

# Daily Devotion



## A transformed heart

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025

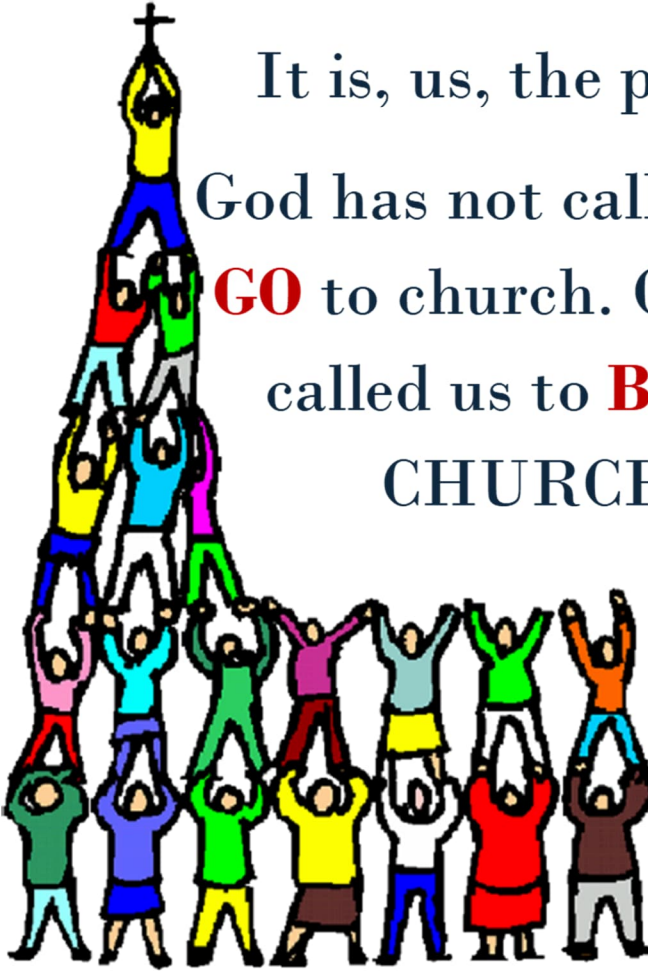
December 2024 / January 2025							
Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		Dec-24	Jan-25				

# Our Declaration

The Church is not the  
building.

It is, us, the people.

God has not called us to  
**GO** to church. God has  
called us to **BE** His  
**CHURCH.**





# Leadership Team

## Ministers



## Elders



Denest Akintaju



Dan Jolley



Sourik Lahiri



Tracey Mauge



Sophie Ogunlaja



Philip Ogunniyi



Philip Ash  
Colchester



Marian Pintilie  
Romanian Fellowship

## Introduction

At this time of the year, it is usual to read and meditate on the birth of the LORD. However, this year, in the runup to Christmas, we shall reflect on the many prophecies His birth fulfilled. The prophecies pertain to (a) His lineage and identity (b) the location and timing of His birth (c) events surrounding His birth and (d) His purpose and divine nature. They reflect the extraordinary detail and divine planning that surrounded the birth of Jesus, reinforcing His identity as the promised Messiah. God never does anything until He reveals His plans to His servants the prophets. See Amos 3:7

After celebrating His birth, our focus shifts to His nature, attributes, and character. Who would want to worship an unknown God? What kind of King is He? What does He say about Himself? What have the prophets revealed about Him? What does He offer, and what does He require? Is He like us? Is He approachable and trustworthy? Is He worthy of our worship and obedience? Is He relatable, distant, personal, caring, merciful—or tyrannical?

The Scriptures present a profound and vivid picture of God: He is Spirit, calling for worship in spirit and truth. He is a triune Being, the essence of love, immutable, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, good, holy, faithful, and wise.

God is not to be imagined as having partial measures of these attributes, as though they combine to make Him whole. He is not 15% love, 29% holy, and 78% wise. Rather, He embodies each attribute in its entirety. He is fully love, entirely holy, and completely merciful—all at the same time.

Eliphaz urges us to “acquaint yourself with Him and be at peace; thereby good will come to you” (Job 22:21).

Merry Christmas!

*Adéwálé Adéfuyè*

*10 December 2024*

## Born of the Woman: Crushing the Serpent's Head



#1: Offspring of the woman

#2. Born a child

Genesis 3:14-15 (BSB)

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this [...], <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you

Isaiah 9:6 (BSB)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince



Matthew 1:18–23 (BSB)

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged in marriage to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and was unwilling to disgrace her publicly, he resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But after he had pondered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to embrace Mary as your wife, for the One conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel" (which means, "God with us").

See also Luke 1:26-27



- a. When it comes to the Saviour, why is it so important that he be born of a woman?
- b. In contrast to Adam the First, who was created as an adult, why was Adam the Last born as a child?
- c. It was divinely foretold; it was divinely fulfilled. What does it say about God's plan and purposes?
- d. Does it reveal anything about God's nature?
- e. How should this affect you?

# A Very Christmas Carol

Thursday 19th, Friday 20th, Saturday 21st  
December 2024.

**Every evening 7:00pm (doors open 6:30pm)**

Ticket price: £2 per person or £5 for 4 people.  
Book early by scanning the QR code or pay at the door.

For more information please email [info@jicelim.uk](mailto:info@jicelim.uk)



Do you have a testimony, and you want to share it with your church family?

Email Tracey at [info@iicelim.uk](mailto:info@iicelim.uk) or sms on 07418319224



## Christmas 2024 A Transformed Heart

- Sun 15 Dec:** Nativity Service - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 11am
- 19, 20 & 21 Dec:** A Very Christmas Carol Production 7pm
- Sun 22 Dec:** Carols by Candlelight 6pm
- Wed 25 Dec:** Christmas Day Service 10am
- Sun 29 Dec:** Sunday service 11am
- Tues 31 Dec:** Watchnight Service 10pm
- Sun 5 Jan 2025:** Sunday service 11am



## From Abraham to Jacob: The Chosen Lineage



### Prophecies

#3: Seed of Abraham Genesis 22:18

#4: Seed of Isaac Genesis 17:19; 21:12; 26:4

#5: Seed of Jacob Genesis 28:14

Genesis 22:18 (BSB)

<sup>18</sup> And through your offspring all nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

Genesis 21:12 (BSB)

...for through Isaac your offspring will be reckoned.

Genesis 28:14 (BSB)

All the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

Genesis 17:19 (BSB)

<sup>19</sup> But God replied, “Your wife Sarah will indeed bear you a son, and you are to name him Isaac. I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

Genesis 26:4 BSB

...through your offspring all nations of the earth will be blessed,

Matthew 1:1-17



The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham...

<sup>17</sup> So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

See Luke 3:23-34

<sup>23</sup> Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli,

<sup>34</sup> the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,



Promise made, promise fulfilled. It was a promise to be fulfilled in the future, long after the death of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

- What does this say about God’s character and nature?
- Was this a conditional promise?



## From David's Line: The King Who Reigns Forever



#6: The tribe of Judah Genesis 49:8-10; Micah 5:2

#7: Stem of Jesse Isaiah 11:1-2

**Prophecies** #8: The line of David Isaiah 9:7; 2 Sam 7:12,13; Jer 23:5

**Genesis 49:10 (BSB)** The sceptre will not depart from Judah, nor the staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes and the allegiance of the nations is his.

**Isaiah 11:1-2 (BSB)** <sup>1</sup> Then a shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.

**Isaiah 9:7 (BSB)** Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from that time and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this.

**2 Samuel 7:12-13 (BSB)** <sup>12</sup> And when your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He will build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

**Jeremiah 23:5 (BSB)** Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and He will reign wisely as King and will administer justice and righteousness in the land.



**Fulfilled**

See Matthew 1:1-17

<sup>1</sup> The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

See Luke 3:23-34

<sup>23</sup> Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son [...] <sup>31</sup> the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, <sup>32</sup> the son of Jesse, the son of Obed...



It began as a blessing on Judah and turned into a divine promise to King David. They, in a manner of speaking, were good ancestors.

- a. Am I living with the future in mind?
- b. Will future generations call me blessed?

## The Virgin Birth: Fulfilment of Prophecy



### Prophecies

#9: Born of a virgin Isaiah 7:13-14

Isaiah 7:13–14 (BSB)

<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, O house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God as well? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.

Luke 1:26–27 (BSB)

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary.



Fulfilled

Matthew 1:18 (BSB)

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged in marriage to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.



- a. Why was it crucial for Him to be born of a virgin?
- b. Why was Mary chosen specifically?

## The Firstborn: Heaven's Light on Earth



### Prophecies

#10: Firstborn son, sanctified Exodus 13:2; Numbers 3:13

#### Exodus 13:2 (BSB)

<sup>2</sup> “Consecrate to Me every firstborn male. The firstborn from every womb among the Israelites belongs to Me, both of man and beast.”

#### Numbers 3:13 (BSB)

<sup>13</sup> for all the firstborn are Mine. On the day I struck down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They are Mine; I am the LORD.”



### Fulfilled

#### Luke 2:6–7 (BSB)

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her Child to be born. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



Isaac was the only child of Sarah and the second born of his father. Jacob was second born of his parents. David had many brothers ahead of him.

- a. Why did Jesus have to be the first born?
- b. Why is the first born significant within families and in the Bible?

## Son of God: God with Us



### Prophecies

#11: Called the Son of God (Psalm 2:7)

#12: Called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14)

Psalm 2:7 (BSB)

<sup>7</sup> I will proclaim the decree spoken to Me by the LORD: “You are My Son; today I have become Your Father.

Isaiah 7:14 (BSB)

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.



### Fulfilled

**Luke 1:35 (BSB)**

<sup>35</sup> The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.

**Matthew 1:23 (BSB)**

<sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel” (which means, “God with us”).



His birth—foretold centuries in advance—fulfilled so many prophecies to a tee. How can anyone, familiar with these prophecies, deny, miss, or not recognise Him as the Messiah?

## The Eastern Star: Leading to Bethlehem's Child



### Prophecies

#13. Born in Bethlehem, Judea, #14. A star would signify His birth.

#### Micah 5:2 (BSB)

<sup>2</sup> But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come forth for Me One to be ruler over Israel — One whose origins are of old, from the days of eternity.

#### Numbers 24:17 (BSB)

<sup>17</sup> I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come forth from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel. He will crush the skulls of Moab and strike down all the sons of Sheth.



### Fulfilled

#### Matthew 2:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”



His birth—foretold centuries in advance—fulfilled so many prophecies to a tee. How can anyone, familiar with these prophecies, deny, miss, or not recognise Him as the Messiah?

## Born in the Shadow of Rome, Announced by a Prophet



#15. Birth during Roman rule; #16. Born while the Temple was still standing; #17 Messiah would be announced by a forerunner.

### Prophecies

**Daniel 2:44 (BSB)**

<sup>44</sup> In the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will shatter all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself stand forever.

**Malachi 3:1 (BSB)**

<sup>1</sup> “Behold, I will send My messenger, who will prepare the way before Me. Then the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple—the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight—see, He is coming,” says the LORD of Hosts.

**Isaiah 40:3–5 (BSB)**

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling: “Prepare the way for the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground will become smooth, and the rugged land a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all humanity together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”



### Fulfilled

**Luke 2:1–7 (BSB)**

<sup>1</sup> Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census should be taken of the whole empire. <sup>2</sup> This was the first census to take place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to his own town to register. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, since he was from the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her Child to be born. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Luke 2:25–27 (BSB)**

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup> Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. And when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him what was customary under the Law,

**Luke 1:17 (BSB)**

<sup>17</sup> And he will go on before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

**John 1:23 (BSB)**

<sup>23</sup> John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet: “I am a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”



His birth—foretold centuries in advance—fulfilled so many prophecies to a tee. How can anyone, familiar with these prophecies, deny, miss, or not recognise Him as the Messiah?

## Rejoicing and Rage: Reactions to His Birth



### Prophecies

#18. Proclaimed by angels, #19. Great joy accompanying His birth  
#20. Infanticide at His birth

#### Psalm 148:2 (BSB)

<sup>2</sup> Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His heavenly hosts.

#### Isaiah 9:3 (BSB)

<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased its joy. The people rejoice before You as they rejoice at harvest time, as men rejoice in dividing the plunder.

#### Jeremiah 31:15 (BSB)

<sup>15</sup> This is what the LORD says: “A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”



### Fulfilled

#### Luke 2:10–14 (BSB)

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: <sup>11</sup> Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord! <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there appeared with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favour rests!”

#### Matthew 2:16–18 (BSB)

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was filled with rage. Sending orders, he put to death all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, according to the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what was spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: <sup>18</sup> “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”



His birth—foretold centuries in advance—fulfilled so many prophecies to a tee. How can anyone, familiar with these prophecies, deny, miss, or not recognise Him as the Messiah?

## Heaven Rejoices as Prophecies are Fulfilled



### Luke 2:1-14 BSB

<sup>1</sup>Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census should be taken of the whole empire. <sup>2</sup>This was the first census to take place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to his own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, since he was from the house and line of David.

<sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her Child to be born. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds residing in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. <sup>9</sup>Just then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: <sup>11</sup>Today in the city of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!

<sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there appeared with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to men  
on whom His favour rests!”



- a. How is this Good News of great joy to all people?  
A great multitude of the heavenly host...  
A large army of angels (God’s Word translation)  
A host of heaven’s army (Moffat translation)  
A huge angelic choir singing God’s praises (The Message)
- b. Why did His birth cause so much joy in the heavenlies?
- c. Is this joy available to every earthling? If yes, how?



# God is Spirit

John 4:19-24, BSB

<sup>19</sup>“Sir,” the woman said, “I see that You are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place where one must worship is in Jerusalem.”

<sup>21</sup>“Believe Me, woman,” Jesus replied, “a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such as these to worship Him. <sup>24</sup>God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

The spiritual nature of God is inferable from many Scripture references but none as unequivocal as Jesus states it here in one of His sublimest revelations of God. God is Spirit. He has no visible substance, no physical, human body, nothing corporeal, no mixture of matter. God is invisible. Colossians 1:15, 1 Timothy 1:17.

*No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is at the Father's side, has made Him known. [John 1:18]*

Christmas is the season of celebration of the birth of Christ, God incarnate. Even though God is spirit, He is also a living, personal being. As such, we can know Him personally. Joshua 3:10 speaks of God in this way, saying, “You will know that the living God is among you.” Psalm 84:2 declares, “My heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God” (ESV).

- a. How has the invisible God made Himself known?
- b. If God were not spirit, would He be omnipresent, omnipotent, and all His other attributes?

Acknowledge God as spirit  
How do you respond to God in prayer?



Prayer

God is spirit and demands to be worshipped in spirit and truth.

Declarations  
of Scriptures



# Worship in Spirit & in Truth

## Declarations of Scriptures



John 4:19-24, BSB

<sup>19</sup>“Sir,” the woman said, “I see that You are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place where one must worship is in Jerusalem.”

<sup>21</sup>“Believe Me, woman,” Jesus replied, “a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such as these to worship Him. <sup>24</sup>God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”



*“Neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem”*

Jesus demolishes the fallacy of holy places. God esteems no spots on earth holier than others. Holy buildings, holy forms, may have in them much value; but the value is for us, and not for God. All places are alike acceptable with God.

*His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth*

The necessary and acceptable worship due God, from us, is “in spirit and truth.” God won’t ask of us what we are unable to do. His demand to be worshipped in spirit and in truth suggests that we can worship Him spiritually and truthfully. We are triune in nature, spirit, soul, and body [see 1 Thessalonians 5:23]. Our spirit and soul are the inward faculties with which we think, will, feel and act.

He wants our hearts before our bodies; the alignment of our spirit with His spirit; the subjection of our soul (mind, will and emotion) to our [born-again] spirit. Bodily posture—extended hands, bended knees, and eyes lifted up— are not sufficient acts of worship without a quickened and active spirit.

Worship in truth is conducted according to Word of God. John 17:17

- How was God worshipped before this game-changing declaration?
- Can we worship God in spirit but not in truth?
- Can we worship God in truth but not in spirit?



Prayer



I can do whatever God demands of me.  
I can worship Him in spirit and in truth.

**Bold  
Affirmation**

# God is Love

## Declarations of Scriptures



1 John 4:7-10, BSB

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

<sup>9</sup>This is how God's love was revealed among us: God sent His one and only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup>And love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

<sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. The one who fears has not been perfected in love.

<sup>19</sup>We love because He first loved us.



God does not simply love, but that He is Love itself. Love is not merely one of His attributes, but His very nature. God's love is free and uncaused. There was nothing whatever in us to attract or prompt it. (Deuteronomy 7:7-8, 2 Timothy 1:9)

The heart is designed to receive and give love.

- Do you believe God loves you as you are?
- How has He shown His love for us?
- How does one accept His love?
- How does one acknowledge His love?

How do you respond to this revelation of God in prayer?



Jesus loves me, this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak, but he is strong.  
Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.



# Pause to Ponder

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

What have you learnt about the nature of God?

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What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt?

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What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

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Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves.

[James 1:22, MOFF]

# Ever the Same: The Unchanging God

## Declarations of Scriptures



Malachi 3:6-7, BSB

<sup>6</sup>“Because I, the LORD, do not change, you descendants of Jacob have not been destroyed. <sup>7</sup>Yet from the days of your fathers, you have turned away from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of Hosts.

“But you ask, ‘How can we return?’

James 1:17, BSB

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow.

Exodus 3:14, BSB

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

A thing is said to change when it is otherwise now in regard of nature, state, will, or any quality than it was before; when either something is added to it, or taken from it; when it either loses or acquires. But now it is the essential property of God, not to have any accession to, or diminution of, his essence or attributes, but to remain entirely the same. He wants nothing; he loses nothing; but uniformly exists by himself, without any new nature, new thoughts, new will, new purpose, or new place.<sup>1</sup>



God is immutable in essence, nature, and perfections.

- a. In what respects is God unchangeable?
- b. Of what use is God’s immutability to us?

How do you respond to this revelation of God in prayer?



**Bold  
Affirmation**

Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow.

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen Charnock

# The All-Seeing and All-Knowing God

## Declarations of Scriptures



Psalm 147:5, NKJV

Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding *is* infinite.

Daniel 2:22, NKJV

He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what *is* in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

Psalm 139:1-4,6 NKJV

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. <sup>2</sup>You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. <sup>3</sup>You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. <sup>6</sup> *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

Hebrews 4:13, NKJV

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom *we must give* account.



*'Thus says the LORD: "Thus you have said, O house of Israel; for I know the things that come into your mind. Ezekiel 11:5 (NKJV)*

God is omniscient. He knows everything. All things. All creatures. The past, the present, and the future. He possesses perfect knowledge of every detail in the life of every being in every realm of existence: heaven, earth, and hell.

- How do you relate with a God from whom nothing can be concealed?
- How does that make you feel?

- How do you respond to the Father in prayer?
- Should we not be filled with amazement and adoration?
- How often do we forget, or even believe His omniscience?



Prayer



**Bold  
Affirmation**

All things *are* naked and open to the eyes of the Almighty.

# God's Unfathomable Power

## Declarations of Scriptures



Psalm 62:11, BSB

God has spoken once; I have heard this twice: that power belongs to God.

Psalm 147:5, NKJV

Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

Jeremiah 32:27, NKJV

“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?”



## Almighty with all power?

<>Creation <>Redemption

The power of God is that ability and strength to bring to pass whatsoever He pleases, whatsoever His infinite wisdom may direct, and whatsoever the infinite purity of His will may resolve. As holiness is the beauty of all God's attributes, so power is that which gives life and action to all the perfections of the divine nature. How vain would be the eternal counsels if power did not step in to execute them. Without power His mercy would be but feeble pity, His promises an empty sound, His threats a mere scarecrow.

God's power is like Himself: infinite, eternal, incomprehensible; it can neither be checked, restrained, nor frustrated by the creature (Stephen Charnock).

a. Deliberate on the many instances of the demonstrations of God's power in the Scriptures.



1. Praise God for being the ultimate source of all power and authority. 2. Ask for confidence in His ability to sustain and protect you in all circumstances. 3. Pray for the humility to align your desires and actions with His will. 4. Rejoice in the certainty of His promises and the security of His unchanging nature. 5. Call on God for strength and encouragement during seasons of difficulty or uncertainty. 6. Ask for peace that comes from trusting in His omnipotence.



**Bold  
Affirmation**

The LORD is the strength of my life;  
Of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1, NKJV)

# The Lord is Set Apart

## Declarations of Scriptures



Revelation 15:4 (NKJV)

Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You alone are holy*. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

Isaiah 6:1-4 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!" <sup>4</sup> And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

1 Samuel 2:2-3, NKJV

<sup>2</sup>"No one is holy like the LORD, For *there is* none besides You, Nor *is there* any rock like our God. <sup>3</sup>"Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD *is* the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed.



Holiness is more than moral goodness. The Hebrew word for holiness means to be distinct, unique, or set apart because we are closely connected to God, who is the ultimate Holy One. The supreme unique Being. A call to holiness is therefore a call to a state in which we respect and honour God's holiness by dissociating from death and corruption.

*So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:14-16)*

We are not bidden to be omnipotent or omniscient as God is, but we are to be holy.

1. Acknowledge that God is holy, set apart, and perfect in all His ways. Thank God for revealing His holiness and for calling us to live holy lives.
2. Thank God for being the one true God, unparalleled in majesty, power, and love. Pray for a deeper awareness of His uniqueness and the privilege of knowing Him.
3. Praise God for being steadfast and unchanging, a rock of refuge and strength. Pray for the faith to rely on Him completely, especially during times of uncertainty or difficulty.
4. Pray for a heart fully devoted to Him, free from idolatry or distractions.



Prayer



**Bold  
Affirmation**

As Disciples of Christ, we are a royal priesthood and a holy nation.



# God's Unfailing Faithfulness

## Declarations of Scriptures

2 Timothy 2:13 (ESV)

if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.



Psalm 89:8 (ESV)

O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?

Isaiah 11:5 (ESV)

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Psalm 36:5 (ESV)

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.



*God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through? (Number 23:19)*

Everything about God is excellent, immense, unsurpassed. He never forgets, never fails, never falters, never forfeits His word. He is true to Himself and His word.



Prayer

1. Thank God for His unwavering faithfulness, even when we fall short or struggle in our faith. 2. Worship Him for being steadfast and true to His character and promises. 3. Acknowledge and give thanks that God does not change, remaining constant and reliable in every season of life. Celebrate His faithfulness as a foundation for our hope and trust. 4. Ask God to help you grow in faithfulness in your relationships, commitments, and service to Him. Pray for the ability to reflect His character in your daily life, even in challenging circumstances. 5. Reaffirm your trust in God's promises, thanking Him that His faithfulness ensures their fulfilment.



**Bold  
Affirmation**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!



# All-Wise is the Lord

## Declarations of Scriptures



Romans 16:27 (NLT)

All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

Romans 11:33 (ESV)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Psalms 104:24 (ESV)

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Daniel 2:20-21 (ESV)

<sup>20</sup> Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. <sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.



*“Wisdom is knowing what the greatest goal is in any situation, and what the best way is to achieve it.” John Piper*

God's wisdom is more than just His omniscience; it is the perfect application of His infinite knowledge. It is displayed especially in the fulfilment of His eternal purpose (see Ephesians 1:11). He uses everything in creation with precision and care, orchestrating all things to accomplish His divine will.

How often do we remember and acknowledge the only wise God?

King Solomon is said to be the wisest man to have lived. After he became king, God appeared to him and told him to ask for whatever he wanted. Instead of asking for riches or power or length of his reign, Solomon asked for “an understanding mind” so that he would be able to rightly govern God’s people. So, the LORD gave Solomon unsurpassed wisdom. Is God’s wisdom available to us today?



1. Thank God for His infinite wisdom and perfect knowledge that surpass human understanding. 2. Thank God for the ways He reveals glimpses of His character and plans through His Word and Spirit. 3. Ask God to help you live a life that reflects His glory and aligns with His wisdom. 4. Pray to remain dependent on God’s wisdom rather than leaning on your own understanding. 5. Ask God for a hunger to explore His Word and grow in understanding His nature and truth. 6. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you into a closer relationship with Him.



**Bold  
Affirmation**

Christ has become for us wisdom from God (1 Corinthians 1:30)

# Pause to Ponder

Today is an opportunity to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

What have you learnt about the nature of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are you planning to do [or have done] with what you have learnt?

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What has changed or hope to change because of what you have learnt this week?

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Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves.

[James 1:22, MOFF]

# Our Priorities

