



Do You Know the Baby? Christmas Devotion

[**Please provide:** musical accompaniment, hymnals for attendees, ten readers or two readers alternating, and a copy of the devotion for each reader.]

Hymn: “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” LSB 366, LW 62, verses 1 and 4

EVE: God has a plan for each of us. A Covenant Plan! I am the first woman God made as He took a rib from my dear husband Adam so that he would have a helper suitable for him. We lived in paradise, the Garden of Eden. All was perfect until the Satan-snake deceived us. We listened to Satan instead of obeying God. We were banished from the Garden to a life of hard work and pain. I wish I had not been so easily tempted. However, God gave us His first Promise of His Covenant Plan. One of our descendants would triumph over Satan. My name is Eve. I believed the promise of God, but wish I could have known more about the baby who saved me from my sin.

Hymn: “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” LSB 352, TLH 91, LW 33, verses 1, 2, and 3

SARAI: Years after Eve walked the earth, my husband Abram and I left our home to follow God’s direction. God promised Abraham that he would have as many descendants as stars in the sky. Later, after it seemed that I would not have children, the Lord and two of His angels visited us. Again, God repeated His promise that I would soon have a child. You remember how I took the news. I laughed! It seemed so impossible for me to have a child at my age. I soon learned that God’s promises are not only possible, they are guaranteed. Our son Isaac was born, just as God had promised. I am ashamed that I was too skeptical and too untrusting to wait for God’s timing. However, I learned that God fulfills His promises. His Son’s birth was foretold to a woman named Mary. She did not laugh or doubt what God would do. My name was Sarai, but God changed it to Sarah. I believed the promise of God, but wish I could have known more about the baby who saved me from my sin.

Hymn: “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” LSB 384, TLH 98, LW 36, verses 1 and 3

LOT’S WIFE: Oh my, I certainly got what I deserved! We were warned, as we left Sodom and Gomorrah, not to turn around and look back at God’s destruction. Did I listen? No, I am the type of woman who always thought I knew better instead of doing what I was told. God miraculously rescued our family from the debauchery and hideous wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah. However, my stubbornness and disobedience was the death of me! I wish I would have obeyed our Lord. He removed us from that terrible place because He was constantly thinking of our welfare. He even sent His Son to be born as a baby to fulfill His plan for our ultimate best. I am Lot’s wife. If only I could have known MORE about that Baby who was part of God’s promises and the fulfillment of God’s Covenant Plan ...

Hymn: “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” LSB 380, TLH 94, LW 49, verse 3

REBEKAH: I am a serious, thoughtful, and beautiful daughter in my father Laban's house. When a stranger came to water his animals at our well after traveling a long distance, I offered to water them for him. What an adventure God had planned for me! God had chosen me to be the wife of Abraham's son, Isaac. God blessed our marriage with twin boys, Esau and Jacob. Through my son, Jacob, God continued His Covenant Plan that a Savior would be born. My name is Rebekah. I believed the promise of God, but wish I could have known more about the baby who saved me from my sin.

Hymn: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" LSB 374, LW 57, verses 1 and 3

RUTH: I am Ruth, a foreigner, not a Jewess. My husband was the son of Naomi who became a widow in the land of Moab where we lived. After my husband died, Naomi wished to return to her homeland. She expected my sister-in-law, who was also a widow, and me to remain in our home. However, I pleaded with Naomi to be allowed to accompany her and to be of help to her. After we returned to Judah, I married Boaz and God allowed an alien woman to be an ancestress of His beloved Son. After all, God's Salvation Plan is for all people. My name is Ruth. I believed the promise of God, but wish I could have known more about the baby who saved me from my sin and was my great, great, many times over Grandson ...

Hymn: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" LSB 393, verses 1 and 2

ESTHER: Would you believe this? I am Esther. I was an unknown Jewess who became the queen of the Persian King Ahasuerus. He reigned over 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia. The Jewish people were not respected, and a wicked man in the king's court was trying to have all of us put to death. In God's miraculous way, I was chosen from several beautiful women to be queen. As my uncle Mordecai said, "... *who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*" (Esther 4:14). God gave me the wisdom and courage to speak to the king so that our people would be spared. God's plans are always at work. His divine Covenant Plan was brought to fruition when Jesus, our Savior, was born. My name is Esther. I believed the promise of God, but wish I could have known more about the baby who saved me from my sin.

JOB'S WIFE: I am Job's wife. After my husband Job lost all of the family and riches we enjoyed, I was not very supportive. I could not bear to see him so stricken and broken. Satan hoped Job would forsake God for allowing him to experience so many troubles. Job's response to his hardships was, "*The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord*" (Job 1:21). My suggestion to Job was to "curse God and die." I thought it would be an easy escape. Through all of his trials, however, Job remained steadfast in his Lord. God gave him words of trust: "*For I know that my Redeemer lives ... yet in my flesh I shall see God*" (Job 19:25-26). I should not have doubted God's Plan. In time, God restored our home and our possessions, and blessed us with seven sons and three very beautiful daughters. As the angel later said to Mary, Jesus' mother: "*For nothing will be impossible with God*" (Luke 1:37). I am Job's wife. I believed the promise of God, but wish I could have known more about the baby who saved me from my sin.

GOMER: I am Gomer. God told His prophet, Hosea, to marry me even though I was a prostitute. I was God’s “living object lesson” of His message to be told by Hosea to God’s people, the Israelites. The Israelites were worshipping false idols and ignoring God’s will and commands. Hosea and I had several children. God chose the names of those children as additional warnings to His unfaithful people. God wanted His people to desert the idols and return to worshipping only Him. Those who understood Hosea’s message and repented of idol worship, would, as God promised in Hosea 14:7, 9, ... *return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; ... for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.* History does not tell what happened to me. However, God remained faithful and, ... *when the fullness of time had come ...* (Galatians 4:4), God sent His Son. He named Him Jesus. The name Jesus means Savior. By Jesus’ death and resurrection He saved the whole world for all time. My name is Gomer. If only I could have known MORE about that Baby ...

Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” LSB 379, TLH 102, LW 41, verses 1 and 4

MARY: I am Mary. I was chosen by God to carry and birth His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. What a fantastic privilege! Whenever my women ancestors had a baby boy, they would sometimes wonder if this boy might be “The One.” God’s Covenant Plan was about to be fulfilled. When Jesus was eight days old, we took him to the temple. Simeon warned me that because of my baby “a sword would pierce my heart.” No mother should have to watch her son being crucified on a cross. However, since Jesus was willing to die the death that we deserved because of our sins, we have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, Christ Jesus. My name is Mary of Nazareth. I did get to personally know a lot about that Baby who saved me from my sins.

Hymns: “My Soul Rejoices” LSB 933 and “Away in a Manger” LSB 364, LW 64

LEADER: You are the women of today. Jesus knows you by name. What do you know about that baby that you would have shared with these women and that you can share with women of today?

If the women from the Old Testament who spoke to us believed the promise of the Messiah who was to come, they were forgiven of their sins. This same forgiveness is given and sealed to us in the waters of Holy Baptism as through that water and the Word of God each of us has been baptized into God’s precious family. This is the same faith that we confessed in our confirmation vow. Please remain faithful to that confession in which you promised to remain faithful to God even in the face of death. Jesus is the greatest “object lesson” of God’s Covenant Plan. With the Holy Spirit’s help, as Paul says, “... *be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Scripture references are from the ESV.

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