

JOY TO THE WORLD!

A Different Look at Advent

by Leiann M.Walther

LISTEN to Revelation

READ Isaiah

The Background:

Advent means “the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.” When Advent was first celebrated in the Church, it was in anticipation of *Jesus’ Second Coming*. Over the following centuries, it became associated with the celebration of His first coming as a baby born in Bethlehem.

The Plan to Listen:

The Book of Revelation takes 70 minutes to listen through.

For **each week of Advent** this year, **listen** through the book of Revelation. You can do this in one sitting or following the 10-minutes-a-day plan on the following page. Free audio Bibles can be used from www.biblegateway.com or the *Bible* app by Youversion. (My personal favorite is the **ESV Hear the Word Audio Bible** read by David Cochran Heath.)

The Bonus Isaiah Reading:

The prophetic book of Isaiah has many familiar passages read during Advent. Many people don’t realize that the themes of Isaiah are also throughout the book of Revelation. If you want to see some amazing connections between the Old and New Testaments, take an additional 8 minutes (about 2 chapters/day) to follow the reading plan through Isaiah.

The Focus:



Let’s be honest: there is a LOT in the book of Revelation that we DON’T understand!! **Each week focus on the Theme for that week...**and listen for what you DO understand!

Example: We understand who the Lamb is (Jesus) and who His followers are. We may not know much about beasts, boasting little horns, and the dragon—but we know they are **not** the Lamb. In fact, they are against Him and His followers. *The theme for Week 1 is Hope.* As you listen, ask, “Who or what gives hope in all that is being described? Who has no hope?” (More sample questions are included after the listening/reading schedule.)

Week 1: Hope

Sunday, November 29

Revelation 1-3 Isaiah 1-2

Monday, November 30

Revelation 4-7 Isaiah 3-4

Tuesday, December 1

Revelation 8-11 Isaiah 5-7

Wednesday, December 2

Revelation 12-14 Isaiah 8-9

Thursday, December 3

Revelation 15-17 Isaiah 10-11

Friday, December 4

Revelation 18-20 Isaiah 12-14

Saturday, December 5

Revelation 21-22 Isaiah 15-18

Week 2: Waiting (Faith)

Sunday, December 6

Revelation 1-3 Isaiah 19-21

Monday, December 7

Revelation 4-7 Isaiah 22-24

Tuesday, December 8

Revelation 8-11 Isaiah 25-27

Wednesday, December 9

Revelation 12-14 Isaiah 28-29

Thursday, December 10

Revelation 15-17 Isaiah 30-31

Friday, December 11

Revelation 18-20 Isaiah 32-33

Saturday, December 12

Revelation 21-22 Isaiah 34-36

Week 3: Joy

Sunday, December 13

Revelation 1-3 Isaiah 37

Monday, December 14

Revelation 4-7 Isaiah 38-40

Tuesday, December 15

Revelation 8-11 Isaiah 41-42

Wednesday, December 16

Revelation 12-14 Isaiah 43-44

Thursday, December 17

Revelation 15-17 Isaiah 45-46

Friday, December 18

Revelation 18-20 Isaiah 47-48

Saturday, December 19

Revelation 21-22 Isaiah 49-51

Week 4: Peace

Sunday, December 20

Revelation 1-3 Isaiah 52-54

Monday, December 21

Revelation 4-8 Isaiah 55-57

Tuesday, December 22

Revelation 9-13 Isaiah 58-60

Wednesday, December 23

Revelation 14-17 Isaiah 61-64

Thursday, December 24

Revelation 18-22 Isaiah 65-66

Friday, December 25

For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior! Who is Christ the Lord!

Luke 2:11

Sample questions to ask yourself as you listen to Revelation

Hope:

What hope is there in how Jesus is described in chapter 1?
What gives the followers of Jesus hope in all that is being described?
Who has no hope? Why do they have no hope?
What is the hope that keeps believers going at the end of the book?
What other things do you notice about Hope as you listen?

Waiting (Faith):

Who is waiting in the book? For what are they waiting? (Ex: Rev. 3:20)
What do they do while they are waiting?
What is the result of their waiting?
How does waiting strengthen the faith of the believers?
What other things do you notice about Waiting (Faith) as you listen?

Joy:

What causes the believers to be joyful in the book?
What is the evidence that they have joy?
What causes the unbelievers to be joyful in the book?
What is the outcome for believers and unbelievers at the end of the book?
What other things do you notice about Joy as you listen?

Peace:

What gives the believers peace through all that is described?
What gives unbelievers peace in the book?
How do believers and unbelievers respond to the Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6)?
What is the description of peace at the end of the book?
What other things do you notice about Peace as you listen?

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Isaac Watts *pub.*1719

•The Cyber Hymnal (<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/j/o/y/joyworld.htm>)
•The Gospel Trumpet Company, *Select Hymns*, 1911 (611)

Can you see how
this song was
originally written
about the Second
Coming of Jesus?