

Advent Guide



November 27 - The Prophets

Prayer—Oh LORD, your prophets made clear Your Messiah who was to come. They expected and predicted Him as your Chosen One. We know You today because of their record and His revelation. “The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the World”. Your Chosen One brought a reign of peace and His life is our offering for eternal life. In Him we rest and of Him we now speak. Give us the clarity, stamina, and faithfulness of your ancient messengers.

Sunday Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Monday Isaiah 11:1-7; 10-12

Tuesday Isaiah 61:1-3

Wednesday Isaiah 40:1-8

Thursday Isaiah 40:9-11

Friday Isaiah 55:1-13

Saturday Ephesians 2:8-9

We light this first candle in remembering this One whom the Prophets foretold. Record your observations about the Message and the messengers who delivered it. How were they similar to you and me?

December 5th

Bethlehem Candle

Long on history but short on status. That is how Bethlehem might be described. On our Advent Journey we travel now to the place where Jesus was born. A humble location. Remember ‘no room in the Inn’, not even a bed for the newborn Messiah-King! Humble Bethlehem only further illustrates the great Miracle-Message: God, the Son, came in human flesh. For us. So we might live through Him.

Prayer—May we ever be captivated by Christ’s mighty turning toward us. “He was in the world...He came to that which was His own. He tabernacled among us”. (Jn.1) “He made Himself nothing taking the very nature of a servant, made in human likeness” (Phil.2). Such is Israel’s great Kinsman Redeemer, our Great Savior. In the lowly city of Bethlehem, Jesus humbled Himself in birth. In Jerusalem, Jesus humbled Himself to death—death on a cross. May we take willingly His yoke of humility and gentleness to constrain the flesh so our world sees Christ’s resurrection power at work in us. AMEN

Sunday Micah 5:2, Matt.2:1-6

Thursday Luke 1:26-38

Monday John 6:35; 47-51, 58

Friday Matthew 1:18-25

Tuesday 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:42-46

Saturday Luke 1:57-80

Wednesday Luke 1:5-25

**Consider lighting a second candle this week to be reminded of Bethlehem. Record your insights from your daily Scripture reading. What might your world need to see and hear?*

December 11th

Shepherd's Candle

Hope, joy, celebration. Not common words in today's uncertain world. But consider the fact that God prompts us to include them in our daily life. Yes because of His assurance to the Ancients and because of His fulfillment at the Christmastide. It all 'busted out' on a hillside above Bethlehem before a motley crew of no-name, shepherds. Go figure. None of the religious elite, nor political power brokers, nor financially astute were present. Nada. But the Angels were, and aplenty. And the shepherds too. It was the shepherds who sprinted forth, never again the same in what they reasoned about life, the Scriptures, joy and hope. Glad they didn't keep it to themselves. May we not either.

Prayer—King Eternal, Precious Lord. Was it not the lowliest of shepherds who received the greatest of Gifts? Indeed to them it was entrusted the Eternal Message "Emmanuel". Lord, remind us again of the great Hope we have in Christ. Stir us up to rejoice in You and proclaim the Lord Jesus widely. Like the Shepherds, are we not your servants to glorify and praise you?! Announce what was seen and heard...and what we too have experienced?! Hear us of Father and open the ears of those whom we tell. AMEN

Sunday Ps. 33:20-22

Thursday Ro. 12:9-13

Monday Ps. 119:114-116

Friday Ro. 5:1-5

Tuesday Ro. 4:13-25

Saturday Heb.11:1

Wednesday 1 Pet. 1:13-21

**Consider lighting a third candle this week to remember the Shepherds. Make it a candle of a different color, perhaps to stand apart. Like joy, celebration, and hope stand out in our uncertain world. Record your insights from your daily reading. What is God impressing upon you to shine forth?*

December 18th

Angel's Candle

Think of them as God's professional messengers. Angels were, are, and ever shall be God's spirit-beings who do His bidding. On this joyous occasion they did proclaim Christ's birth to a select few. The mission of those angels was to tell a rough, rugged group of self-sufficient shepherds (hmm. Know anyone like that?).

These angels were faithful to the occasion, bold and ablaze in their announcement. Effective enough so that the smell of shepherd dust lingered in the air as those burlap-covered bohemians headed off to search for Angelic evidence (aka Baby). A probing question: among whom has God sent you to be His messengers? Like His Angels, be ready to shine forth!

Prayer—"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests" Were those not the words you delivered through your Angelic messengers? Did they not faithfully praise you, carry forth your Message, and proclaim your Royal Peace of God The Son? Indeed they did and so much more.

Those messengers are ever praising you, continually. And yet, and yet...they longed to look into how the Message of Christ would unfold for His sufferings and our magnificent salvation. Indeed it did happen according to Your Will. Indeed we now do glorify Your great, salvation. We glory in the Gospel, the good news of Man reconciled to God. Thank you. We praise you, Oh Father. Like Your Angels, may we not be quiet. May we be ever proclaiming You in highest praise. AMEN

For reflection and worship, allow this song and these Scriptures to minister to your spirit.

<https://youtu.be/xy5h1FHYW6E>

Sunday Luke 2:8-14

Thursday Eph. 2:11-13

Monday Matt.7:24-29

Friday Eph. 2:19-22

Tuesday 1 Thess. 2:6-12

Saturday Ps. 145

Wednesday Col.1:9-14

**Light a 4th Candle representing the Angels who are God's spirit-beings who carry forth His messages. As that light shines forth, consider how light shines forth in darkness. Never does darkness overtake light. Light always shines forth. And can even become brighter. May it be so for you as you allow Christ's life to shine forth through you.*

December 25th

Christ's Candle

The baby born 2000 years ago grew up and said one of the most profound statements ever heard...."I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life". It was realized then, that baby was The Prophet, The Teacher, yes The Only Messiah of God. What a miracle that "by the Lord's own right arm salvation is achieved". God the Son took on human flesh permanently and became for us the 'lighted path to the Father'. Jesus showed us the way by His life....he became the way by His death. And He is still today the ONLY WAY for a relationship with God. May we shine forth this great truth in life and speech to all who will look and listen.

Prayer: Thank you, Oh Father, for creating light. Thank for offering to light our way to you. Thank you for God the Son who became our light so we can see and know the Father. We rejoice in Him today. We praise your Holy Name. And rejoice that The Son through The Spirit now dwells in us so we can ever grow and understand You more and more. Praise you, Oh Father. AMEN.

**Light the final candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Allow the other 4 candles to surround this 5th candle. Let it symbolize the Lord Jesus Christ. He who is the "light of the World" now gives light to mankind. Matthew 5:16 "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven."*