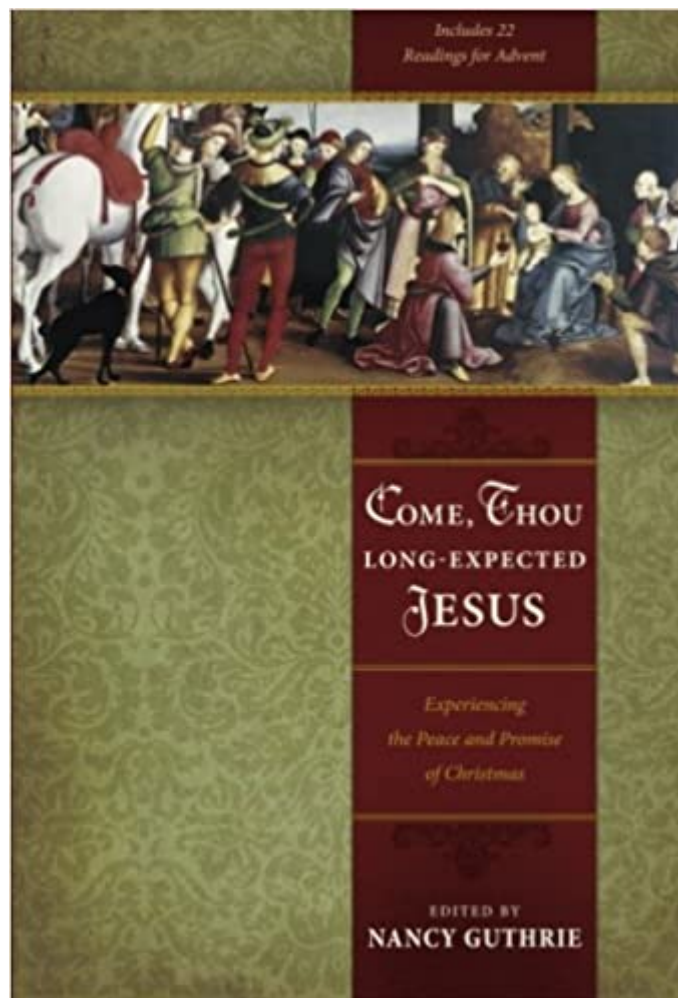




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Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus: Experiencing The Peace And Promise Of Christmas



Synopsis

An anthology of Advent readings collected from the writings and sermons of 22 classic and contemporary theologians and Bible teachers. Between purchasing presents and planning travel, enjoying holiday pageants and attending parties, it is all too easy for Christmas to silence the sacredness and crowd out a quiet anticipation of the season's truths. So when editor Nancy Guthrie decided she wanted a reflective book of Advent readings that would help her pause and consider the riches of Christ come to earth, she embarked on what she calls "a sacred adventure," putting together such a collection herself. The result—this special volume—draws from the works and sermons of classic theologians such as Whitefield, Luther, Spurgeon, and Augustine, and from leading contemporary communicators such as John Piper, J. Ligon Duncan, Randy Alcorn, John MacArthur, Francis Schaeffer, R. C. Sproul, Skip Ryan, and Joni Eareckson Tada to beckon you and your family into the wonder of Jesus' incarnation and birth. With its high view of Scripture and its focus on the gift of Jesus, this lovely book is sure to ready your heart and mind for a fresh experience of "Immanuel, God with us" this and every Advent season. Open the cover and discover what Christmas was meant to be.

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Customer Reviews

Nancy Guthrie teaches the Bible at her church, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Franklin, Tennessee, and at conferences worldwide. She and her husband, David, are the cohosts of the GriefShare video series used in more than 10,000 churches nationwide and also host Respite

Retreats for couples who have experienced the death of a child. Guthrie is also the host of Help Me Teach the Bible, a podcast of the Gospel Coalition. Skip Ryan is Senior Minister of Park Cities Presbyterian Church in Dallas and has served as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America. Skip is also an instructor for the Japanese Institute for Church Growth in Tokyo. He is a graduate of Harvard University and Westminster Theological Seminary. John Piper (DTheol, University of Munich) is the founder and teacher of desiringGod.org and the chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary. He served for 33 years as the senior pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and is the author of more than 50 books, including *Desiring God*; *Don't Waste Your Life*; *This Momentary Marriage*; *A Peculiar Glory*; and *Reading the Bible Supernaturally*. Ligon Duncan (PhD, University of Edinburgh) is the chancellor & CEO and the John E. Richards Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary. He previously served as the senior minister of the historic First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi, for seventeen years. He is a cofounder of Together for the Gospel, a senior fellow of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, and was the president of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals from 2004-2012. Duncan has edited, written, or contributed to numerous books. Ligon and his wife, Anne, have two children and live in Jackson, Mississippi. Randy Alcorn (MA, Multnomah University) is the founder and director of Eternal Perspective Ministries and a New York Times best-selling author of over fifty books. His books have sold over nine million copies and been translated into nearly seventy languages. Alcorn resides in Gresham, Oregon, with his wife, Nanci. They have two married daughters and five grandsons. John MacArthur is the pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, where he has served since 1969. He is known around the world for his verse-by-verse expository preaching and his pulpit ministry via his daily radio program, *Grace to You*. He has also written or edited nearly four hundred books and study guides. MacArthur serves as the president of the Master's University and Seminary. He and his wife, Patricia, live in Southern California and have four grown children. Recognized internationally for his work in Christianity and culture, Francis A. Schaeffer authored more than twenty books, which have been translated into a score of languages and sold millions worldwide. He and his wife, Edith, founded L'Abri Fellowship international study and discipleship centers. Schaeffer passed away in 1984, but his influence and legacy continue worldwide. R. C. Sproul (Drs, Free University of Amsterdam) serves as senior minister of preaching and teaching at Saint Andrew's Chapel in Sanford, Florida, and is the founder and president of Ligonier Ministries. He has taught at numerous colleges and seminaries, has written over seventy books,

and is featured daily on *Renewing Your Mind*, an international radio broadcast. Joni Eareckson Tada is founder and CEO of the Joni and Friends International Disability Center, which ministers to thousands of disabled people and their families through programs of practical encouragement and spiritual help. She is also an artist and the author of numerous best-selling books such as *Joni; Heaven: Your Real Home*; and *When God Weeps*.

Martin Luther (1483–1546) was professor of Bible at Wittenberg University, and many of his expositions came out of his classroom. Considered one of the most powerful discussions of justification by faith written by any of the Reformers, this commentary on Galatians has had a profound impact on many through the centuries.

Timothy J. Keller is the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. He is the best-selling author of *The Prodigal God* and *The Reason for God*.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981), minister of Westminster Chapel in London for 30 years, was one of the foremost preachers of his day. His many books have brought profound spiritual encouragement to millions around the world.

JONATHAN EDWARDS (1703–1758) was a pastor, theologian, and missionary. He is generally considered the greatest American theologian. A prolific writer, Edwards is known for his many sermons, including "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God", and his classic *Treatise Concerning Religious Affections*.

Edwards was appointed president of the College of New Jersey (later renamed Princeton University) shortly before his death.

CHARLES H. SPURGEON (1834–1892) was an English Baptist pastor at New Park Street Chapel, London (which later became the Metropolitan Tabernacle), for thirty-eight years. As the nineteenth century's most prolific preacher and writer, his ministry legacy continues today.

J. I. Packer (DPhil, Oxford University) serves as the Board of Governors' Professor of Theology at Regent College. He is the author of numerous books, including the classic best-seller *Knowing God*. Packer served as general editor for the English Standard Version Bible and as theological editor for the ESV Study Bible.

JOHN CALVIN (1509–1564) was perhaps the preeminent theologian of the Reformation. Known best for his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, he also wrote landmark expositions on most of the books in the Bible.

Alistair Begg serves as the senior pastor of Parkside Church near Cleveland, Ohio. He has been in pastoral ministry since 1975 and served eight years in Scotland at both Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh and Hamilton Baptist Church. He has written several books and is heard daily on the radio program *Truth For Life*. He and his wife, Susan, have three grown children.

Raymond C. Ortlund Jr. is the pastor of Immanuel Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He is the author of several books, including the *Preaching the Word* commentary on Isaiah, as well as a contributor to the ESV Study Bible. He and his wife, Jani, have four children.

J. C. RYLE (1816–1900) was a prominent writer,

preacher, and Anglican clergyman in nineteenth-century Britain. He is the author of the classic *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels* and retired as the bishop of Liverpool. JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE was senior minister of the historic Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia for thirty years and a leading spokesman for the Reformed faith until his death in June 2000. R. Kent Hughes (DMin, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is senior pastor emeritus of College Church in Wheaton, Illinois, and visiting professor of practical theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Hughes is also a founder of the Charles Simeon Trust, which conducts expository preaching conferences throughout North America and worldwide. He serves as the series editor for the *Preaching the Word* commentary series and is the author or coauthor of many books. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, and have four children and an ever-increasing number of grandchildren.

I am only 3 chapters in and so far have enjoyed the content of the book, however I have already seen the following problems with the kindle version (I'm using the latest Kindle Paperwhite): 1) paragraph breaks are inconsistent at times and sometimes happen in the middle of a sentence 2) I have seen a few sets of sentences that are incorrectly duplicated a couple paragraphs down, which is clearly some kind of paperback-to-Kindle formatting issue 3) The start of each chapter appear to begin with some kind of image. Whatever it is, it is too small to make out on the kindle. While I would categorize these errors mainly as annoyances, they still prove distracting and sometimes create confusion while reading.

Guthrie's edited anthology of Advent writings from a selection of mostly contemporary Protestant Reformed, theologians and pastors is a great tool for personal and family reflection at the Advent season. There are 22 readings, and unlike many books like this, they are not categorized by a suggested date of reading. Each reading can stand on its own as a reflection and spiritual teaching about a particular part of the Christmas season. This is a contemporary set of readings, with 12 of the 22 authors still living. The strongest of the writings, I believe is Timothy Keller's excerpt of a sermon from December of 2001, with its references to gift, hurt, pain and God's work with the least of these, showing, tenderly, I think, that everyone is part of the least of these. The sermon was initially given as New York City was dealing with the aftermath of 9/11, and so it is particularly rooted in the shadow of that event. It would have been great if this book had included some Puritan expositions of the beginning chapters of Matthew or Luke. Otherwise, the only pre-18th century authors here are Augustine, Luther & Calvin. So the depth of this book, from the conservative

contemporary Reformed tradition is strong; but it might have greater reach if more older works were included or works from early Medieval or church fathers period were included. This collection of writings is rich in Biblical exposition of the Advent of Christ and is recommend. The richness of gospel teaching will be a welcome antidote to the frenzy of the secular observances of Christmas.

Excellent readings for each day leading up to Christmas from a whole range of theologians past and present. I would have given it more stars but the layout is terrible. Some sentences are chopped in half and separated from one another by another paragraph of text, which is really frustrating to read, and you often have to go over the same couple of paragraphs mentally sorting out the actual flow of the argument. Please fix the layout for next Christmas!!

Several entries were inspiring, but I found the content less than expected from the hype. I purchased the digital version so I could have it immediately. I don't know what the process is to convert a print book to digital, but this one is distracting. Every chapter has a side bar that is randomly inserted in the text, always mid sentence. This distracts from the content and made it difficult to get through the book, much less have my heart touched.

Great book to read as the Advent Season is coming. I just bought a Kindle copy of this so I can re-read it this season. I bought the hard copy a couple of years ago and enjoyed reading it. I have also given copies as gifts. It is a wonderful collection of writings from many well know, theologically sound writers. Focuses on the real celebration of Christmas.

This is by far the best Advent book I have ever run across. It is filled with reflections from great theologians both modern and from the past. I will be using this book for many years to come. I loved it so much that I bought 30 additional copies to give to every adult Sunday School teacher in our church as a Christmas gift. If you love great writing from wonderful theologians you need to add this book to your Christmas reading list!

I really enjoyed the book, it was great to read for Christmas, but the kindle version has some issues. Incorrect passages, it seemed like sentences ended abruptly, then picked up a few pages later if at all. But besides these infrequent mistakes with arrangement and formatting, it was a great read and well worth the 3 bucks I paid for it.

We are doing this advent reading as a family with our 2 teenagers and 10 yr old. It is a little over their heads, but gives us some good discussion time. Lovely, encouraging and challenging selections chosen for this book. A wonderful way to re-focus our hearts on Jesus and His free gift given to us from the Father.

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