



*Light, Peace, and Hope  
for Your Christmas*

*Daily Anticipating His Coming*

*by Inga-Lill Guzik*

*Dear Advent Devotional Reader,*

No matter when you begin this booklet, my desire is that it enhances your preparation for celebrating the birth of Jesus at Christmas. This is a time when expectations are many and *busy* barely begins to describe your days. Hopefully reading this will offer focus to more fully enjoy the season.

You may read a page a day or several as needed, I ask simply that you expect to be drawn to Jesus – THE Reason for this wonderful season.

*Advent* is an old word seldom used today – the Latin word means “coming” or “to come.” Christ has come as a babe, is coming to each heart that invites Him, and will come again to bring you home. This is a word full of anticipation, preparation, and celebration.

We all await a season of love, joy, and peace. For that to happen we need to intentionally prepare our heart, our mind, and our spirit. Our home needs to be touched with His love and not merely with decorations. Our families need to be touched with His peace, and not merely pies. Our activities need His joy to accompany them, so they don't become mere duties and checks on a list.

There are many spiritual joys to experience during this time, whether you have many in your family or none to celebrate with, you are part of a large family world-wide celebrating the same event, the King who was born and who is also the soon-returning King.

*All Scripture References are from The New Living Translation, 1996 Edition*

## Day ONE

God chose a man to proclaim His coming, that man was John.

*Luke 1:17 He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah, the prophet of old. He will precede the coming of the Lord, preparing the people for his arrival. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will change disobedient minds to accept godly wisdom.*

*Luke 1:76 And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord.*

*Luke 3:4-6 Isaiah had spoken of John when he said, "He is a voice shouting in the wilderness: 'Prepare a pathway for the Lord's coming! Make a straight road for him! Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and hills! Straighten the curves, and smooth out the rough places! And then all people will see the salvation sent from God.'"*

It was not an easy task, to be chosen to prepare the way for the Messiah to come.

*John 3:28 You yourselves know how plainly I told you that I am not the Messiah. I am here to prepare the way for him--that is all.*

Today recognize you have been given the same call. The King is coming back, and you can make it possible for others to see HIM.

Pray for opportunities today to show others the way to JESUS.

## Day TWO

Who was coming?

A Light would come and shine into this dark world. Why was this Light going to come?

*Isaiah 9:2 The people who walk in darkness will see a great light - a light that will shine on all who live in the land where death casts its shadow.*

*Luke 1:78-79 Because of God's tender mercy, the light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.*

There are those all around us who are still walking or sitting in darkness. The Light has come but they don't know that it has and they can't see it.

Today you can reflect that Light so others can see the true Light of the world. Ask Jesus to shine through you!

Buy and give a candle to someone this week and tell them: "Jesus is your Light!" and how Christmas reminds you of Jesus coming to the world as the Light.

## Day THREE

2 Corinthians 4:6 *For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made us understand that this light is the brightness of the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.*

Our creator God who knows us so well, also knows our need for light. He also knows that fear so easily overtakes us and cripples us. He provided in Himself the light we needed, because that light has a name – JESUS. HE will help you understand, see clearly and have the right focus. As a great song goes, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.

Isaiah 60:1 *Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.*

Today, pray as you turn your eyes upon Jesus, looking into the face of God's glory – and let all your cares melt away as you fix your gaze upon the only One who can make you understand HIS ways.

Receive the warmth, comfort and clarity of His light in and upon your life.

## Day FOUR

JESUS said in John 12:46: *I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in Me will no longer remain in the darkness.*

John 8:12 *Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."*

Today is a great day to be reassured of the commitment you have made to remain, follow, be led, and to trust in the LIGHT of the world. He came for you!

You don't need to stumble, to be fearful or frightened by the darkness ever again. This world no longer has power over you. You live in the light of His keeping. He who never slumbers or sleeps is watching over you. He is the best nightlight ever!

Ephesians 5:8-9 *For though your hearts were once full of darkness, now you are full of light from the Lord, and your behavior should show it! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.*

Pray that today you will walk confident in your God who has set you free. In everything you do, let it reflect living in Him, in His glorious light.

## *Day FIVE*

*2 Corinthians 4:7 But this precious treasure--this light and power that now shine within us--is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own.*

Within us is a glorious power from God, shining through all the brokenness and frailty of our lives. He is glorious, He is powerful, He is the precious treasure, He is the LIGHT. All within our being.

*Romans 13:12 The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So don't live in darkness. Get rid of your evil deeds. Shed them like dirty clothes. Clothe yourselves with the armor of right living, as those who live in the light.*

His power is made available to you TODAY, so that you, even in all your weakness can accomplish all things necessary. That is true assurance. Trust, commit, rely, and depend on Him because of His glorious power.

Pray today for strength to live for Him in a dark world that needs the LIGHT.

As you go about your day, sing the song, "This Little Light of Mine!"

## *Day SIX*

*Isaiah 42:6 I, the LORD, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness. I will guard and support you, for I have given you to my people as the personal confirmation of my covenant with them. And you will be a light to guide all nations to me.*

There is someone right now who sees you as a beacon of hope, as a person they can look to for guidance and help. To those people, you are like a lighthouse set in the right place to guide and warn others. Thank God you are used by Him, and pray for even greater influence in the lives of others to whom God has sent you at this stage in your life and theirs.

*1 Peter 2:9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are a kingdom of priests, God's holy nation, His very own possession. This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.*

Whether you send Christmas cards or not, your life will be read by many this season. What you do will speak louder than words. Choose wisely and remember; *Matthew 5:16: Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*



## Day SEVEN

*1 John 1:5-10 This is the message He has given us to announce to you: God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness. We are not living in the truth. But if we are living in the light of God's presence, just as Christ is, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin. If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.*

How simple things are when we take God at His word. This makes a difference in how we live our lives and how we talk about our lives to one another.

Truth and honesty do matter. Simple, clear and straight forward direction is always easier to grasp.

We have been given a message this season; we are His messengers, He is the message.

Pray today that you would be given the opportunity to share the simplicity of the gospel with someone who would least expect it.

Pray that someone in your family would long to hear and respond to the gospel this season.

It could happen!

## Day EIGHT

John 1:1-7 *In the beginning the Word already existed. He was with God, and he was God. He was in the beginning with God. He created everything there is. Nothing exists that He didn't make. Life itself was in Him, and this life gives light to everyone. The light shines through the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. God sent John the Baptist to tell everyone about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony.*

Jesus, in talking to His disciples at the end of His ministry, said to them: *As the Father sent Me so send I you* (John 20:21). Jesus made that point clear to them which might not have been so clear. Once their Rabbi was gone they might have lost hope. It also implies that Jesus knew what they would go through and the difficulties they would encounter, and maybe even gone back to normal lives. So He sent them all, not just a chosen few.

Jesus sees your life today and all the struggles you are facing. He sent you into this world and promised to always be with you – nevertheless, He *sent* you. So be bold and take heart, your Light – Jesus – shines through the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish Him.

Like John the Baptist you have a testimony to share about what Christ has done and is doing in your life.

Share the LIGHT with someone who needs it. Trust in His sovereignty to lead you.

Today, pray for boldness.

## Day NINE

*John 1:8-15 John himself was not the light; he was only a witness to the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was going to come into the world. But although the world was made through him, the world didn't recognize him when he came. Even in his own land and among his own people, He was not accepted. But to all who believed Him and accepted him, He gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn! This is not a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan--this rebirth comes from God. So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. John pointed him out to the people. He shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before I did.'"*

The wait would be over soon. The true Light was approaching. The same One, who once came as a babe in Bethlehem, will one day return. This is good news! The message would be the answer for all mankind. We have the answer to the world's problems, and the answer is Jesus. He was the answer then and He is still the answer today.

Do you acknowledge that truth about Jesus? Then, can you reflect Him accurately to this world?

Pray today that the message of His birth would result in rebirth for someone you really care about.

## Day TEN

“Peace on Earth” is heard this time of year, the Christmas season. It has become a safe and politically correct saying to put in cards. We all want peace on earth – don’t we?

Jesus was sent to bring **A** peace into this world, but He very clearly points out to us in John 14:27: *I am leaving you with a gift--peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid.* As Jesus said, He was leaving His disciples and in that departing He would make available HIS peace.

If you will, Jesus made a *peace offering* that would last into eternity. This offering and offer of Peace was unlike any before or after. It originated with God the Father as reconciliation, was fulfilled in Jesus Christ through redemption, and indwells us by the Holy Spirit through rebirth.

Peter, when preaching about this, says in Acts 10:36: *I'm sure you have heard about the Good News for the people of Israel--that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.*

Paul said in Romans 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.*

We can experience the same peace daily as we rely on His Spirit to infuse us with Jesus, who is our peace.

Pray for His peace to be filled to overflowing in your life today. Rest in that peace!

## Day ELEVEN

About this time there are so many things for you to do and to finish, to prepare and get ready for, so it will be hard to keep focused on HIM.

Proverbs 4:25: *Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you.*

As much as you long to be close to Jesus, He longs for you to stay focused on Him. Think about what Jesus did to come to this world to do for us. He came to be ALL that we needed, to free us, buy us, and bless us. That will bring a smile to your face and joy to your day-to-day activities and most of all, it will bring PEACE in your heart.

Today is another day when the peace of Jesus and the rest that comes with it is available to you.

Romans 15:13 *So I pray that God, who gives you hope, will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in Him. May you overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

We see in that verse that God desires us to have overflowing hope in His Son's peace through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for His Peace to surround you and fill you so much that others notice and wonder at it. Pray for an opportunity to share why and how you have THIS Peace in the midst of all the busyness.

## Day TWELVE

What started so long ago in Bethlehem is echoing in our society today. We are the echo, we are the ripples, we are the vessels.

His purpose of Peace in this world was multifaceted, meant to have social, political, and religious consequences. Think about this as you read Ephesians 2: 14-18: *For Christ himself has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us. By His death He ended the whole system of Jewish law that excluded the Gentiles. His purpose was to make peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new person from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of His death, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. He has brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and to us Jews who were near. Now all of us, both Jews and Gentiles, may come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.*

We have the same message of radical change to convey to those around us during this time. A simple lead-in question is: "Why do you think Jesus was born?"

Pray for those you know, that they would be reconciled to Jesus this Christmas. Share the PEACE of God you have experienced with a friend or loved one.

## Day THIRTEEN

In those parts of the world, "Peace" was the greeting when both coming and going, beginning a letter and ending a letter. That says something about its importance and its position.

First, as something important: To *not* wish someone peace would be to want strife, ill will, and calamity to come upon them. Secondly, the position of "Peace" being the most prominent greeting places it on your lips instantly when coming or going, arriving and departing.

We say, "Peace on earth and good will towards men." Our desire is that it go well with those we know and that they have peace in their lives.

The best way for that to take place is to be at peace with God through Christ Jesus and to rest in HIS will for our life.

*2 John 3 May grace, mercy, and peace, which come from God our Father and from Jesus Christ His Son, be with us who live in truth and love.*

Today greet someone, either coming or going with the words, "I wish you peace." See what God might do!

*2 Thessalonians 3:16 May the Lord of peace Himself always give you His peace no matter what happens. The Lord be with you all.*

## Day FOURTEEN

The anticipation one feels when something exciting is going to happen can sometimes be more thrilling than the event itself. Not so with the arrival of Jesus. There was so much suspense and excitement in the heavenly realm that we could never imagine its magnitude. All the prep, all the waiting, all the staging of heavenly hosts!

The PRINCE of PEACE was about to enter earth's center stage.

The prophesy of Isaiah would soon be fulfilled.

*Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us, a Son is given to us. And the government will rest on His shoulders. These will be His royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Let's stay excited throughout the years and remember, our PRINCE OF PEACE is coming back again when everything is prepared for Him!

Pray as we approach Christmas that your excitement of His second coming will compel you to share His love, joy, and PEACE with those you care about.

Stay focused on this verse, Romans 15:4 *Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. They give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises.*



## Day FIFTEEN

Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, made a clear statement about peace.

Matthew 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

To be a peacemaker today takes both determination and intent. Peace doesn't just happen! As a child of God, we have the peace of GOD within, we have the message of peace in our mind, and we have the love of God that compels us to NOT look the other way when PEACE is needed. If it is blessing we want in life, then maybe being a peacemaker is the sure way to receive it.

Today let this passage penetrate your heart and mind. James 3:18 *And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.*

Pray for opportunities to plant some seeds.

Let this verse keep you focused: Romans 14:17 *For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

## Day SIXTEEN

Jesus made it clear that being a follower of His didn't mean prosperity and rest all the time. He constantly encouraged them to look at life with a different set of eyes.

*John 16:33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.*

You can take comfort in Jesus' words. Your circumstances may not be pleasant or easy and you won't find the peace you need in any circumstances. Only in HIM, "peace in ME" is where it is found.

If you are in Him and He is in you, overcoming your trials and sorrows in this world is possible, through HIM. This is great news for you TODAY!

Some Psalms and Proverbs to take time out to bask in today:

*Proverbs 16:7 When the ways of people please the LORD, He makes even their enemies live at peace with them.*

*Psalms 119:165 Those who love your law have great peace and do not stumble.*

*Psalms 29:11 The LORD gives his people strength. The LORD blesses them with peace.*

*Psalms 37:37 Look at those who are honest and good, for a wonderful future lies before those who love peace.*

## Day SEVENTEEN

This message of Peace from our Prince of Peace is one of reconciliation between God and man. This is pivotal to life and death; it has eternal consequences. It cost Jesus everything to leave His home in heaven, to identify with sinful humanity, and to bear the sins of the world. We have only to accept and agree that it is enough. The greatest Peace offering was Peace on the cross for us.

Our Prince of Peace lying in a stable, surrounded by poverty and humility, choose *you* over the riches of heaven in order to bring the riches of heaven to indwell you.

*2 Corinthians 5:14-21 Whatever we do, it is because Christ's love controls (compels) us. Since we believe that Christ died for everyone, we also believe that we have all died to the old life we used to live. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them. All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did. And God has given us the task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. We are Christ's ambassadors, and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, "Be reconciled to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*

THIS is the message of reconciliation that began in a feeding trough. This is your Christmas message. Pray as you live it, you also get to share it with words to many.

## Day EIGHTEEN

When Jesus appeared to the disciples after His resurrection, He immediately greeted them with "Peace be with you." Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them (Luke 24:36).

I think that we would be much better off in our daily walk if we could just hear those words of Jesus speak to us personally: "Peace be with you \_\_\_\_\_ (name) today, and that peace is My presence in your life." Wait...! He *has* said it, in a slightly different way in this passage:

*Philippians 4:5-7 Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

Hopefully that brings comfort, hope and joy to you right now.

Today pray that by HIS peace, Jesus will constantly guard your heart (emotions) and mind (thoughts) as you attempt to get more done in preparation for celebrating His first coming.

Let this verse help you to stay focused: Isaiah 26:3 *You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, whose thoughts are fixed on You!*

## Day NINETEEN

Peace comes when we trust. Trust comes when we have hope. Hope comes when we know WHO God is through the personal work of Jesus by His Spirit within us.

All this is working itself out in the daily process of living by faith and walking in the Spirit, which is contrary to walking in the flesh and believing only what we can see.

Hope and trust are often intermingled in translations from Biblical Hebrew and Greek into our modern-day language. They have the same root system, and their branches look very similar, but they produce a slightly different tasting fruit.

In these verses you can see how either word could fit, but we are focusing on Hope.

*Psalm 25:5 Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.*

*Psalm 25:21 May integrity and honesty protect me, for I put my hope in you.*

*Psalm 31:24 So be strong and take courage, all you who put your hope in the LORD!*

*Psalm 33:22 Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD, for our hope is in you alone.*

Today, pray that your HOPE is placed in none other than Jesus Christ.

## Day TWENTY

The Babe in the Manger WAS the HOPE for ALL humanity. Helpless, weak and frail – but not HOPELESS. Jesus was FULL of HOPE for each one who could see with other eyes.

I wish we could exchange our humanity piece by piece. To turn in our eyes for ones that see thru the filter of HOPE. To turn in our heart for one that pumps out HOPE for life. To turn in our knees, legs, and feet, that buckle, grow weary and stumble for ones that bend at hope, leap for hope, and walk steadfastly in hope. And so on...

Desperation is sometimes the only way we find hope. I believe God intended for us to be fueled by hope and to never run out of it. Psalm 62:5 *I wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him.* It is a great person who can hold onto HOPE when the circumstances point away from it. Psalm 119:116 *LORD, sustain me as you promised, that I may live! Do not let my hope be crushed.* It is an even greater person who recognizes HOPE is what will help her see clearly. Psalm 94:19 *When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.* The greatest is when HOPE becomes a way of life, as in Psalm 39:7 *And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you.*

Today is a day to place your hope in the person and work of Jesus. Today is a day to offer that same HOPE to someone you know who could benefit from it. Whom that might be?

Psalm 40:11 *LORD, don't hold back your tender mercies from me. My only hope is in your unfailing love and faithfulness.*

Sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

## Day TWENTY-ONE

Romans 5:1-5 *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

In order to celebrate one has to prepare. We are fast approaching a day of celebration. Is your heart prepared, are you anticipating His birth? Are you excited or exhausted?

Is there a deep reason in your heart for this celebration? Do you hope that this day will echo what your mind knows and heart senses?

Fix your eyes (your eyes of hope) on the GOD of ALL HOPE and you will see what this day is all about. Think about the intense love this day represents on God's part. Choose to respond with gratitude and appreciation. That is a reason to celebrate with hope.

Psalm 147:11 *Rather, the LORD's delight is in those who honor him, those who put their hope in His unfailing love.*

Pray for all those in this world who will be alone, not by choice, at the Holidays. Pray they are drawn to the ONE being celebrated, who is the reason for the season of Hope!

## Day TWENTY-TWO

If Hope is something we rely on, and Hope is something we have, and Hope is something we offer, then Hope has a name – JESUS. One can also then say: “When Jesus who is my Hope gives me Hope (Himself), then I can offer my Hope (Jesus) to a person, and rely on Hope (Him) in a situation so that both I and others can SEE Hope (Jesus) more clearly.”

*Ephesians 3:19-20 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.*

Pray today for someone that you cannot, with your earthly eyes, see come to faith. Now apply Hope to your prayer – that is JESUS – and all that He said He is and can be for that person.

Now get even more excited about the HOPE that Christmas is just the beginning of! It is truly a lifelong celebration filled with real hope, not wishful thinking or imaginations.

Sing “Joy to the World.”



## Day TWENTY-THREE

Hope is as far from wishful thinking as east is from west. That is reason enough to celebrate! We can live confident in Hope, we can choose Hope, and we can proclaim Hope because it is not a dream or wishful thinking. We can be certain and sure in our Hope, when our Hope is in Jesus and is Jesus.

*Jeremiah 29:11-14 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me in earnest, you will find Me when you seek me. I will be found by you," says the LORD.*

Paul in his letter to the Philippians shares an ideal that he lived by. As the holidays are just around the corner spend some extra time praying that your heart will be just as eager as Paul's heart was. Expect God to answer that sincere prayer.

*Philippians 1:20 For I live in eager expectation and hope that I will never do anything that causes me shame, but that I will always be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past, and that my life will always honor Christ, whether I live or I die.*

Sing "Angels We Have Heard on High."

## *Day TWENTY-FOUR*

A great old hymn has this part in it: “My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus’ blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly cling to Jesus’ name. On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.”

It brings hope close and shows us that in God’s plan for mankind He built Jesus into it, the Hope of the World. Men could only see a baby – what could a baby do? What the heavenly hosts saw was HOPE incarnate. They knew God’s plan would work. God anticipated this day, God had prepared for this day. Now all of heaven can rejoice and celebrate the coming KING.

After an angel announced the arrival of Jesus other angels sang in celebration, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14).

It was as if they wanted the celebration to begin with lots of hoopla and fanfare, but it was very still and quiet after they left. How surprising, and possibly confusing this was!

All the planning and prepping for this GREAT DAY in history. What had been done behind the scenes was more magnificent than anyone could imagine. Only God knew, but now we also know.

What will we do to make this day special, more special than other days?

*Continued on Next Page*

To finally see that we have taken the time needed to anticipate and prepare, and now the celebration can begin – this is a huge part of what Christmas is about. In Hebrews chapter 6 it shows us what a huge part of our Christian life is to be about.

*Hebrews 6:11-12 Our great desire is that you will keep right on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and patience.*

Loving kindness towards others will keep you less focused on self, and focus on self makes you spiritually dull.

So today, as you put those final touches on things, know that you have awaited His first coming as part of preparing for your Christmas celebrations. Now you are awaiting His second coming. For this you will need patience, but you can still prepare for and tell others about His second coming.

Have faith in His promises today and always. JESUS will return because HE said He would.

*Hebrews 11:1 What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.*

Sing "O Holy Night" and "Silent Night."

## Day TWENTY-FIVE

MERRY CHRISTMAS !

Hebrews 10:23 *Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.*

Romans 15:4 *Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. They give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises.*

NOW here it is – the PROMISE of the MESSIAH fulfilled, the KING, the coming ONE. He is here! Glory to God in the highest! The ADVENT is over, JESUS has arrived as was foretold long ago.

Matthew 1:21-25 *“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.*

GOD is NOW with us, Immanuel. Let's celebrate that God became flesh and dwelt among us. This babe that Mary delivered would one day be her Savior. Your Savior and mine also.

*Continued on Next Page*

Jesus is the LIGHT, PEACE, and HOPE of all nations. He is MY light, MY peace and MY hope. My joy is full, my soul is satisfied, my heart is encouraged, and my mind is settled.

*Romans 15:12-14 And the prophet Isaiah said, "The heir to David's throne will come, and he will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hopes on him." So I pray that God, who gives you hope, will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in him. May you overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. I am fully convinced, dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well that you are able to teach others all about them. Even so, I have been bold enough to emphasize some of these points, knowing that all you need is this reminder from me.*

Praise HIM today as your Savior King and remember to keep longing for the day when you will see Jesus face to face.

Sing "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

**BLESSED CHRISTMAS** today..... and every day in Jesus your Light, Peace, and Hope.

It is my deepest desire that you know Jesus as your Savior. He was born for you, He died for you, and He rose from the dead for you.

If you have never invited Him into your life to be the One who leads, manages, and cares for you, you can do so right now by praying a simple prayer of surrender.

*Dear Jesus, I ask you to come into my life, to make me clean of all the sin that has kept me from You. Thank You for paying my penalty on the cross when You died. I choose You now to be my Lord and Savior. Show me Your way to live this life. I give it to You, I surreneder my will for Your will. Amen*

Blessings to you in Jesus' name,

*Inga-Lill Guzik*