



*Crossway Resources*

CHRISTMAS 2023





## ■ ■ CROSSWAY<sup>+</sup>

Now through December 31, 2023, Crossway+ members will receive 50% off all products included in the Christmas Gift Guide. To see the full list of discounted books and Bibles, please visit [crossway.org/christmas2023](https://crossway.org/christmas2023).

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-  Buy a print book, get the ebook free
-  Tax-exempt purchases for your church or ministry

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## *Observing Advent Aright*

JONATHAN GIBSON

The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming.” The Scriptures speak of the coming of Christ in two ways. Christ came to this world the first time in his incarnation and birth. Galatians 4:4–5: “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” This is the first coming of Christ. But there is also a second coming. Jesus spoke of the future “coming” (Parousia) of the Son of Man (Matt. 24:37).

These two comings of Christ are contrasted yet connected. They are contrasted in the manner of his coming. His first coming was, in many ways, hidden and silent. As the opening words of the third verse of Phillip Brooks’s well-known carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem” puts it: “How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given.” But not so Christ’s second coming. It will be public and loud. Charles Wesley’s hymn “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending,” captures it well at the beginning of verse 2: “Ev’ry eye shall now behold him, rob’d in dreadful majesty.”

If he came the first time in quiet humility to the few, he will come the second time in rapturous glory to the many.

If in the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes and attended by animals, in the second he will be wrapped in blinding light and attended by angels. In his first coming, he was seen in a lowly manger by the magi; in his second coming, he will be seen on an exalted throne by the multitudes.

But the two comings, while distinctly contrasted, are also inseparably connected. They are connected in the way they bookend Christ’s redemptive work. In his first coming Christ came to inaugurate his kingdom (Mark 1:15) and secure redemption for his people (John 6:39). What Christ began to do in his first coming, he will return to complete in his second coming.

And this is where observing Advent aright can help us. In its fullest sense, Advent is a season to meditate on the second coming of Christ while we muse on his first coming. To think only of Christ’s first coming in humility during Advent and not his second coming in glory is to disconnect the bookends of the gospel; it is to neglect the end of our salvation and so negate the beginning of our salvation—it is only half to observe Advent. And so, this Advent season, let us not separate what God has joined together in his gospel.

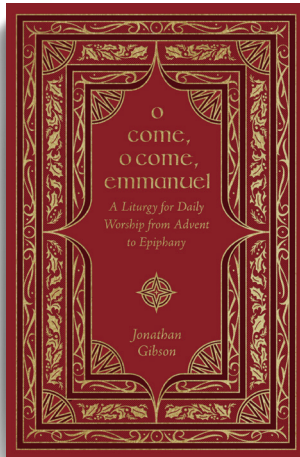


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**Jonathan Gibson** (PhD, University of Cambridge) is an ordained minister in the International Presbyterian Church, United Kingdom, and associate professor of Old Testament at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He is the author of other books, including *Be Thou My Vision* and *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.



## New Christmas Releases



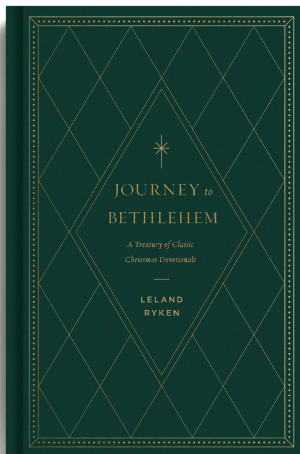
### O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Jonathan Gibson

For individuals and families, this 40-day liturgical devotional guides readers through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany—helping Christians retain their focus on Jesus and meditate on the mystery of his incarnation.

**Retail Price: \$29.99**

**Crossway+: \$20.99**



### Journey to Bethlehem

Leland Ryken

In this collection of 30 Christmas hymns, poems, and prose, literary expert Leland Ryken highlights how each passage is edifying and stylistically satisfying—allowing Christians to experience these classic works in a fresh way.

**Retail Price: \$29.99**

**Crossway+: \$20.99**

Browse more gift ideas at [crossway.org/Christmas2023](https://crossway.org/Christmas2023).



## TGC Kids

*Illustrated by Samara Hardy*

TGC Kids illustrated storybooks engage the hearts and imaginations of kids aged 3-7 by teaching them biblical truths about how to live and grow as God's children in today's culture. Published in partnership with the Gospel Coalition.

Browse all TGC Kids volumes at [crossway.org/tgckids](https://crossway.org/tgckids).

**Retail Price: \$14.99 | Crossway+: \$10.49**



## Gifts for Women

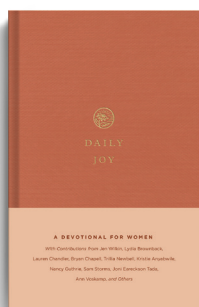


### ESV Prayer Journals

*ESV Prayer Journals* guide your study of a foundational Scripture topic over 30 days and create space for writing and prayer—turning your quiet time into a meditation on God's word.

**Retail Price: \$9.99**

**Crossway+: \$6.99**

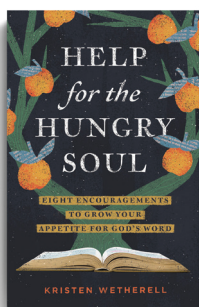


### Daily Joy

This 365-day devotional, written especially for women, includes a year's worth of daily Bible reflections from more than 50 Christian writers and pastors.

**Retail Price: \$22.99**

**Crossway+: \$16.09**

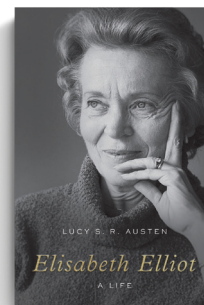


### Help for the Hungry Soul

In *Help for the Hungry Soul*, author Kristen Wetherell offers 8 encouragements to spur an appetite for God's word—the only thing that can truly satisfy a soul *hungry* for more.

**Retail Price: \$14.99**

**Crossway+: \$10.49**

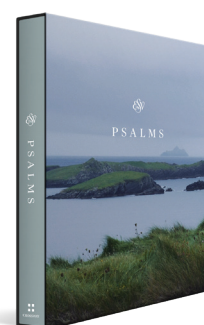


### Elisabeth Elliot

This biography takes readers on an in-depth journey through the life of Elisabeth Elliot—her marriage to Jim Elliot, her years of international missions work, and her prolific career as a writer and speaker.

**Retail Price: \$39.99**

**Crossway+: \$27.99**

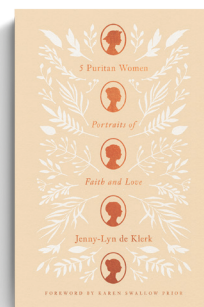


### ESV Psalms, Photography Edition

The *ESV Psalms, Photography Edition* invites readers to ponder each of the 150 psalms alongside captivating original photography of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

**Retail Price: \$29.99**

**Crossway+: \$20.99**



### 5 Puritan Women

In *5 Puritan Women: Portraits of Faith and Love*, Jenny-Lyn de Klerk shows how the lives and writings of Agnes Beaumont, Lucy Hutchinson, Mary Rich, Anne Bradstreet, and Lady Brilliana Harley encourage the beauty of holy living and provide practical wisdom for the home and the church.

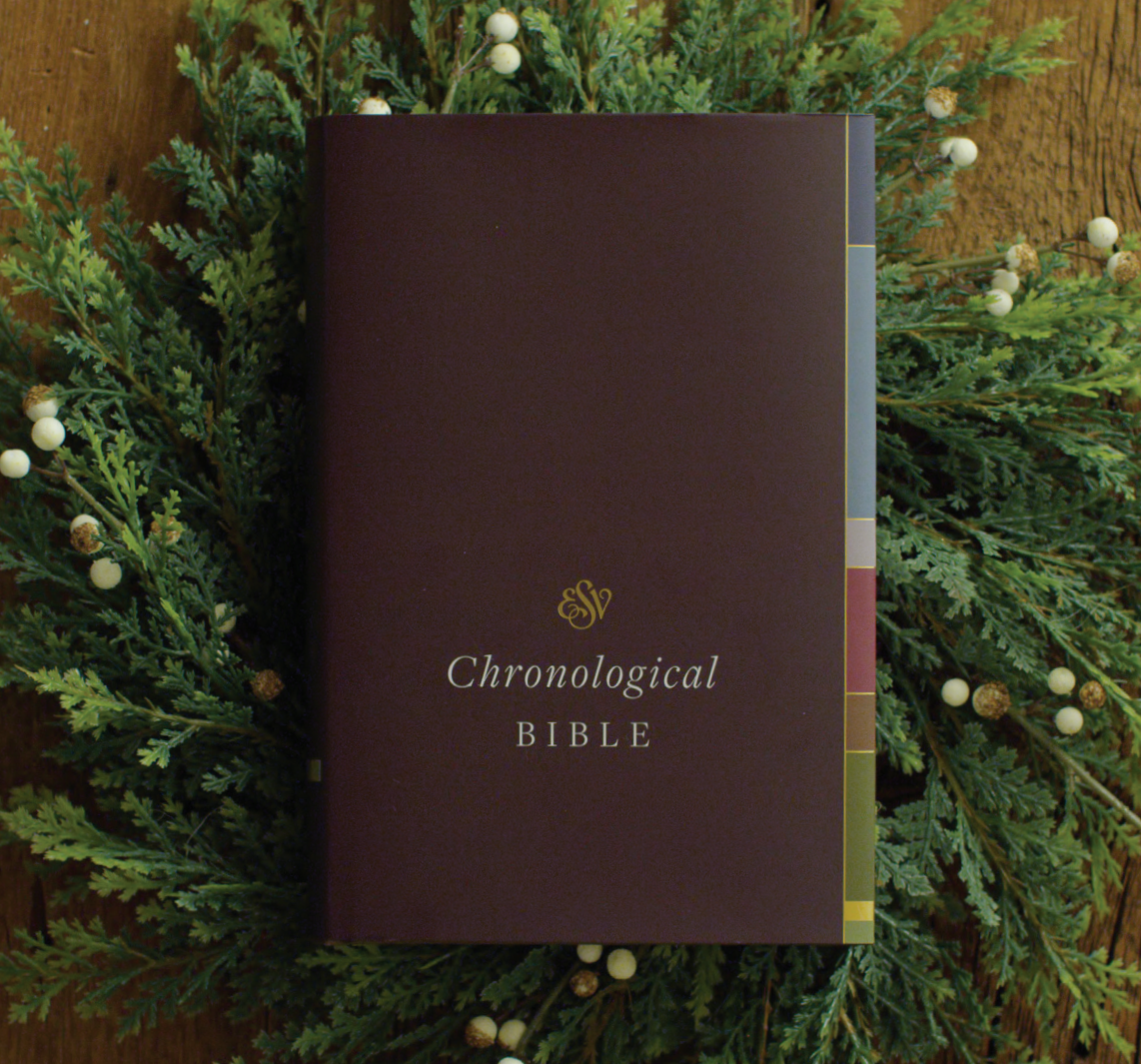
**Retail Price: \$16.99**

**Crossway+: \$11.89**

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Browse more gift ideas at [crossway.org/Christmas2023](https://www.crossway.org/Christmas2023).





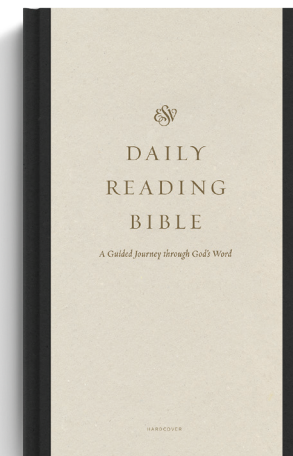
## ESV Chronological Bible

From Genesis to Revelation, the *ESV Chronological Bible* guides readers through the 8 eras of the Bible in the order the events occurred. Each era begins with an introduction, serving to reorient the reader and connect the section to God's redemptive narrative as a whole. What's more, this freshly designed layout divides the entire Bible into 365 daily readings—each beginning with a summary and timeline—making it easy to study Scripture over the course of a year.

*Retail Price: \$54.99* / *Crossway+: \$38.49*

Crossway+ members will receive 50% off all products included in the Christmas Gift Guide through 12/31/2023.

## *New Bibles*



### ESV Daily Reading Bible, Hardcover

The *ESV Daily Reading Bible* offers readers the opportunity to develop their own daily habit of time in Scripture as they work through guided readings and reflection questions.

*Retail Price: \$32.99*

*Crossway+: \$23.09*



### ESV Scripture Journal, Study Edition

These study editions are designed to facilitate in-depth Bible studies of Ephesians, Mark, or Romans, providing the guidance, tools, and space needed to dig deep into the biblical text—all in a single volume.

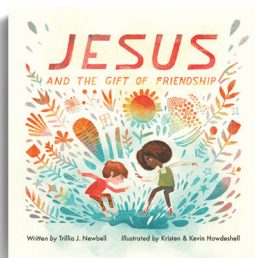
*Retail Price: \$7.99*

*Crossway+: \$5.59*

Browse more gift ideas at [crossway.org/Christmas2023](https://www.crossway.org/Christmas2023).



## Gifts for Children and Youth

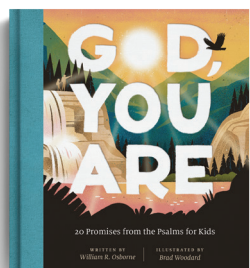


### Jesus and the Gift of Friendship

In this thoughtful children's book, kids ages 3–6 join Zeke on his journey to find close friends. Along the way, he develops unlikely friendships and discovers Jesus is his dearest friend and ultimate provider.

*Retail Price: \$15.99*

*Crossway+: \$11.19*



### God, You Are

In this book, William R. Osborne uses a clear and warm style to provide a distinct connection between the gospel and God's goodness, holiness, and mercy as seen in the "You Are" statements found in the Psalms.

*Retail Price: \$17.99*

*Crossway+: \$12.59*



### The Biggest Story

Featuring chapters that are short enough to be read in one sitting, this illustrated Bible storybook imaginatively retells the biblical narrative in one continuous story, helping kids connect the dots from Genesis to Revelation.

*Retail Price: \$17.99*

*Crossway+: \$12.59*

Crossway+ members will receive 50% off all products included in the Christmas Gift Guide through 12/31/2023.



### For the Bible Tells Me So

For the Bible Tells Me So board books immerse little ones in the gospel, teaching them who God is and why they should love and trust him as their Lord and Savior. Written for kids ages 0–4, each book unpacks an important biblical doctrine through thoughtful language, well-crafted rhythms and rhymes, interactive elements, and colorful illustrations.

Browse all volumes at [crossway.org/ftbtms](https://crossway.org/ftbtms).

*Retail Price: \$11.99 | Crossway+: \$8.39*





## The Biggest Story Suite

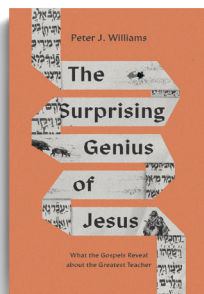
The Bible is full of exciting stories that fill children with awe and wonder. But kids need to know how all those classic stories connect to Scripture's overarching message about God's glorious plan to redeem his rebellious people. The Biggest Story suite of products leads kids and parents alike on an exciting journey through the Bible, connecting the dots from the garden of Eden to Christ's death on the cross to the new heaven and new earth.

Crossway+ members will receive 50% off all products included in the Christmas Gift Guide through 12/31/2023.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>A. The Biggest Story ABC</b><br/>Introduces kids to the Bible one letter at a time.<br/><i>Retail Price: \$12.99</i><br/><i>Crossway+: \$8.99</i></p>                                     | <p><b>C. The Biggest Story Verse Cards</b><br/>Features artwork on one side with a memory verse on the other.<br/><i>Retail Price: \$11.99</i><br/><i>Crossway+: \$8.39</i></p> |
| <p><b>B. The Biggest Story Bible Storybook</b><br/>Beautifully illustrated and easy-to-read stories from Scripture for kids.<br/><i>Retail Price: \$34.99</i><br/><i>Crossway+: \$24.49</i></p> | <p><b>D. The Biggest Story Coloring Book</b><br/>Presents 104 Bible stories through engaging coloring pages.<br/><i>Retail Price: \$9.99</i><br/><i>Crossway+: \$6.99</i></p>   |



## Gifts for Men

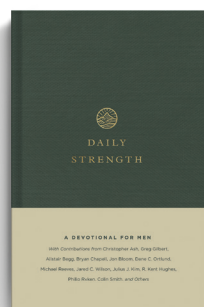


### The Surprising Genius of Jesus

In *The Surprising Genius of Jesus*, Peter J. Williams examines the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15 to show the genius, creativity, and wisdom of Jesus's teachings.

**Retail Price:** \$14.99

**Crossway+:** \$10.49

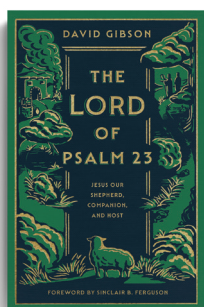


### Daily Strength

*Daily Strength*, a year-long devotional, walks Christian men through Scripture passages that speak to their most pressing issues. Each single-page daily reading features a short summary of a Bible passage and a thought-provoking message.

**Retail Price:** \$29.99

**Crossway+:** \$16.09



### The Lord of Psalm 23

David Gibson walks through each verse in Psalm 23, thoroughly examining its 3 depictions of the believer's union with Christ as sheep and shepherd, traveler and companion, and guest and host.

**Retail Price:** \$19.99

**Crossway+:** \$13.99

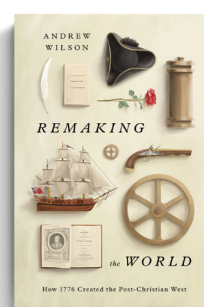


### The Church, the Scriptures, and the Sacraments (Volume 28)

Volume 28 of *The Complete Works of John Owen* explores Owen's work on topics including the integrity of Scripture, the nature and celebration of the sacraments, and practical church matters.

**Retail Price:** \$44.99

**Crossway+:** \$31.49

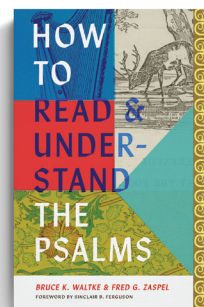


### Remaking the World

In this skillfully researched book, Andrew Wilson explains how 7 historic events in 1776 shaped today's post-Christian West and equips believers to share God's truth in the current social landscape.

**Retail Price:** \$29.99

**Crossway+:** \$20.99



### How to Read and Understand the Psalms

Developed from a lifetime of studying and teaching, *How to Read and Understand the Psalms* gives readers tools to learn how to properly interpret and internalize the Psalms.

**Retail Price:** \$49.99

**Crossway+:** \$34.99

Crossway+ members will receive 50% off all products included in the Christmas Gift Guide through 12/31/2023.

Browse more gift ideas at [crossway.org/Christmas2023](https://crossway.org/Christmas2023).

## Gifts for Teens

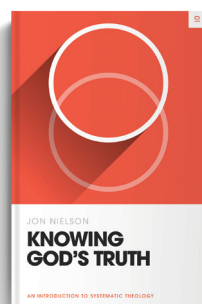


### God's Great Story

*God's Great Story* is a one-year devotional aimed to help teens establish daily Scripture-reading habits as they explore God's grand story of redemption, from Genesis to Revelation.

*Retail Price:* \$22.99

*Crossway+:* \$16.09



### Knowing God's Truth

Pastor Jon Nielson has written *Knowing God's Truth* to make systematic theology clear, meaningful, and practical for those new to theology, covering the basic categories of systematic theology—Scripture, man, sin, church, and more.

*Retail Price:* \$29.99

*Crossway+:* \$20.99



### 10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity

Rebecca McLaughlin uses teen-friendly illustrations and biblical truth to address 10 questions teens face about the Christian worldview, challenging young people to think deeply about hard topics and stand for truth in a secular age.

*Retail Price:* \$14.99

*Crossway+:* \$10.49

Browse more gift ideas at [crossway.org/Christmas2023](https://www.crossway.org/Christmas2023).



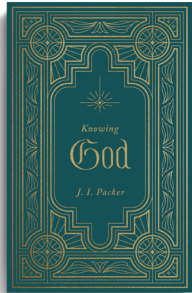
### ESV Teen Study Bible

Edited by pastor Jon Nielson, the *ESV Teen Study Bible* features numerous study and resource materials—including 12,000 accessible study notes, 365 devotions, and 200 sidebars defining key doctrines and helping teens apply Scripture to their own lives. It also has full-page introductions for each biblical book, more than 150 maps and illustrations, an extensive glossary and concordance, and over a dozen topical articles.

*Retail Price:* \$29.99–39.99 | *Crossway+:* \$20.99–\$27.99



## More Gift Ideas

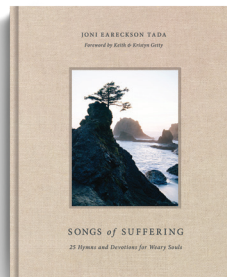


### Knowing God

J. I. Packer's insightful and practical approach to understanding God has impacted countless Christians throughout the world as they are introduced to the wonder and joy of knowing God. Now available in a beautiful hardcover edition.

**Retail Price: \$29.99**

**Crossway+: \$20.99**

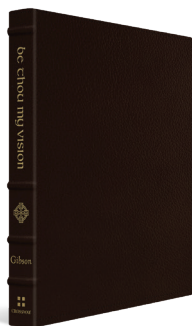


### Songs of Suffering

This beautifully designed book includes 25 hymns chosen by Joni Eareckson Tada with accompanying devotions and photography designed to spark hope in the midst of hardship.

**Retail Price: \$29.99**

**Crossway+: \$16.09**



### Be Thou My Vision (Gift Edition)

Designed to be read in 15-20 minutes a day, this liturgical devotional guide will give readers focus and purpose in their daily quiet time while pointing them to Christ. Gift edition features a timeless TruTone cover.

**Retail Price: \$32.99**

**Crossway+: \$23.09**

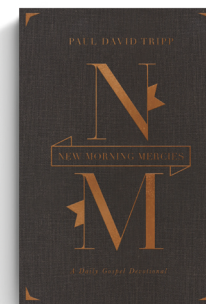


### Gentle and Lowly (Book and Study Guide)

This set includes a copy of *Gentle and Lowly* and a companion study guide. Ideal for small groups and individuals, the guide has 10 lessons, each covering 2-3 book chapters. This set can be used with the *Gentle and Lowly Video Study*, sold separately.

**Retail Price: \$44.99**

**Crossway+: \$31.49**

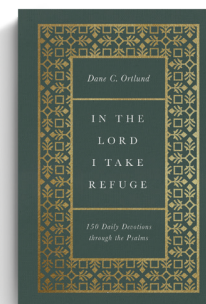


### New Morning Mercies (Gift Edition)

This devotional by bestselling author Paul David Tripp offers daily encouragement through 365 gospel-centered meditations aimed at helping readers trust God and rely on his grace each and every day.

**Retail Price: \$29.99**

**Crossway+: \$20.99**



### In the Lord I Take Refuge

*In the Lord I Take Refuge* invites readers to experience the Psalms in a new and refreshing way, featuring devotional content written by Dane Ortlund.

**Retail Price: \$29.99**

**Crossway+: \$20.99**

Browse more gift ideas at [crossway.org/Christmas2023](https://crossway.org/Christmas2023).

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## *Meditate on God's Word with New Audio Features in the ESV Bible App*

Deepen your time in God's Word with customizable study and audio features available with the ESV Bible app, including the complete online library, audio Bibles, customizable background music, playlists, reading plans, and more.

The updated ESV Bible app will be available to download for free on December 30, 2023.

### **Engaging Narrators**

Listen to the entire ESV Bible read by acclaimed Christian artists, pastors, and Bible teachers including Kristyn Getty, Ray Ortlund, Jackie Hill Perry, Michael Reeves, and more. New voices coming soon!

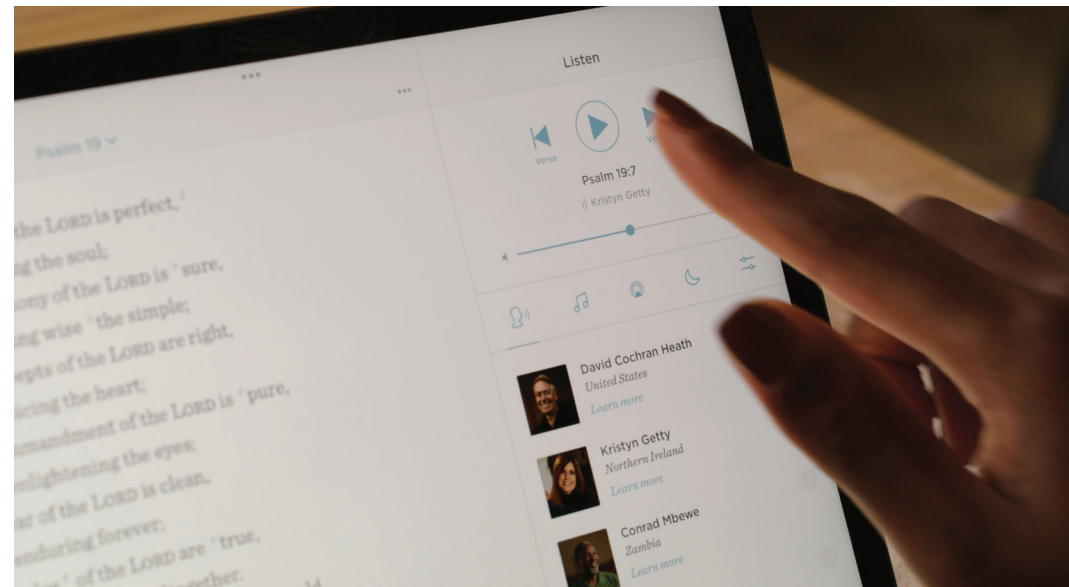
### **Customizable Background Music**

Offering a diverse selection of music styles, artists, and genres, these instrumental tracks will help you meditate on God's Word as you read or listen to Scripture. Individual volume controls allow you to adjust the music and Bible audio separately.

### **Thoughtful Playlists**

Feeling stressed, tired, or hungry for God's Word? Interested in diving into a particular biblical theme, doctrine, or topic related to the Christian life? Each of these 50+ playlists offers a collection of thematic verses to guide you through a particular mood, topic, or season.

**Ready to get started?** Download the ESV app for free and subscribe to gain access to its premium features.







## *The Sorrow of Mental Illness and the Hope of Christmas*

DAVID MURRAY

“Joy to the world?” All I know is a world of sadness. “The Prince of Peace?” Fear and confusion reign in my heart. “God with us?” It feels like God has left me.

The sorrow of mental illness often suffocates the hope of Christmas, sometimes leaving us in even deeper despair than at other times of the year. How can we recover and rekindle the hope of Christmas while engulfed in the sorrow of mental illness?

Thankfully, the Christmas message of Jesus’s coming speaks three hope-fueling truths into our lives.

### **“I see your suffering.”**

One of the greatest pains in mental illness is that we cannot point to something visible and say, “See, there it is. That’s the problem.” Observers cannot see our irrational thoughts or our anxious emotions, making us feel unseen in our suffering. The invisibility of our pain and the feeling of painful invisibility is especially felt at Christmas when everyone else is focused on celebration.

Into this invisibility comes the invisible God in visible form. By his coming in the flesh, he effectively says, “I see you. I see your pain. I see your suffering. Neither you nor your sufferings are invisible to me. I’ve come to shine my light upon you and into you” (Matt. 4:16).

### **“I sympathize with your pain.”**

Some do see our mental and emotional suffering, but they can’t understand it because they’ve never experienced it themselves.

However much they want to understand, they really don’t get the depth of our darkness. We feel lonely even among our loved ones.

Into this desolate isolation comes the perfect sympathizer (Heb. 4:16). His coming into our human experience of the worst physical, mental, emotional, relational, and spiritual pain assures us that he really “gets it” and really “gets us.”

### **“I save from pain.”**

Not all mental illness is the result of personal sin, but all mental illness is the consequence of sin in the world. At Christmas we find hope of healing in Christ’s coming to save us both from our sins and their consequences.

If our mental illness is the result of sin and unresolved guilt, then Christmas gives us hope of full, free, and forever forgiveness through Jesus coming to carry our sin and guilt away.

If our mental illness is simply one of the consequences of living in broken bodies in a broken world, then we can ask the great physician to heal us directly or through medicine and other gifts of his grace.

Even if he says, “Not yet,” we know that because he came to save us from all sin and all its consequences, we can look forward to heaven where he will wipe every tear from our eyes, brains, and hearts, when he removes all illness, physical and mental, from our lives (Rev. 21:4).

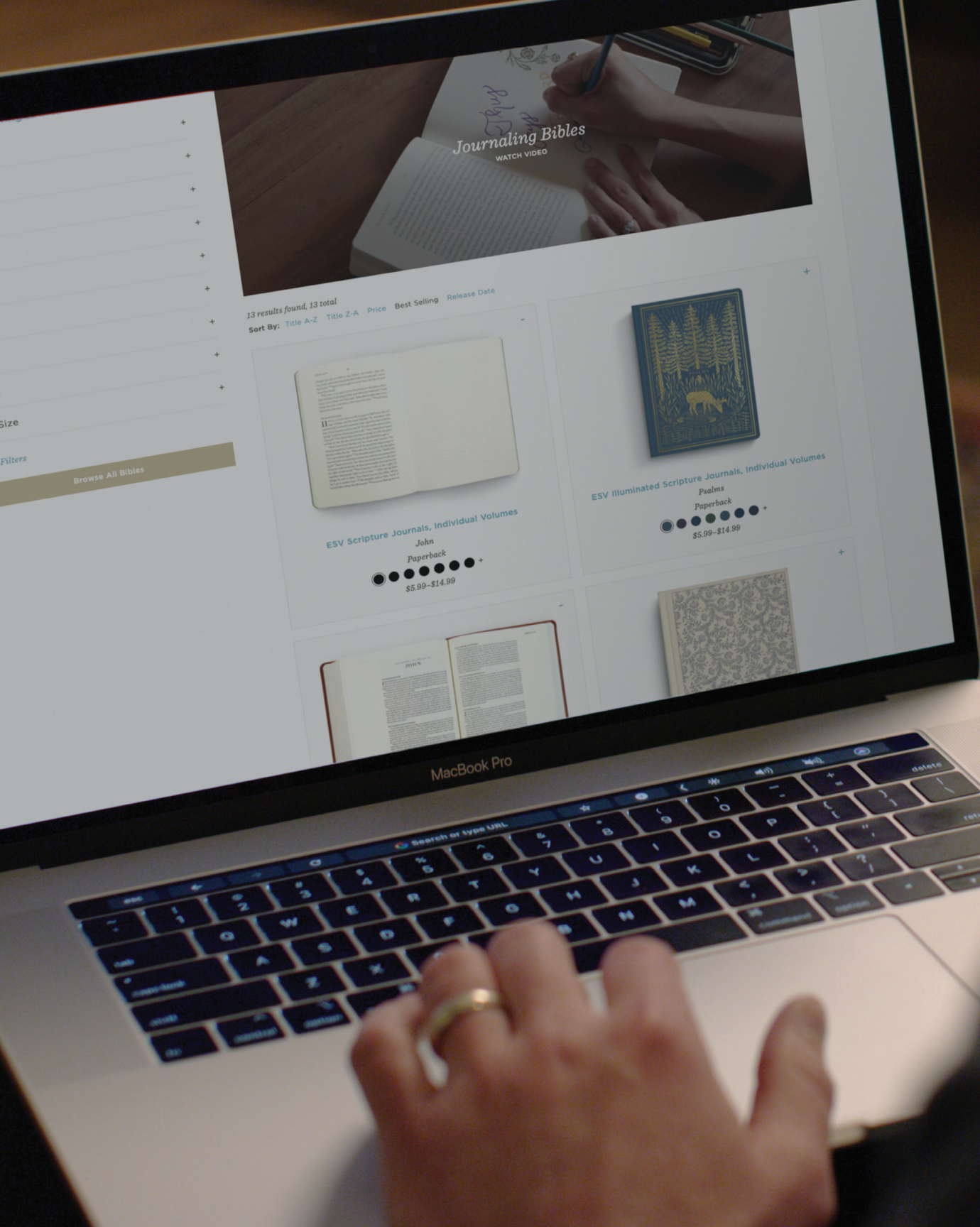
Use the triple hope of our Savior’s sight, sympathy, and salvation to counsel you through the sorrow of mental illness at Christmas time.



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**David Murray** (PhD, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) is the senior pastor of First Byron Christian Reformed Church in Byron Center, Michigan. He is also a counselor, a regular speaker at conferences, and the author of *Reset* and *Exploring the Bible*. David has taught Old Testament, counseling, and pastoral theology at various seminaries.





## *Find the ESV Bible That's Right for You*

Crossway.org's Bible-browsing experience features high-quality photography on every product page, the ability to compare different Bible interiors side-by-side, and powerful filter options to narrow your choices. It's easier than ever to find the ESV Bible that's right for you!

Begin browsing at [crossway.org/bibles](https://www.crossway.org/bibles).





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