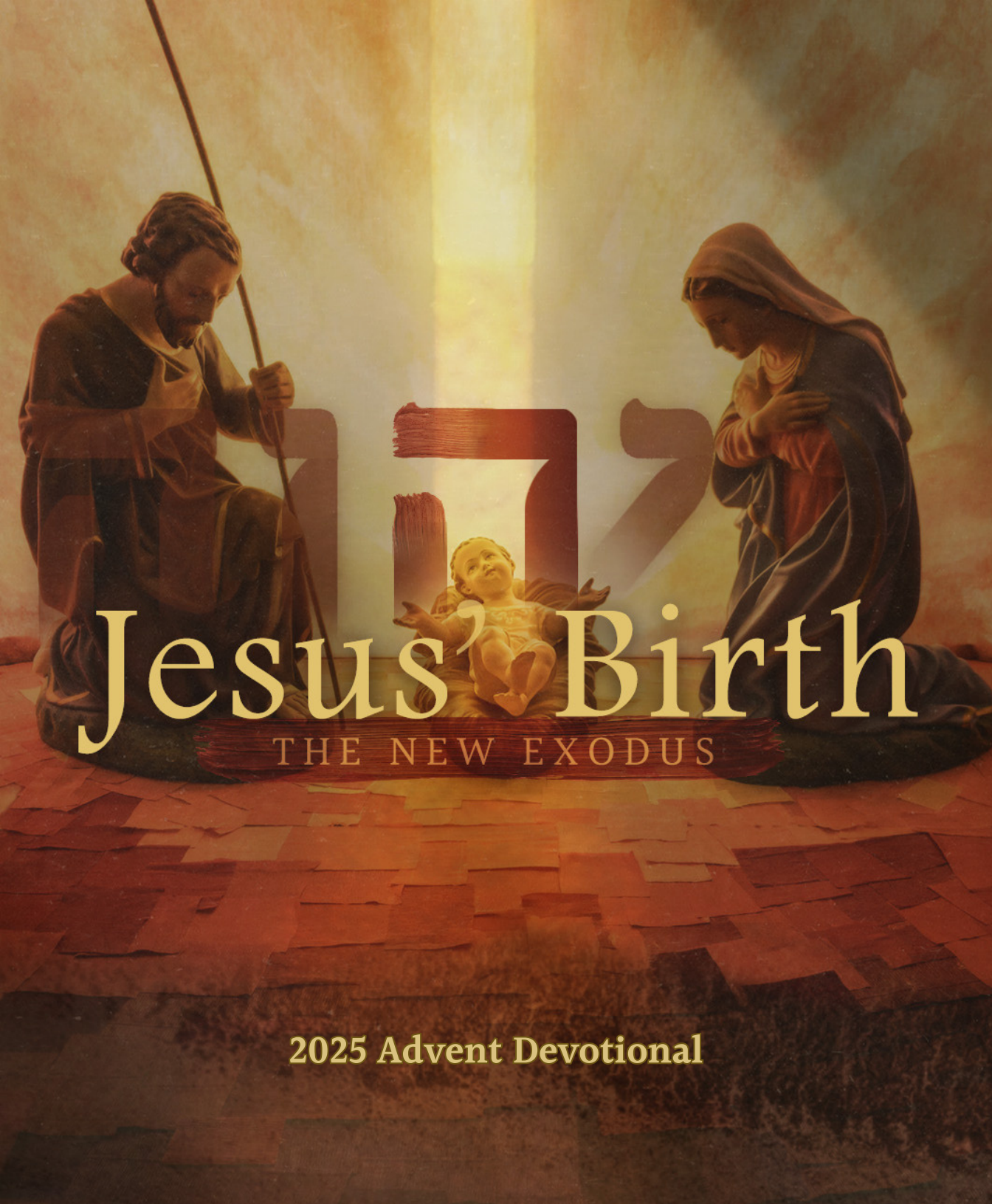


A religious artwork depicting the birth of Jesus. Joseph is seated on the left, holding a long staff. Mary is kneeling on the right, looking down at the infant Jesus who lies on a bed of straw in the center. A large, stylized number '17' is superimposed over the background, with a bright light shining through its center. The floor is made of reddish-brown tiles.

Jesus' Birth

THE NEW EXODUS

2025 Advent Devotional

The Bible is made up of 66 different books, written over approximately 1,500 years, by about 40 different human authors. And yet, the Bible is a single, unified story of how the God of the universe redeemed a sinful people out of bondage through His Son, Jesus. We've seen in our Sunday sermon series through Exodus how the story of Israel's exodus provides a preview to the ultimate redemption God would accomplish through Christ. We've written this devotional to help you see how Exodus points to Christmas, with the goal of keeping our hearts centered on Jesus, the Greater Moses, this holiday season.

This devotional is for everyone and can be used in your own personal time with the Lord, in family worship, or even within a discipleship group. It includes two devotionals per week—one focusing on Christ as the greater Moses and the other focusing on the major themes of Advent. With all of the events, traveling, and craziness of the Christmas season, it can be easy to allow worship to take a back seat. We pray this resource will help you keep your gaze on the single most incredible event in the history of the world: God taking on flesh and entering the world to accomplish a new Exodus!

Pastor Rickey Primrose



Tips for Using This Devotional

- Set aside a dedicated time that you will go through the devotional (morning, during dinner, before bedtime, etc.).
- At the end of each reading, we encourage you to make time to worship through prayer and song by singing a Christmas carol of your choice along with this devotional.
- If your family lives at home with you, use this devotional together. Dads and husbands, use this as an opportunity to grow in being the spiritual leader in your home.
- If you have children at home, a fun way to get them involved is to let them pick the carol to sing.
- If you have a hard time figuring out what to pray after the devotional, think about how God is leading you to respond to the Scripture and devotional and use that to guide your prayer.

Week One: A Basket and a Manger

Jamie Brooks

Scripture Reading: Exodus 2:1-4; Luke 2:4-7

When parents are preparing for the arrival of their precious newborn, they're making lots of decisions. Decisions like, will he stay in our room or in his nursery? Will he use a pacifier or the thumbs he came with? Will she sleep in a bassinet or a crib? Most parents aren't thinking about how to hide their bundle of joy from the world or what to do with unexpected shepherds that show up to visit in the middle of the night. Most parents aren't planning how to safely float their baby boy in a basket or figuring out how clean a well-used manger needs to be before it's clean enough for an infant.

The births of Moses and Jesus are not your typical baby stories, but they both arrive as part of God's amazing and grand story—His story of salvation. Moses, chosen by God to save His people from their temporary suffering in labor to His promised, new land. Jesus, obedient to God to save His people from their eternal suffering in sin to His promised, new life. Moses, the child of a slave rescued by the royal family. Jesus, the most high King rejected by the royal family. Both sets of parents likely confused by the circumstances but hopeful for the future. Both moms filled with awe and wonder at the gift they beheld in their arms.

Of Moses' mother Jochebed, Pastor Rickey shared, "In Hebrew, it literally says 'when she saw that he was good,' echoing the creation account where God saw that His creation was good. This parallel language suggests that God was beginning a new work of creation through this child (*A Savior Is Born*; Exodus 1:15–2:10)." Of Jesus' mother Mary, Luke records, "But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them (Luke 2:19 CSB)." What great examples for us as

we enter into the Advent season. Recognize the goodness of God's works. Treasure His goodness in your heart. And meditate on it often this holiday season.

With a friend or family member:

- Make time to share one way you have seen God's goodness in your life this year.
- Ask how they have experienced God's goodness this year.
- Celebrate God together for His goodness in a prayer of praise.

Worship Through Prayer & Song

Week One Advent Theme: Hope

Brandon Ramey

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7; Galatians 4:1-5

Have you ever waited for something? A package to arrive, your parents to pick you up from school, or a plane to take off? Did that time in between make you confident or doubtful?

Hope always involves waiting—a longing for something that hasn't yet happened. In Isaiah 9, we see God promise a future hope: to lead His people from gloom to glory, darkness to light, oppression to freedom. But unlike waiting for a package to arrive or a plane to take off, God doesn't work on our timeline. Around 700 years passed between Isaiah's prophecy and the birth of Jesus. That's a long time! From a human perspective, that doesn't seem very efficient.

Yet Galatians 4:4-5 reminds us, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons."

God knew exactly when to send His Son. And if we can trust the nature and character of God, then we can wait with confidence for the fulfillment of His promises.

At Christmas, we celebrate the hope God brought to a people living in gloom, walking in darkness, and oppressed by sin. That hope is Jesus—and we, along with the world, are those people. As we remember the arrival of hope in His first Advent, may we also wait with confidence for our future hope in His second.

Worship Through Prayer & Song

Week Two: Divine Protection

Travis Bengé

Scripture Reading: Exodus 2:1-10; Matthew 2:1-15

You have likely heard Isaiah 55:8-9 quoted at some point: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways.” This is the Lord’s declaration. “For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” That verse feels good when it comes to God giving us something bigger and better than what we thought. It is easy to praise God that His ways are better than ours when it benefits us. His way is always better, and sometimes that better way means going through hardships.

There are great parallels between Jesus and Moses that show the plan of God through divine protection, for the benefit of his people in the long term. When Moses was born, Pharaoh instructed that all the Israelite boys be killed so that the population of the Israelites would not grow stronger than the Egyptians. In God’s divine plan, He providentially protected Moses by having the midwives, who were supposed to kill the babies, spare the babies’ lives. And guided the basket, that held Moses, downstream until an Egyptian woman, who happened to be the Pharaoh’s daughter, found him and rescued him.

In a similar way, when Jesus was born, Herod ordered that baby Jesus be killed after hearing from the Magi that a new King had been born. Herod’s throne felt threatened, so he instructed the government to kill baby boys so that this new future king would never take the throne. God gave Joseph, Jesus’ earthly Father, a dream through an angel. This dream warned them to flee to Egypt to protect Jesus. Joseph obeyed God, and baby Jesus was protected.

In both of these stories, we see that Moses and Jesus were sought out to be killed by fearful, jealous rulers. Both fled to a foreign land for safety. Both the midwives and wise men chose to fear God over man. We can definitely read these two stories and say that God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts and His ways are better than our ways. Divine protection, at times, does not appear like the safest path on our route, but the Lord promises to walk with us through these situations and seasons.

Looking back at your story of faith and life, what do you see that God has protected you from? What situations can you look back on and see the hand of God in your life? Take time today to celebrate the Lord's divine care and protection for you. The Lord is strong and mighty and worthy to be praised!

Worship Through Prayer & Song

Week Two Advent Theme: Peace

Brandon Ramey

Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:19–20

What comes to your mind when you think about peace? Before you keep reading, take a moment to reflect or share with those around you.

Many of us probably think of peace as the absence of war or conflict. A world without fighting between nations or tension between family and friends. While those things are good, the peace God offers goes even deeper. His peace brings wholeness, complete restoration, and true rest. It's a peace that can be described as "everything as it should be"—shalom.

When God created the world, He created everything as it should be. Our relationship with Him and with one another was whole—at shalom. But because of our sin, we broke that peace. The consequence of sin is death and separation from God. That's bad news.

But there is good news! God, rich in mercy and love, made a way for us to experience His peace once again. At Christmas, we celebrate the arrival of true peace, Jesus, who through His life, death, and resurrection made forgiveness and reconciliation possible.

In Jesus, we find peace with God now and the promise of perfect peace when He returns. If you have received God's peace, remember to walk in it daily. If you haven't yet been born again, today is the day to trust and follow Christ and live in His peace.

Worship Through Prayer & Song

Week Three: Let My People Go

Travis Bengé

Scripture Reading: Exodus 5:1–2; Exodus 13:17–18;
Hebrews 3:1–3

The Israelites were a people who desperately needed rescue. They lived under the rule of an oppressive Pharaoh who held them captive in harsh physical bondage. Their cries for freedom reached the ears of a faithful God, who in His mercy raised up a deliverer named Moses. At the right time, God sent Moses to stand before Pharaoh and declare the words that would echo throughout history: *“Let my people go.”*

But Pharaoh’s heart was hard, and freedom did not come easily. The Israelites watched as God displayed His power through plagues, wonders, and miracles—all to prove that He alone is Lord and that no ruler on earth could hold His people forever. In the end, Pharaoh had no choice but to release them, and the Israelites walked out of Egypt free. They had been rescued, not because of their strength or faithfulness, but because of God’s compassion and covenant love.

This story isn’t just ancient history—it’s a picture of our own condition. Like the Israelites, we are a people in need of rescue. We may not live under the rule of Pharaoh, but we live under the power of sin, which enslaves us, burdens us, and keeps us far from the life God intends. Sin is a cruel master that whispers lies, feeds shame, and leads us toward death. But just as God sent Moses to confront Pharaoh, He sent Jesus to confront sin and death themselves—and to declare over them, *“Let my people go.”*

Jesus is the greater Moses—the perfect deliverer who entered our bondage so that we could be free. Where Moses led God’s people through the Red Sea, Jesus leads us through the waters of grace.

Where Moses delivered Israel from slavery, Jesus delivers us from the slavery of sin. His death and resurrection are our exodus—the moment when freedom became possible for every heart that trusts in Him.

What do you need rescuing from?

What burden, fear, or sin is holding you captive?

The same God who led His people through the Red Sea is still leading His people today. He's still rescuing, still restoring, still redeeming. He doesn't need your perfection—He desires your surrender. Cast your burdens on Him, for He is strong enough to carry them and gentle enough to care for you.

Worship Through Prayer & Song

Week Three Advent Theme: Joy

Brandon Ramey

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Do you want to be happy?

We've all heard things like: do what makes you happy, I'm going to my happy place, or good vibes only. If we are honest, most of our earthly pursuits of happiness are temporary and focused on escapism. When faced with reality, that sense of happiness dwindles away.

Make no mistake—God truly cares about your happiness. But His desire is for something far deeper than fleeting moments of bliss—something not dependent on circumstances. Something that remains in times of cheer and in times of sorrow, in plenty and in lack.

The happiness God wants for us can be understood as joy—a constant state of contentment in the goodness and presence of God.

God knows that this type of joy can only be had in Him. And to make it possible for us to experience it, He sent His son. "But the angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'" Luke 2:10-11.

Do you want to be truly happy? Don't settle for fleeting moments of bliss—rest in the lasting joy you have in Christ.

Worship Through Prayer & Song

Week Four: The Better Moses

Enoch Chan

Scripture Reading: Exodus 19:16–19; Numbers 20:12;
Psalm 147:5; Acts 3:22; Acts 7:22;
Acts 7:29–30; Acts 13:39;
Hebrews 4:15; Revelation 21:4

Wouldn't you want a leader like Moses?

A man who could hold his own in a room full of Egyptian PhDs, having learned all the wisdom of Egypt (Acts 7:22), yet just as practical, handy, and down to earth, having spent forty years as a blue-collar worker in the wilderness (Acts 7:29–30).

Follow him, and you'll witness thunder and fire as God descends on Sinai (Exodus 19:16–19). Follow him, and you'll walk through walls of parted sea, shielded from plagues, and governed by laws marked by order, justice, and mercy.

That's life with Moses at the helm.

And yet—Scripture dares to say—Moses is not enough.

Moses is only a shadow pointing to the coming Prophet. As great as Moses was, he pales next to Jesus.

Moses was limited by Egypt's finite wisdom; Jesus is infinite in His understanding (Psalm 147:5). Moses sympathized with most of Israel's weakness (Numbers 20:12); Jesus sympathized with our every weakness (Hebrews 4:15).

Follow Moses, and you'll see God's descent over Sinai; follow Jesus, and you'll see God's descent over all the earth. Follow Moses, and you might

walk through a dried Red Sea, but you won't make it to the Promised Land; follow Jesus, and you will experience the fullness of the Promised City. Follow Moses, and you'll be—for a time—protected from plagues; follow Jesus, and forever, "death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more" (Revelation 21:4). Follow Moses, and you'll live in a neighborhood where sinners were restrained by laws; follow Jesus, and you'll live in a kingdom where saints have been transformed by grace.

Follow Moses, and Egypt will be behind you—but the Promised Land will remain beyond you. Why? Because the law of Moses could not and cannot justify. But follow Jesus, and not only will Egypt be behind you, but its poison will also be out of you—and you will finally make it to the Promised Land. Why? Because "everyone who believes [in Jesus] is justified through Him from everything you could not be justified from through the law of Moses" (Acts 13:39).

Moses longed for this gospel. He saw it from afar and said, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers" (Acts 3:22a). That prophet is Jesus. "Listen to everything He tells you" (Acts 3:22b).

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of that prophet. But celebration is not enough. The questions remain:

How are you going to listen to Him?

How are you going to listen to everything He tells you?

Worship Through Prayer & Song

Week Four Advent Theme: Love

Brandon Ramey

Scripture Reading: John 3:16–17

As the well-known song says, “*What’s love got to do with it?*” In our culture, love is often viewed as a feeling—something we can fall in and out of. An emotion that changes with the wind. But is that the kind of love God has for us?

The kind of love God has for us is woven through the fabric of Scripture. It’s not bound by our performance, background, or status, nor altered by external circumstances. His love is *covenantal*—rooted in His unchanging character and commitment to us. This love is most clearly seen in the Father sending His Son.

In love, God stepped into our suffering, pain, and brokenness by sending the Son to be born of a virgin, to live a perfect life, and to die the death we deserve so that we can be with Him forever. If God did not love, we would surely be lost.

So, to answer the song’s question—*what’s love got to do with it?*

Everything. As we wrap up this Christmas season, let us not forget why we celebrate. We celebrate because the manger leads to the cross, the cross to an empty tomb, and the empty tomb points to His coming return. Christmas reminds us that God keeps His promises. May our hearts be forever filled with gratitude to the God who gives rest for the redeemed.

Worship Through Prayer & Song

Jesus' Birth: The New Exodus Devotional Created by:

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