



Come, Let Us
Adore Him
An Advent Devotional

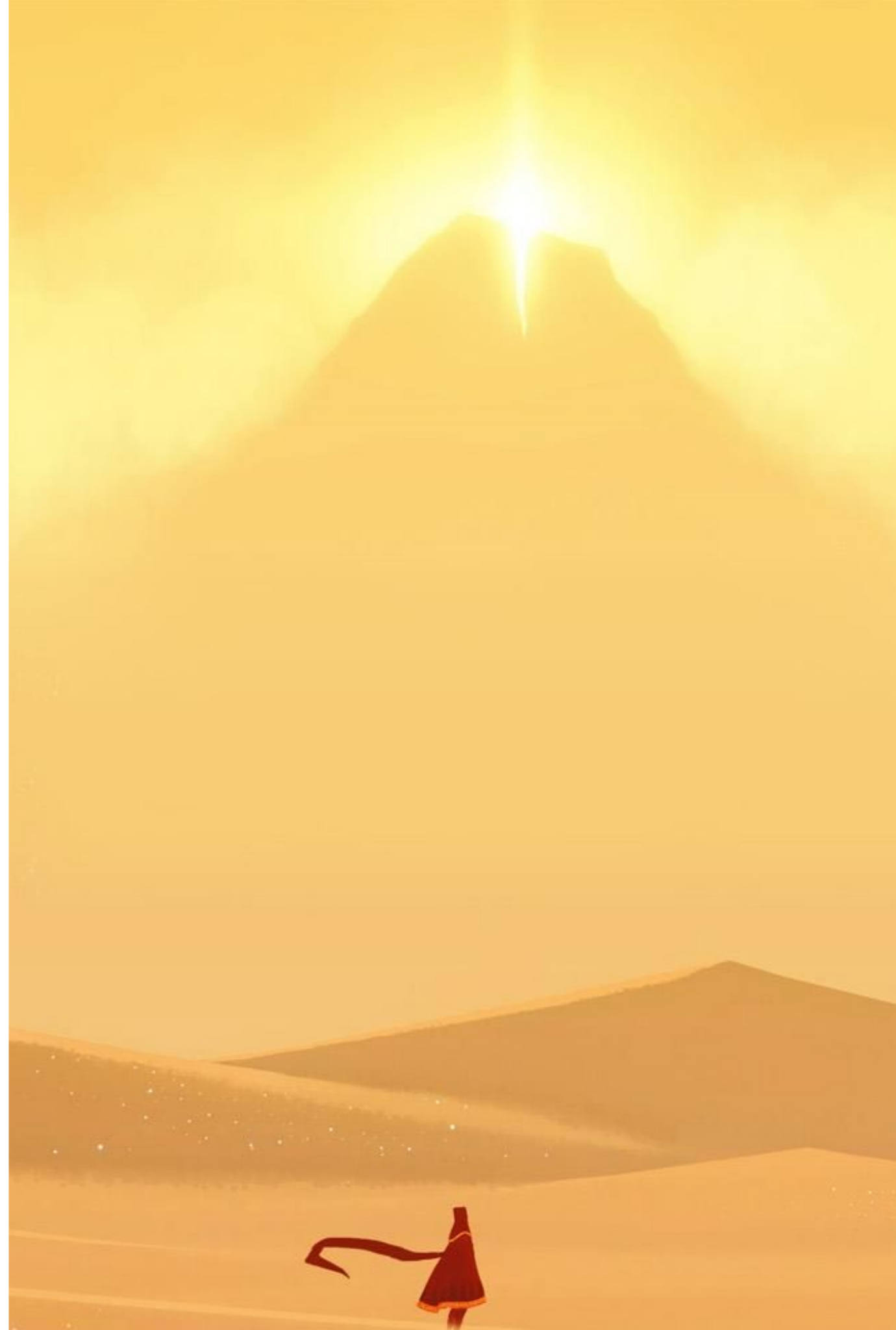


Week 3

**We must understand
the deep and beautiful
purpose behind
Christ's humble
arrival.**

**This week we are going on a JOURNEY to study the
Doctrine of Salvation.**

**We will also focus on what is, in Latin, called
the ORDO SALUTIS (the order of salvation).**





THE GAVEL OF JUSTIFICATION

You stand on the High Judge's Gavel of Justification. If you have a new heart, you have a new hope. You no longer stand under God's just judgement; You stand on his side, with the righteous Warrior King who will deal once and for all with the lawless rebels.

God does this by declaration. Like a Judge, he announces before all hearers that sinners who place their faith in him are no longer guilty; they are righteous before his holy and pure eyes. How is this so? How can lifetime rebels become full-time saints? Because God is powerful enough to credit - what our world's theologians call *impute* - Jesus' righteousness and holiness to his faith-filled ones. Based on Christ's work, you can trade your sins for his righteousness. Notice how steep the price he paid for your justification, though. God doesn't just sweep his hatred of sin and wrath against sinners under the cosmic rug of the universe. No, for the faith-filled, he pours it out on his Son. The justification of sinners cost the King his Son.

But as you know, death could not hold him. That is why he is the Death Killer and why he did what he did. The Death Killer died to take your sins to the grave and to die your death in your place so that you might receive the gift of his righteousness and his never-ending rewards.

THE BRIDGE OF RECONCILIATION

You now stand on the Bridge of Reconciliation. The High King is its architect. He made it so that faith-filled travelers might find their way into his kingdom. Swirling below the bridge are the dark waters of hostility and anger that have existed between God and man ever since the first bite of Eden's forbidden fruit. The King's grace and mercy turned traitors against the kingdom back into citizens of the kingdom. The King restores peace. He turns enemies into friends, letting them cross back into his beautiful country, and given them a seat at his banquet table.

But he goes even further to restore sinners. Take a step off of the bridge to see what else he's done. When you take the next step, the bridge transforms into an oak tree so large that its limbs seem to touch both shores.

THE TREE OF ADOPTION

This is the divine Tree of Adoption. If you belong to the King, then one of these branches is yours. When you follow him in faith, he brings you into his family. He adopts you as his own, and gives you your own limb in his family tree. Not only does he take away the bad things that kept you from him, the King also gives you all the good things of being a part of his family. Those who were alienated and separated from him can now run into his arms as his most loved children. Because of the Death Killer's work on the cross, the faith-filled can be a part of God's family forever. He can make you a son or daughter of the King. Both the King and the kingdom can be yours. As if that weren't enough, your adoption also give you a family of brothers and sisters who, just like you are happy and free in the King's kind grace.

As you take your next stride, the tree overflows and re-settles into a large chain set with indestructible links.



THE CHAIN OF UNION

Before you is the Chain of Union. It binds God's people together with everything you've seen here before the eternal throne. It unites the faith-filled ones with the one they've placed their faith in. It means that the new citizens of the kingdom take on their King's identity. The Death Killer's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension can be yours now. You become one with the one who saves you. That is how you benefit from his death and resurrection. In union with Christ, his death can be your death and his resurrection can be your resurrection. When the world looks at you, they see your Savior.

Remember, too, that this wasn't your idea. You didn't even know how much you need this. Instead, the King came to save those who hated him. He made a way for him to live in you and for you to live in him. And because of that, everything is different. If you are faith-filled, then you've traded the life you once lived in the dark for a life reflecting the light of the Son. You are like a ray of the sun shining the warm brilliance of your source into the world.

You are somehow different and yet indistinguishable - just like Christ and his people.

As beautiful as all this is, more beauty awaits. If you want to see it, take the next step.

And with the next step the chain falls back into the water, and as you fall with it, the water re-forms in just enough time for you to land at the bottom of a flight of stairs.

THE STAIRS OF SANCTIFICATION

These are the Stairs of Sanctification. You see that the King's work of salvation is not a one-time gift. It is an all-the-time-every-day gift. He doesn't leave you after he's accomplished everything you've seen so far. No, you still need to get to his throne and the scroll. Only he can get you there, but that doesn't mean you have nothing to do. The King wants you to climb the stairs. Go ahead and try.

So you try, but you can't move - it's too difficult. It feels like you're stuck in quicksand.

You can't climb on your own because none of this is your work. You need the power of the Holy Spirit. With him dwelling in you, you can walk these stairs. Sanctification is the joint work of the Spirit and the Christian to make the Christian more like the Death Killer over time. If you belong to Jesus, you are going to do everything in your power to become like Jesus. You are going to read about him, pray to him, kill sin that keeps you from him, and try to follow him wherever he takes you. At the same time, the Spirit is working in you to help you **want** to do all these things and help you keep doing them. He is there to convict you of sin and empower you to follow your Rescuer. So climb, but climb in the power of the Spirit, for this is the only way to reach the throne on the shore.

Now look up. What do you see way up there at the top of the stairs?

On the last step sits a golden crown...

THE CROWN OF GLORIFICATION

Above you is the Crown of Glorification. It awaits all climbers at the end of their climb. The King makes one for each of his followers. They reflect all the true, good, and beautiful things his citizens have done as his ambassadors. Yet, even the most elegant and regal crown cannot compare to the King's crown. This is why, when you get closer and closer to the throne, you will see that his people are more excited about the King than what lies ahead for them. That is why there is a pile of crowns lying in front of the center throne. His people's greatest delight is to throw their crowns before their true King. Ambassadors can see their King for who he really is - the only one truly worthy of glory.

Think of yourself. What will you want to do when you come face-to-face with the lion who is the lamb? When you meet the one who sings the song of your heart? The only one who can open the scroll for you and for the world?¹

REFLECTION For parents and children:

Central Theme: UNION WITH CHRIST and THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

This journey walks us through the order of salvation. Have you and your children received the gift of faith? Have you repented from your sin and believed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

What does it mean to be declared *not guilty*?

Why does a believer need to be united to Christ? (**See Colossians 3**)

Discuss the order of salvation:
Why is important that we are clear on the order?

Regeneration
Justification
Sanctification
Glorification

¹ Lister, J. Ryan. *Emblems of the Infinite King: Enter the Knowledge of the Living God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2019.



SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

The Gavel of Justification

Genesis 15:6

Romans 1:16-17; 3:21-26; 5:1-21

Galatians 2:16-17

The Bridge of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Colossians 1:20-22

The Tree of Adoption

John 1:12

Galatians 3:26; 4:5-7

Ephesians 1:4-5

1 John 3:1

The Chain of Union

John 15:15

Romans 8:12-17

1 Corinthians 6:15-19

2 Corinthians 5:21

Galatians 2:20; 3:26

Colossians 1:27

1 Peter 2:4-5

The Stairs of Sanctification

Romans 6:1-23

1 Thessalonians 5:23

2 Thessalonians 2:13,21

Colossians 3:1-17

Hebrews 13:12

The Crown of Glorification

Romans 8:30

Philippians 3:20-21

Colossians 3:4

1 John 3:2

