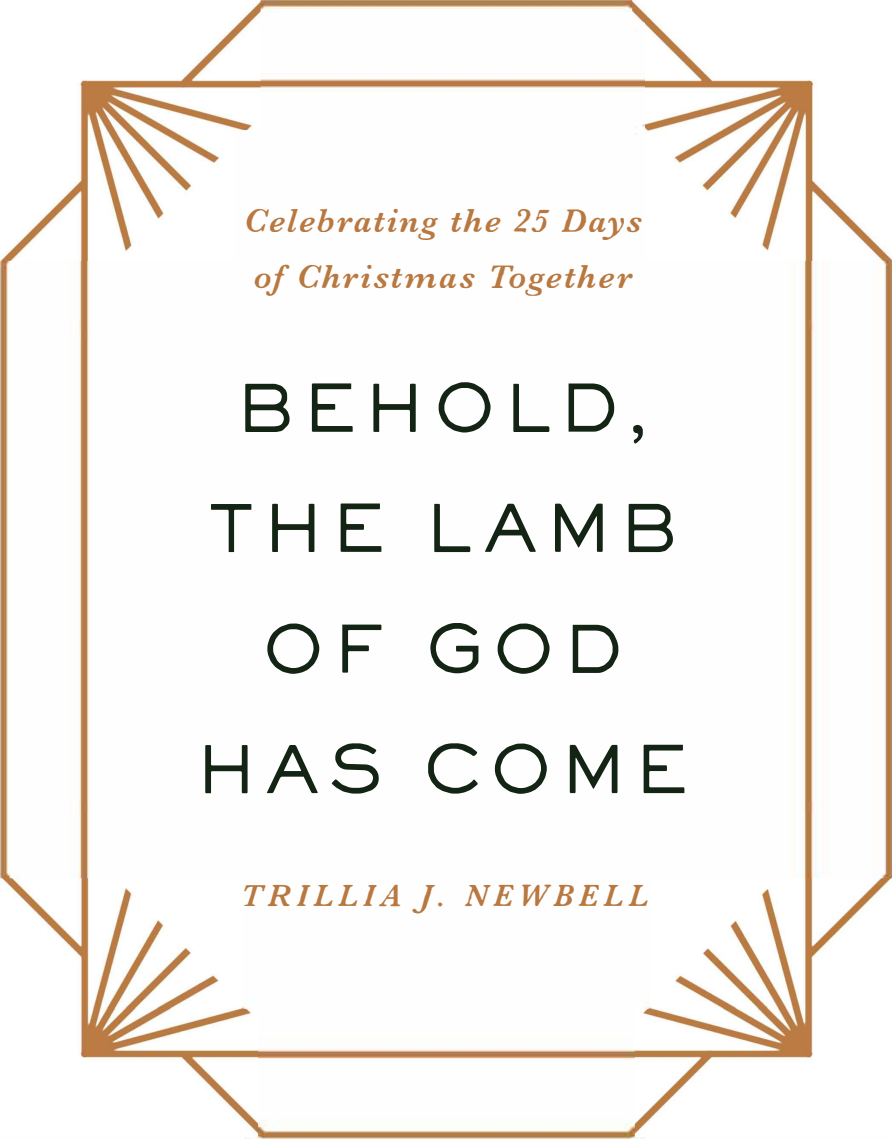


*Celebrating the 25 Days  
of Christmas Together*

BEHOLD,  
THE LAMB  
OF GOD  
HAS COME

*TRILLIA J. NEWBELL*



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HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS  
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## CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS

“Hark! the herald angels sing, ‘Glory to the newborn King!’”

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come!”

“God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day.”

I love Christmas hymns. Simply typing those lyrics warmed my heart. But even with all the festive singing during the Christmas season, I can still forget to rest and enjoy the One who came to take away the sins of the world (1 John 3:5). I know I’m not alone in fighting to remember Jesus during the holidays. Yes, we sing, but do we savor? Yes, we read, but do we fully understand? Understanding the character of Jesus while celebrating His birth will bring that much more joy and wonder and praise to our holiday season. And although this is for Christmas, understanding Jesus is what will sustain us every day of every year.

My hope is that in reading this, you might be encouraged during this time. You may be experiencing trials this season, or you might be overwhelmed by the busyness of it all, or you might simply lack joy. Regardless of where you are, there’s one thing we all need regardless of our circumstances: We need Jesus, and He has given Himself fully to us. *Behold, the Lamb of God Has Come* will help us reset our minds and hearts this month on the Giver of all good things.

## *How to Use the Book*

The 25 daily readings in this book will help you and your family focus on Jesus by reading and considering the themes of hymns, praying through and reflecting on psalms, dwelling on the character of Jesus, and pausing to enjoy simple holiday recipes. Jesus has already come, so unlike many advent devotionals, for these next 25 days, we will do less anticipating His arrival and more celebrating and reflecting on what we know to be true.

There are two ways you can use *Behold, the Lamb of God Has Come*:

1. Start on December 1 and read through it to December 25.
2. Break the readings down into five weeks, with a hymn starting each week (beginning the week before December 1 and ending on December 25).

## *Treasures for Each Day*

The same key elements are repeated in five-day cycles throughout the book so you can develop a rhythm of worship, prayer, devotion or reflection, and fun.

Here's what to expect:

1. Hymns: Traditional Christmas hymns are treasure troves of truth. They are immensely rich with theology. In the first devotion for each five-day cycle, you'll have the opportunity to read or sing the hymns and then reflect on each stanza. Each hymn is followed by questions to help prompt you to reflect and engage your heart and mind as you worship the Lord. The theme of the hymn or truth reflected in it will guide the four daily readings after it.
2. Psalms: Theologian Timothy Keller called the Psalms "Jesus's songbook."<sup>1</sup> The Psalms help give us words to say, but they are also filled with wisdom. Each psalm featured in this book points us to Jesus. In the second devotion for each five-day cycle, we will reflect on these psalms and use them as guides for prayer.

3. Character and nature of Jesus: The next three daily readings reflect on Jesus and on themes found in the hymn for that section or week. Jesus is eternal. At Christmastime, we often think of Him as a weak, helpless baby in a manger and we forget that although He was fully human, He also came as the almighty God. These devotions may also focus on other characters in the Bible who help us to understand Jesus and apply the Word to our lives.
4. Recipes: Pause for a fun Christmas-themed sweet treat to enjoy with family or friends, or for yourself.

### *Tips for Going Through This Book with Your Family*

I should start by confessing that it has been tough for my family to do family devotionals. We've had to get creative to spend time together, and it typically happens around the dinner table. If you look at this and think, *There's no way I will be able to wrangle the troops for 25 days straight*, you are not alone. This is why, when it comes to engaging with the Lord, I prefer not to prescribe activities or readings. This is a *guide*, not a rule book. It can be used to assist and inspire you in your efforts. And although it's meant to be done during the 25 days leading up to Christmas, there's nothing about the content that prevents you from reading or singing past December 25.

Here are a few ways you can get creative using the book:

1. Sing the hymns as a family.
2. Use dinnertime to go through the readings and discuss them together.
3. Cook the dessert recipe together as a family.
4. Create a fun calendar to mark off each day—making the 25 days a fun activity to anticipate and participate in for all.

Get creative and make *Behold, the Lamb of God Has Come* your own.

May God encourage you this season as you delight in our Savior, redeemer, and friend!