

Paul Barreca - *Advent of Christmas*

Paul and Kim Barreca





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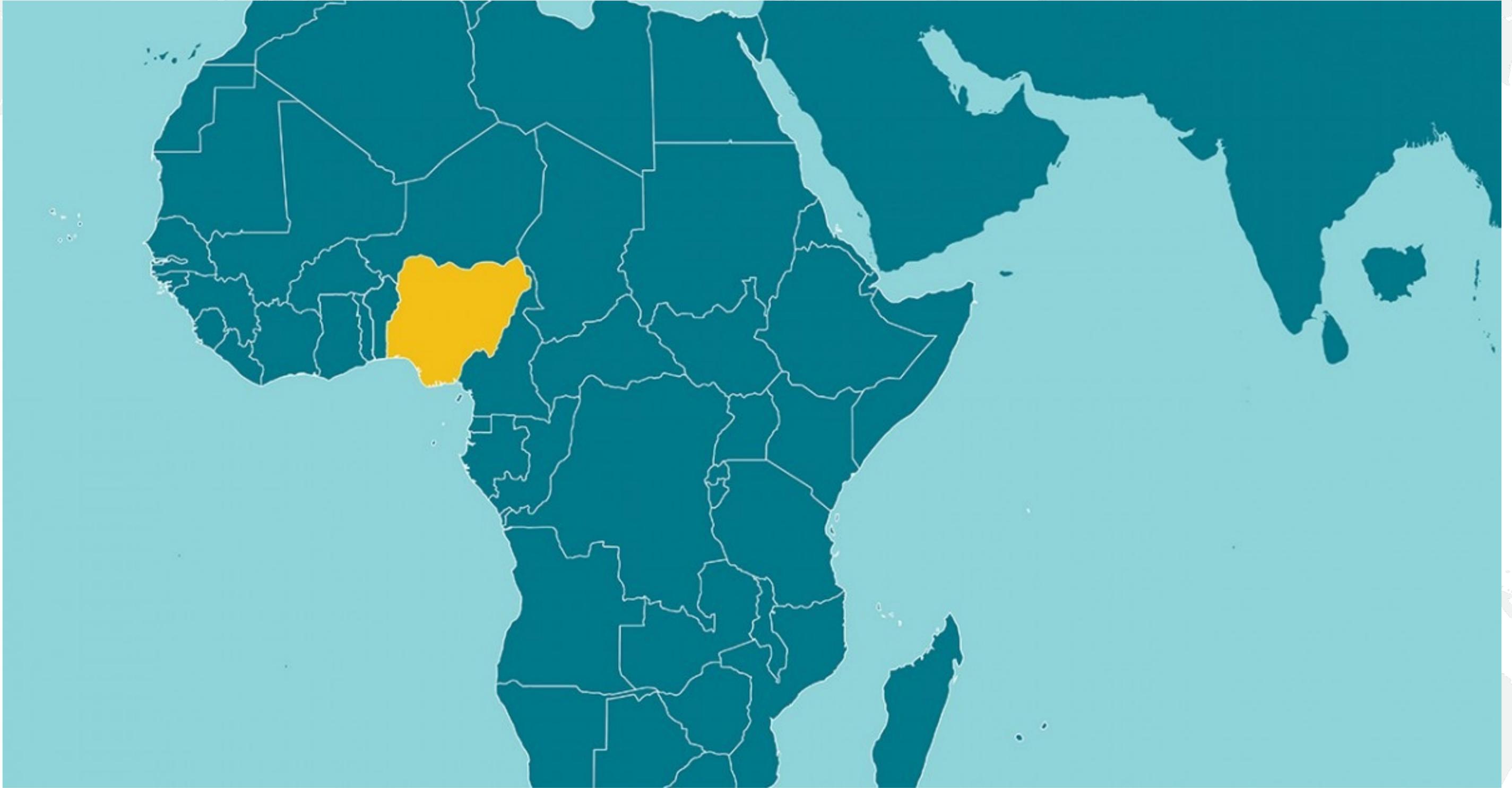
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Advent

A Time to Prepare



What is Advent?

- Advent Season starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and leads up to the Nativity of Christ and the second coming of Christ.
- That means that advent lasts for around a month in total.
- The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*.
- This is essentially the translation of the Greek word, *parousia*.
- Both of these words point to the coming of Jesus Christ.

History of Advent

- One of the first mentions of Advent is at the Council of Sargossa (380 AD)
- There was a heresy known as Priscillianism (Gnostic heresy). This was the idea that our physical bodies were not good
- The logical celebration to counter this heresy was Christmas, the day God took on human flesh.
- We read in this declaration that Christians were encouraged to celebrate Advent from December 17-29 by attending church at least once a day.

Division in Advent

- Originally Advent was divided into two parts related to the coming of Christ.
- The first coming (Incarnation) and the second coming (Judgment).



Advent Wreath

- The advent wreath is made of various evergreens signifying continuous life.
- The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and eternal life in Christ.



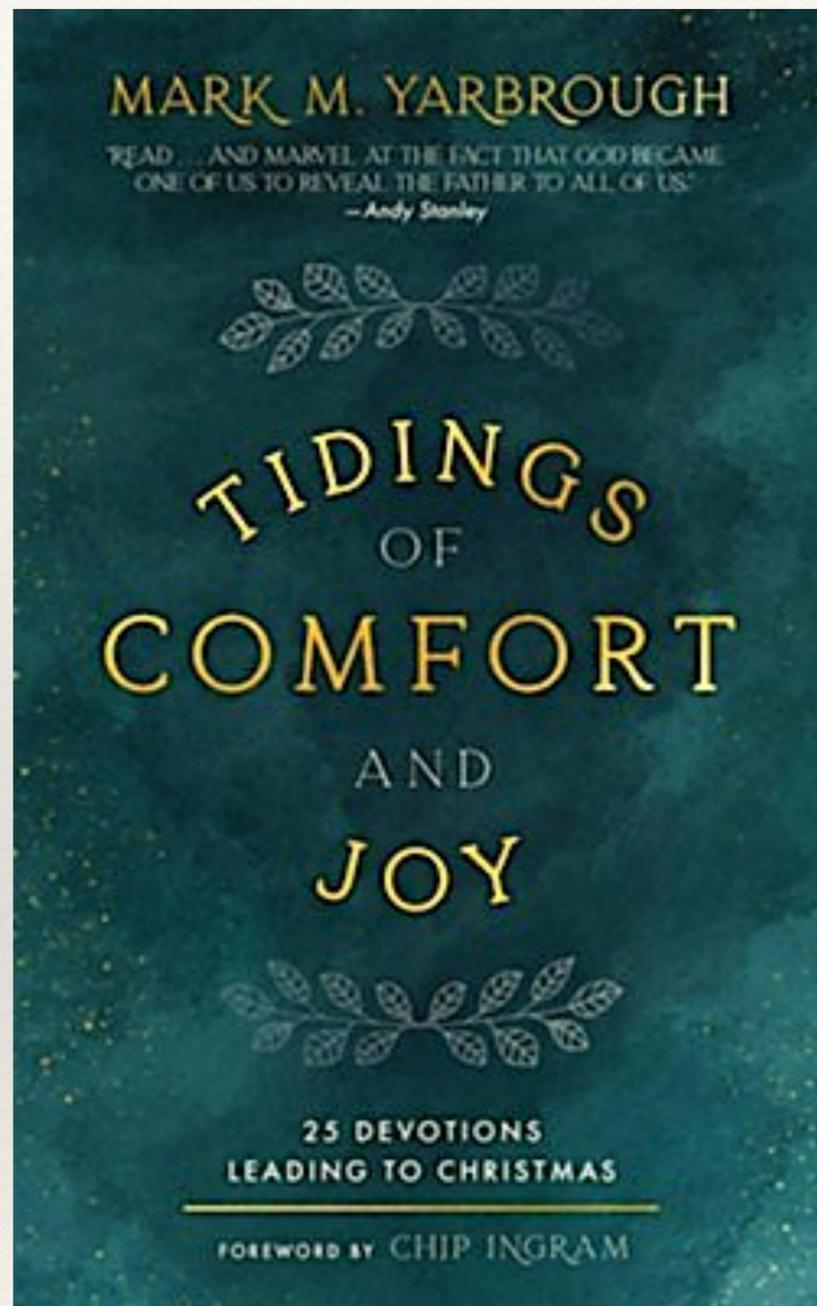


Advent Candles

- The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday.
- Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.
- The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ.
- It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Advent Candles

- The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.
- The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy.
- This final candle, the “Angel’s Candle,” symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”



- Dr. Mark Yarbrough currently serves as the President of Dallas Theological Seminary.
- His book provides 25 short devotions that focus on Jesus through Scripture with reflections and applications.
- It is easy to get caught up in cultural Christmas and actually miss the Messiah. That is why he wrote the book.

Advent Devotionals

- Devotionals from the Old Testament
 - Abraham and worldwide blessing (Genesis 12)
 - Levitical sacrifices and our bloody hope (Leviticus 1)
 - Sheep and their shepherd (Psalm 23)
 - It's all in a name (Isaiah 9:6)
 - The four covenants and the five "I wills"

Advent Devotionals

- Devotionals from the New Testament
 - Christmas exam (Matthew 1:18)
 - They saw the child (Luke 2)
 - The beginning of the end (John 1)
 - Love flows downward (John 3:16)

MARK M. YARBROUGH

READ ... AND MARVEL AT THE FACT THAT GOD BECAME
ONE OF US TO REVEAL THE FATHER TO ALL OF US.
—Andy Stanley



TIDINGS
OF
COMFORT
AND
JOY



25 DEVOTIONS
LEADING TO CHRISTMAS

FOREWORD BY CHIP INGRAM