilgrimage of praise that looks at a number of historic characters in Christ's family tree recorded in Matthew and Luke.¹ Each character not only tells us something of their own unique story, but of how their life mirrored the person and purpose of the coming Christ.

With its easy-to-read, conversational style of writing, this booklet comprises short daily Bible readings, a Thought for the Day, space to record your own thoughts and details of a suggested activity. It's hoped that these daily readings will encourage all of us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas, to press the pause button and take time out to reflect on the reason for the season.

Many of us find it difficult, if not impossible, to stop what we're doing and spend a few moments meditating on Scripture, so our hope is that this booklet will help us to do exactly that. For whether or not Christmas is for you a personal challenge or a party-going celebration, we trust that the various contributions people have made to make this booklet possible will encourage you to look to the Christ of Christmas who came to bring peace, joy and a way of escape for lost humanity.

On behalf of all who make the Mosaic family possible, Happy Christmas and warm wishes for a God-inspired New Year.

Chris Spicer

Teaching Pastor

¹ Matthew 1:1–17; Luke 3:23–38

Unless stated, all scripture text in the booklet is taken from the New International Version.



ESSE / DAY 17

TODAY'S READING: ISAIAH 11:1-3, 10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD – and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Jesse has an illustrious family tree – he is the son of Obed, the grandson of Ruth and Boaz and the great-grandson of Rahab – and he has an even greater legacy. For it was from Jesse – the ‘Root’ – that the Messiah would come.

A wealthy man (due to his ownership of a flock of sheep and goats!), Jesse hailed from Bethlehem and was renowned as a man of influence and social standing. But he was also a man who was attuned to the will of God and who could see in David – the youngest of his eight sons – a special spiritual endowment with a destiny that would find ultimate expression many centuries later in the life of Jesus.

As Jesse's legacy led directly to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus' legacy leads directly to us, for through His birth, death and resurrection we have been grafted onto the tree [see Romans 11:11-24] and have become ‘heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ’ [see Romans 8:16-18].

A.K.

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A present for the present

Who do you think you are? Because of Christ and His work of salvation you are now part of the spiritual family tree that not only goes back to Jesus, but to Jesse and ultimately to Adam, the son of God [see Luke 3:38]. Now that's worth shouting about – or even a cue for a television series!

Why not check out today's activity on page 17?



AVID / DAY 18

TODAY'S READING: PSALM 25:8-11

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant. For the sake of your name, LORD forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

When you think of David, what comes to mind? A shepherd-boy chosen to be a great warrior king? The founder of the city of Jerusalem? The small boy who avenged – with a simple weapon – a man three times his strength and stature? A guy who fell from grace big time? He was all of these things – yet throughout his entire life he humbly yielded to God whom he revered and implicitly trusted.

It is this same humility, this perpetual submission to His Heavenly Father that shines through the life of Jesus – in Bethlehem we see His birth in dirty, smelly surroundings; in Galilee we see Him – the servant-God – constantly giving of Himself; in Jerusalem we see Him wash the feet of His disciples on the eve of His death; and at Golgotha we see Him make the ultimate sacrifice in service to the whole of humanity. *'He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness'* [see Philippians 2:7].

A.K.

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A present for the present

David's humility was fashioned in the crucible of his flawed humanity. Jesus' humility was the expression of His perfect humanity. Two thousand years on, the same Lord of heaven and earth continues to be our humble and faithful servant. What an amazing thought!

Why not check out today's activity on page 17?

Happy Christmas

FROM AND TO EVERYONE IN THE
MOSAIC FAMILY



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A BIG THANK YOU...

... to all who gave up their time to create each Thought for the Day – Dave & Leah Boden; Amanda Kay; Gary & Helen Spicer and Chris & Tina Spicer. A special thank you to Amanda Kay for her proofreading expertise and Hannah Reid for the layout and graphics.

