



Advent Living Books
Vol 3

*All Things Great & Small
at Christmas*

Daily Readings for the Christmas Season

by
Debba Stephens





Daily readings for the Christmas Season—
to keep the great things great,
and the small things small

Great and merciful God of grace, we pray that all things Christmas - great and small - will be filled with awe and worship of the Savior born to us.

Acknowledgments

My celebrations of Christ, our Lord, are filled with profound and humble gratitude for many things that brought these words to you. I am deeply thankful for the endless encouragement of dear family and friends. But mostly for the active, guiding presence of our Lord and the inexorable beauty of God's living Word.

I owe a debt of gratitude to two amazing partners on this project: Malvin Williams and Pat Stainke. Thank you for your gifted and valuable contributions.

Dedication

In the name of the Father, I dedicate this as gift to my beloved family in Christ.

Day 1

All Things Christmas—Great and Small

*He will bless those who fear the Lord—
small and great alike.
(Psalm 115:13)*

There are big things at Christmas—
Christmas trees,
Christmas presents,
Christmas feasts.

And there are the small things at Christmas—
Christmas bows,
Christmas greetings,
Christmas carols.

There are grand performances—
Lighting the White House tree,
Holiday symphonies,
Disney's Christmas Day Parade.

And there are small, but meaningful, gestures—
Homemade cookies for a neighbor;
Lighting aromatic candles;
Cheerfully tossing coins into the ringer's
bucket.

Preeminent to all is the grand story of the
Incarnation—
The majestic display of heaven in the night sky;
A bright star summoning distant magi;
Common shepherds in a hillside field;
An ordinary village couple;

A wee Babe in the straw.

We owe them all to Jesus.

My advent season prose will look upon
All things of Christmas—
Great and small.
All the while remembering—
Jesus is in them all.

My humble aim is to provide room in these festive days to welcome our Great God into even the smallest details of our Christmas. Because, after all, everything about this holy season is about Him.

As each day unfolds, let's discover fresh ways to celebrate Jesus—in both the big things and the small things. We can turn every part of our celebration into a gift offering of love and gratitude to the Lord who gives meaning to it all.



Holy Father, make our homes an altar—a holy sanctuary—dedicated to the joyous celebration of our Savior. May it all—big and small—be about You, our Grand and Glorious Lord Jesus.

Day 2

Let's make a big deal of this small Babe

*Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!*
(Psalm 34:3)

My sense of big and small sometimes gets warped.

I've been guilty of making a great big deal out of a small mistake.

Those things that seem big to us can be, in actuality, small—especially when considering the grand scheme of things. And yet, at other times, we minimize things that should be magnified.

It's been done in areas of religion. The ancients built grand cathedrals yet neglected authentic worship. Others have exalted tradition over truth . . . or mercy. And still others believed spirituality was more desirable than following Christ.

The same can be said regarding Christmas.

Should Christmas be about my big holiday plans? Or about the Babe?

The vast heavens tell of the glory of God (Ps 19:1). But will we? Will His small creatures, held in the shadow of His wings, do likewise? Will we, in humility, make ourselves small in order to make much of Almighty God—as Jesus did?

From the galaxies, to our homes, may all creation magnify His majesty and declare His glory this Christmas!

By daily proclaiming the coming of Jesus, the Greatness of God, we bring Him into our homes and magnify His name.

One small way to make Him of utmost importance this Christmas is to light a small candle each night, signifying the birth of His light into a dark world.

So, let's not just sing carols . . . let's shout praise!

Let's not just decorate . . . rather, let's celebrate God!

Let's not merely give gifts . . . instead, let's wrap our hearts in the love of Christ and give ourselves away to Him.

Let's make a big deal about the Christ of Christmas.



So move us, Father, to make a big deal out of the birth of Your Son. Shift our perspective to see all others things as lesser. And zoom the focus of our hearts and minds upon You.