

# CHRISTMAS & YEAR END

*Booklet*

# The Coming

CHRIST'S COMING ON EARTH

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 31, 2025



GII HOK IM TONG

[www.hokimtung.org](http://www.hokimtung.org)

20  
25

# The Coming



## Christ's Coming on Earth

Advent centers on "The Coming of Christ," for the word "adventus" literally means "coming." The season of Advent brings us to focus on this meaningful coming, as Advent integrates coming and hope into one. The coming of Christ is our hope, and hope has come in Christ. The coming of Christ causes hope to touch the reality of life—grounded, real, and part of the life of believers. That is why the season of Advent becomes a season of waiting, directing our gaze not to stop at looking back in nostalgia for the past, but to live in the present, looking forward as an anticipatory step in welcoming the second coming of Christ.

Through this booklet, we are invited to go through the season of waiting with hope and enthusiasm in welcoming Christ, who has come and will come for the second time eschatologically. Therefore, the season of Advent becomes a sacred momentum for us to contemplate the mystery of God who became human to fulfill the work of salvation and to examine our readiness to welcome His second coming.

# How to use

this booklet

- 1 Begin with a prayer of thanksgiving.
- 2 Read the Scripture passage and reflect personally.
- 3 Read the devotional.
- 4 Make a commitment to do something in accordance with the practical application.
- 5 Pray as you make your commitment.

- 
- Zoom in using two-finger gesture to view the text in larger size.
  - Use Adobe Acrobat Reader or another PDF reader application for the best experience.

# TIPS

[www.hokimtung.org](http://www.hokimtung.org)

# Live Alert

***Bible Reading : Matthew 24:36-44***

---

We are currently living in the era of already but not yet. This means we live between the first and second coming of Christ. His first coming occurred 2000 years ago, when He was incarnated as a human to save us. What about the second coming? Don't ask me, don't ask other servants of God either. How could we know? Not only you or I, even the Lord Jesus Himself in His humanity said that He did not know (v. 36)! Instead, He focused more on how we should live in this "already but not yet" era, namely to always live in a state of readiness.

Unfortunately, instead of obeying this command, Christians get caught up trying to predict when the Lord Jesus will come. Indeed, generally those who get excited over these predictions often come from denominations different from ours. But we cannot deny that we ourselves are often interested in these things too. When war breaks out between country A and B, we respond, "could this be Armageddon!" When a leader we don't like is elected, we think, "could this be the antichrist!" Even something as trivial as our child throwing a tantrum or expressing a different opinion causes us to be dramatic and complain, "this is the

fulfillment of 2 Timothy 3:1-2 about the end times!"

God does not want us to spend time and energy guessing when that day will come. Instead, He wants us to use our energy and intellect to have a vigilant lifestyle and always be ready. What does this mean? The meaning is very simple. Being ready means living as if the action we take is the action that the Lord Jesus will see when He comes.

Allow me to share a personal experience: when I was still studying at seminary, I was a very lazy student. If there was an exam today at 11, I didn't study from a week before. I didn't even study the day before. I only studied at 10 o'clock of the day itself. When my professor found out about this, she reprimanded me. Instead of repenting, I answered lightly, "who knows, the Lord Jesus might come first, ma'am. The exam would then be canceled, right?" My professor immediately scolded me, "precisely if the Lord Jesus comes, you should be studying diligently! Aren't you ashamed if the Lord Jesus sees you lying around all day?"

That should be the question for each one of us who are still wallowing in our favorite sins, in spiritual laziness and lukewarmness, pride and personal ego, even harboring grudges against others. "Suppose the Lord Jesus comes today,

wouldn't I be ashamed if He finds me still living like this?" Try asking yourself, "suppose the Lord Jesus comes today, would He be happy to see me in a cold war with my spouse?" "Suppose the Lord Jesus comes today, would He be happy to see me dishonest in my work?"

God makes us aware of this through daily life, for example through weekly sermons, through Holy Communion moments or *censura morum*, even when we are reprimanded. Unfortunately, we often ignore them. Therefore, let us accustom ourselves to living in vigilance, especially during these weeks of Advent. Every time you are about to sin, try to think, "suppose the Lord Jesus comes right now, would He be happy with what I'm doing?"

# Reflective Questions

- As a follower of Christ living in the *already but not yet era*, has your life shown vigilance and readiness for His coming?
- In your opinion, if the Lord Jesus comes tomorrow, would He be happy to see your current life? Why do you think so?

# Weekly Obedience Project

This week, before doing an action (especially sinful actions), try to stop for a moment and ask yourself, "Suppose the Lord Jesus comes right now, wouldn't I be ashamed if He finds me doing this?"

# Prayer

*Lord Jesus, forgive me for often living without vigilance. I often disregard Your promise that You will come again. Help me to always live in readiness, in thought, word, and deed. In the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.*

*He who longs for the coming of the Lord  
is not one who says His coming is  
imminent, or who says His coming is still  
far off. But rather one who, whether  
soon or distant, awaits it with sincere  
faith, steadfast hope, and burning love.*

*- Augustine of Hippo -*

# True Repentance

***Bible Reading: Matthew 3:1-12***

---

The season of Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation, reminding us that Jesus Christ has come, and will come again. In this Advent atmosphere, we hear the resounding echo of John the Baptist's voice in the wilderness: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2). This call is not merely an invitation to improve our behavior momentarily, but a fundamental call to turn back from our old way of life toward the new path that God has prepared. True repentance demands that we prepare our hearts, welcoming the King who will come.

## Heart, Not Ritual

In Matthew 3, John the Baptist faced Pharisees and Sadducees who came to be baptized, but he rebuked them: "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8). This action affirms that true repentance is a response that demands repentance of heart, not ritualism. For many people, including the religious leaders at that time, religion had been reduced to a series of

ceremonies, rules, and symbols (such as baptism) performed without real inner change. They relied on Abraham's lineage as a guarantee of salvation, a 'ritualistic' inheritance.

John challenged this assumption. The water baptism he gave was only an external sign of the internal change that must precede it. Baptism becomes meaningless if not accompanied by 'fruit of repentance'—that is, real actions, changed lives, and right attitudes. Turning back means leaving self-pride and dependence on outward practices and radically directing our hearts and will toward God's will.

### **Producing Fruit of Repentance**

This Advent season gives us the opportunity to examine ourselves. Is our worship only limited to attending services, following rituals, or making offerings without sincere hearts? We are called to repentance that is deeper than the surface. Like the axe already laid at the root of the tree (Matt. 3:10), John's challenge demands that we address the root of our problems: sin, pride, and attachment to self.

John also refers back in Matthew 3:3 the essence of the prophecy in Isaiah 40:3-5 where he states that true repentance prepares the way for His Kingdom by: smoothing out rough places (stubbornness, refusing God's will), straightening out crooked paths (crooked

mindsets, hidden motives), and filling in valleys (filling spiritual emptiness with love, which is the essence of God's Kingdom). Through repentance in these areas, we are transformed to be worthy of welcoming Christ's coming and becoming agents of His Kingdom on earth.

# Reflective Questions

- What 'ritualism' or habit do I practice in daily life without focus on Christ?
- What one specific 'fruit of repentance' (attitude, action) do I need to produce this week as a sign that I am turning back to God?

# Weekly Obedience Project

- Reflect and record 1-2 areas of life/habits where you need to 'turn back' from self-focus and self-will to focusing on God and His will.
- For this week, commit to trying to do this, while bringing it to God, every time you fall or have trouble in the process. **At the end of the week, record your reflection when doing this week's obedience project.**

# Prayer

*We ask for Your mercy for repentance to happen in our lives. Renew our inner being so that we are able to live as You desire, Amen.*

*True repentance is a radical shift from focus on self or religious ritual, to focus on God manifested in all aspects of life and accompanied by real action.*

# Hope Restored

***Bible Reading: Matthew 11:2-11***

---

In big cities, many people live under pressure: work targets, business competition, economic crises, fragile relationships, and loneliness in the midst of crowds. In the midst of that hustle and bustle, humans thirst for hope, but often look for it in the wrong places. In career and success; relationships and romance; entertainment and lifestyle; material things and luxury; as well as instant spirituality, or a search for self-meaning. But all of this is fleeting and futile. So who is the source of our true hope? Christmas is good news; Christ is present not only as a historical fact but as a source of hope for us.

John the Baptist was a prophet who had the courage to cry out in the wilderness to prepare the way for the Messiah. But then he was imprisoned by Herod for rebuking the ruler's sin. From behind iron bars, John the Baptist began to doubt and struggle: "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" (v. 3). This struggle shows that even a great prophet can experience turmoil of faith when the reality of life

does not match expectations.

Jesus did not answer with theory but with love and concrete evidence—through signs that revived John the Baptist's faith. "The blind see, the lame walk, the poor hear the good news" (vv. 4-6). The word "poor" (ptōchois) is not merely about lacking materially but also about those who are weak, marginalized, and have no power whatsoever. The above signs reveal the presence of God's Kingdom in the world, where the broken are restored, the marginalized are embraced again, and the sinful are forgiven. In line with this, Martin Luther said, "Christ came not for the strong but for the weak, not for the righteous but for sinners."

There was a colon cancer patient who was undergoing chemotherapy. Days felt heavy and difficult, and hope was almost extinguished. But when the doctor brought examination results showing improvement, his enthusiasm for life came back. Likewise, John the Baptist received "examination results" from prison in the form of signs of God's Kingdom from Christ. At that moment, he experienced restoration of faith and hope, ready to even face death. Christmas is good news that hope is real because Jesus Christ is truly present and working for us. He is the one and only Lord and Savior of the world. Everyone who believes in Him will not perish but

have eternal life (John 3:16). Will you believe in Him?

Christmas reminds us that true hope does not lie in economic stability, health, or personal achievement but in the Lord Jesus Christ who is present as Immanuel, God who accompanies and sustains us when we waver, strengthens when we doubt, comforts when we are sad, restores when we are sick, provides when we lack, gives hope when we despair, and directs our lives toward heavenly eternity.

# Reflective Questions

- In what way have you ever felt hope fading like John the Baptist and how does Christmas reaffirm your conviction that Jesus is present in every season of your life?
- What practical step will you take this week to be a bearer of Christ's hope to someone who is despairing?

## Weekly Obedience Project

During this week, set aside 10 minutes each day to reflect on one work of Jesus in the Bible—for example, healing, forgiveness, or teaching. Record it in a journal, then close with a short prayer and thanksgiving. This exercise will strengthen your hope day by day.

## Prayer

*Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to restore our hope. When our hearts waver, You strengthen. When we are weak, You are present as Immanuel. Restore our faith so that we remain faithful in the midst of a world full of pressure. In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen!*

*John's doubt becomes a mirror for us that human faith is fragile, but Christ patiently strengthens it through His word and works. Christmas becomes proof of God's patience in continually strengthening the faith of His people.*

- John Calvin -

# When Miracle Came

***Bible Reading: Matthew 1:18-25; Isaiah 7:14***

---

Christmas should trigger profound wonder, not merely because of luxurious decorations or melodious tunes. True wonder is a response to the fact that the birth of Jesus Christ is not just an ordinary story, but a supernatural moment when God breaks through the boundaries of impossibility. This event, recorded in detail in the Bible, is a real miracle that changed the entire history of human life.

Let us delve into this miracle through the lens of a simple man, Joseph, as told in Matthew 1:18-25:

The news of Mary's pregnancy trapped Joseph with a crisis within himself, namely a dilemma of logic and ethics. There was no other explanation except that Mary was considered unfaithful. Based on this condition, according to the Torah law, the engagement that had been formed could be broken through divorce. But an angel of the Lord explained Mary's pregnancy to Joseph through a dream, an explanation which transcended what Joseph had thought. Her

pregnancy was not the fruit of a natural biological process but the miraculous, supernatural touch of the Holy Spirit. This is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy seven hundred years ago that "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son..." God used a miraculous way to become incarnate as a human through virgin birth. He crossed the chasm of impossibility to exist in the most intimate and radical form—becoming the same as humans (The Word became flesh). So He is not a God who is distant in His ataraxia (alienation and undisturbedness in absolute comfort), but a God who is near and present in the reality of our dynamic lives, as Immanuel. So not only does He understand our struggles, but He also dives into every tear of ours and every struggle in the dark side of our lives. Imagine, the Creator of the universe, the infinite and eternal Person, enters into the dimension of space and time, experiencing what we experience, always present throughout our ephemeral life journey—this is not something ordinary, but a miracle. Christ becomes the real presence of God and ensures that God is with us forever. The word "with" is the most important word in the Christian faith. Without it, the entire Christian faith becomes meaningless. Christ is a gift of grace, because in Him, God is with us. We cannot say the same about the reverse, that we are with God, because there has never been a possibility for us to approach and be with God.

The pinnacle of that miracle is when we are presented with the only solution to the problem of sin in accordance with the identity of His name, Jesus (Yeshua: Salvation from Yahweh) "... for He will save His people from their sins". His miraculous birth ensures that although He "added" true human nature to His divine nature, there is an unexplainable mystery—He did not inherit original sin, making Him the worthy and perfect sacrifice for the atonement of sins. In Christ, salvation becomes possible in the midst of the impossibility for us to work it out ourselves. The greatest miracle that God revealed through Christ is that we who are sinful can be reconciled with the Most Holy God.

Respond to the miracle of Christmas not by seeking logical understanding but by embracing it deeper with faith—Trust Beyond. Believe even without understanding and not understand first before believing. This does not mean having blind faith, being antilogical, or opposing logic, but instead it means having faith that transcends the limitations of logic. Logic stops at the point of "impossible." But faith says, "nothing is impossible with God." Faith holds on to God who is able to do all things that are impossible. Just as Joseph, in his limitations, did not fully understand what the angel explained in his dream, yet he believed it and expressed it through total obedience—doing exactly as the angel of

the Lord commanded him. There was no doubt in Joseph even though he did not understand, his situation was confusing and his reputation was at stake. Obedient faith changed his life steps according to God's plan.

# Reflective Questions

- Are you willing to step further from a sense of wonder to faith that God has done the impossible to save you from sin? Show that faith in its most concrete form!
- In what part of your life is God currently challenging you to obey, like Joseph?

## Weekly Obedience Project

Build a **sense of wonder** about the miracle of Christmas that produces gratitude, growing faith and obedience by reflecting again on several Bible passages throughout this week:

- **John 1:14**
- **Luke 1:26-38**
- **Isaiah 7:14**
- **Philippians 2:5-10**
- **Luke 2:8-14**
- **Luke 2:8-20**
- **Matthew 28:20b**

Set aside the best time each day for 5-10 minutes to reflect on those verses. Write down the "traces of miracle" that you find in the text and respond with real acts of faith.

# Prayer

*We ask for Your mercy for repentance to happen in our lives. Renew our inner being so that we are able to live as You desire, Amen.*



*Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible.*

- Corrie Ten Boom -

# God In Every Step

***Bible Reading: Matthew 28:20***

---

How was your journey in 2025? Fantastic, ordinary, or did it feel bad? When things are good, maybe we can be grateful and praise God, but when the road we walk is so steep and difficult, maybe we are often filled with worry and fear. So perhaps we welcome the new year, not with enthusiasm, but with pessimism, questioning "what can be hoped for in the new year?" Maybe we don't always see difficult situations immediately change for the better. But whether we see it or not, God's footprints are always there throughout our lives. We may be able to recognize some instances in which God has helped us, but in reality we fail to recognize the thousands of times in which God has helped us. Like stars, we can't always see them, but they exist. So are God's footprints of help, we can't always witness them, but they are always there.

The Lord Jesus said, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Actually, this is what gives us peace in our life journey. Not only is God present at certain times, but in all situations

of our lives. Journeying in this uncertain world, what we need is not to be smarter, richer, or having more connections—but trust in God. Trust in God will bring all the puzzle pieces in our hearts back together. Seeing God again in all His sovereignty, omnipotence, love and wisdom makes us realize that as long as God is with us, even though life can be very heavy, we will feel lighter in facing it.

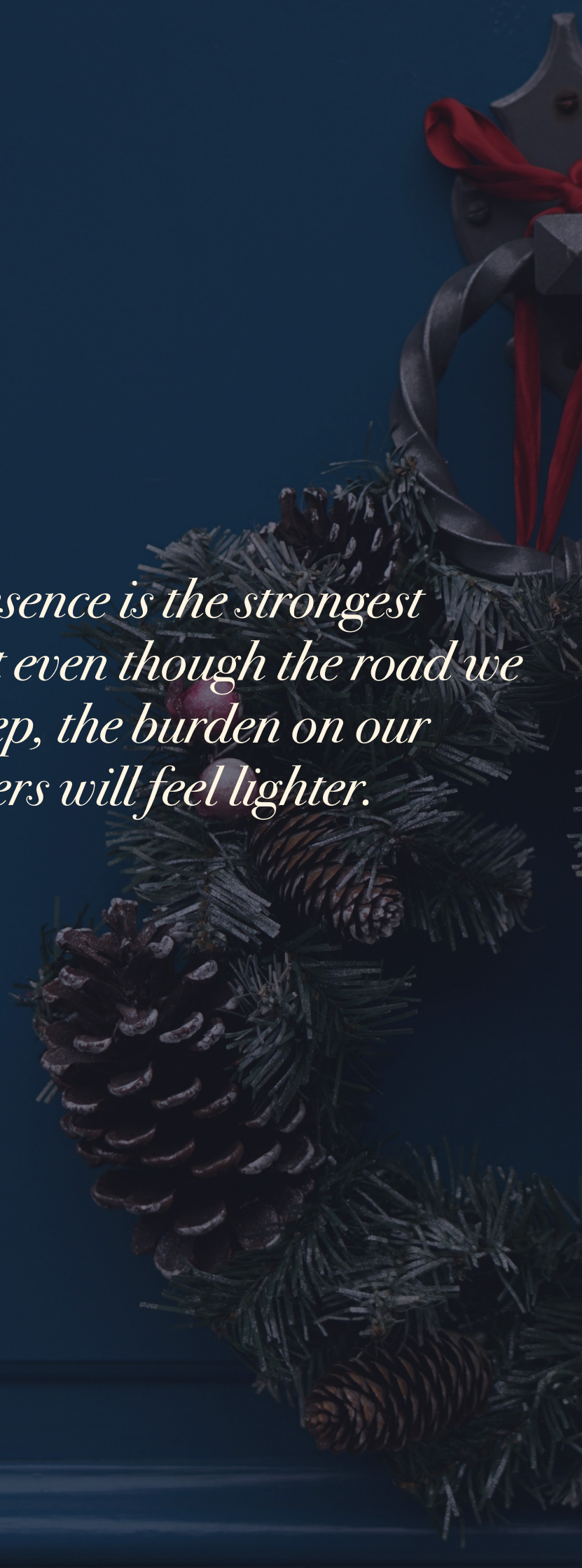
What will our life be like next year? No one knows, but what we know, God's footprints are real throughout our lives, and God Himself will continue to walk with us until the end of our lives, even until the end of the age. Always remember this, God does not leave us at the worst and most unworthy time. The Lord Jesus came to get us, so that we may become His, forever, and this is the guarantee that we will never walk alone throughout this life. Praise be to God who always accompanies us.

# Reflective Questions

- Looking Back: What is real evidence of God's presence ('footprints') in your life this year that assures you that He always accompanies, even when you didn't witness it?
- Looking Forward: In many uncertain situations in the future, what often becomes your worry, and you want to replace it by entrusting it to God?

## Prayer

*Lord Jesus, we give thanks for every time You were present in our lives. There are times when we feel that we are unable to face everything, but You always hold us and accompany us. Lord Jesus, we don't know what will happen in the future, but what we know is You promise to always be with us, and we believe that, so strengthen our hearts. Amen.*



*God's presence is the strongest  
guarantee that even though the road we  
face is steep, the burden on our  
shoulders will feel lighter.*

Dec 29, 2025

# Step of Gratitude

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

---

## Obedience Project

- Reflect on all of God's blessings throughout this past year and write down 20 things about God's blessings
- Pray and give thanks for all of these blessings from God

Dec 30, 2025

# Step of Surrender

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

*3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

---

## Obedience Project

- Write down what often becomes your worry during this time, then see how many became a reality and how many did not.
- Try to reflect on who the person of the Lord Jesus is for you. Try to write down who the Lord Jesus is for you, then compare it with your worries. Do you still want to worry?

Dec 31, 2025

# Step of Breakthrough

*Matthew 5:41*

*And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.*

---

## Obedience Project

We are accustomed to making resolutions at the beginning of the year, but many are eventually forgotten and not carried out in the middle of the year until the end. Let's plan what you want to do that has been neglected all this time. Several things can be done:

- **Church:** If you have never served in church, what ministry do you want to be involved in?
- **Family:** What do you want to do to bring your family to grow in God? (e.g., plan devotional time together)
- **Community:** What contribution to social work do you want to make to have an impact on society?



GII HOK IM TONG

[www.hokimtung.org](http://www.hokimtung.org)