

A vertical illustration of a nativity scene. At the top, a bright star shines in a dark blue, starry sky. Below it, the title 'SAVOR the SAVIOR' is written in gold, serif font. The subtitle 'Twenty-Five Devotions for Advent and Christmas Inspired by the Names of Jesus' is in a white, cursive font. The bottom half shows the silhouettes of two figures with halos standing on either side of a wooden manger filled with straw. A bright light emanates from the manger, and a halo is visible above the infant Jesus. The foreground is filled with straw.

SAVOR the SAVIOR

*Twenty-Five Devotions
for Advent and Christmas
Inspired by the Names of Jesus*

Kristin Saatzer

Praise for *Savor the Savior*

Kristin has always inspired and deepened my faith through her writing and gift of storytelling. In *Savor the Savior*, Kristin perfectly captures how to draw near to Him during the Christmas season. We have all experienced the busyness of the holidays overshadowing Christ's birth, and *Savor the Savior* is a simple yet powerful journey through the Advent season that refocuses our heart and mind on celebrating our Lord.

—James Gleghorn
Vice President, Tim Tebow Foundation

I own and have read many devotionals, and I have written a devotional. But I have not yet come across a devotional like the one you are holding in your hands. The Christmas season can be one of the most time-consuming seasons of the year, and although the focus of the season is Christ, we often spend more time focusing on gifts, our families, and Christmas programs than we do feeding our soul with the very essence of the holiday. Kristin Saatzer has masterfully brought it all back into focus for us with *Savor the Savior*. You will find the individual devotions are short and full, I mean full of goodness. The devos are rich with history, prayers, information, relatability, and something hearty for the reader to meditate on. The book will leave you wanting more—it's that good! You will be tempted to turn the page, and turn the page, and turn the page again, forgetting that it is indeed a daily devotional. Enjoy!

—Brandie Manigault
Author of *New Day Fresh Start*
Cofounder of Healing Voice Ministries

Like most people seeking to elevate the holidays from commercial compromising and hectic hustle, every Christmas I look for fresh perspectives and insights on the timeless narrative of the incarnation. In this devotional, Kristin Saatzer has given us such a gift. In quick daily doses, she helps us rise above the clutter and clamor by captivating our imagination and imparting hope to our hearts by elucidating the names and attributes of the God who became man. Her family reflections and practical counsel have helped me over and over again find my heart's true home in a season when I need it most.

—Mike Johnson
Chaplain and Dean of Student Life, Linfield Christian School

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REDEMPTION 
P R E S S

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I dedicate this book to you, Mom, my biggest fan.
My devotion to Jesus and Christmas began in your
arms.
I love you.

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But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His son,
made of a woman, made under the law.

—Galatians 4:4 KJV

The central message asserted by Christmas is the Incarnation.

They say that God became Man . . .

If this thing happened, it was the central event in the history of earth.

—C. S. Lewis, *Miracles*

Preface

If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it.
—Toni Morrison

Dear Reader,

For years I looked, and for years I waited for a book like the one you hold in your hands: a Christmas writing that captures the essence of the names of the Savior. A book that provides daily readings that are biblically deep, reflective, and yes, *quick*. Many an Advent season came and went as I talked myself into and then out of writing. With fearful thoughts, like *Who am I to handle this task? The word of God is serious business, and I am no theologian*, I brought the matter to God.

After an “aha!” moment in prayer, this non-theologian began the journey of writing her first book. I feel as if I had a crash course in Bible school after countless hours of research and study. My passion for and knowledge of God and His word enlarged and fortified. He climbed each step with me in this writing expedition. Here I stand, breathless and grateful on the other side of the mountain. Still, I am no theologian. Just a gal loved and led by a gracious God. This is my small offering to Him.

My prayer for you, dear reader, is that you will infuse your holiday season with the gift of Jesus each day and grow in love, knowledge, and intimacy with your Savior. Reflect with depth; use a notebook, journal, or the space provided to answer questions and write your prayers, thoughts, and thanks to God.

Before we begin our journey together, let us hit a few points in preparation. This is Christmas: God became a man, His glory visible in a new form (see Hebrews 1:3). Prophets long predicted this event, and the coming of Christ confirmed the promises of God, fulfilling prophecies. The Old Testament prophets gave many names to the Savior. In this book, you will read of prophetically given names and meanings. We will cover titles granted by the angels, John the

Baptist, New Testament writers, as well as some of the names Jesus called Himself.

It might be helpful for us to look at the meaning of the word *Advent*:

ADVENT (noun): A coming; appropriately, the coming of our Savior, and in the calendar . . . it is intended as a season of devotion, with reference to the coming of Christ in the flesh, and his second coming to judge the world. —*Webster's 1828 Dictionary* online

I love how *Webster's* puts it: “intended as a season of devotion.” May this book, a devotional, be a tool in this season. Give yourself a gift this Christmas —the gift of some quiet time of the soul, devoted to savoring your Savior.

Merry Christmas!
Blessings,
Kristin

December 1

Alpha and Omega

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last
(the Before all and the End of all).
—Revelation 22:13 AMP

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, and a title of Christ and God in the Book of Revelation. —*Wikipedia.org*

Imagine the triumphant scene: Christ standing among seven golden lampstands, clothed in a long robe, white hair, eyes blazing like fire, with bronzed and glowing feet. Jesus Christ is the star of the dazzling play called *The Book of Revelation*, as written by John.

Who is this Jesus? We find Him throughout the Bible, from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation. God incarnate. A perfect place to begin our Advent journey together is to start at the *end* of the Bible. Our Jesus, the beginning of all things, and the One who promises to return for the dramatic finale.

He is the A to Z, the sum of the Scriptures and everything in between:

Christ is the central figure of the Old and New Testament. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14).

Christ culminates the end of the law. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Matthew 5:17).

Christ initiates and completes our journey with Him. “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was

set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2 KJV).

As you breathe in this fresh first day of December, remember the star of this Christmas show. He is the opening act and the closing scene: Our Jesus, our Alpha and Omega. May He be your First and Last and everything in between this Christmas season.

Reflection

1. As you begin Advent, where do you need God to take over as the Author of your faith? The Author of your time? The Author of your finances?

2. Commit to beginning and ending each Advent day with Jesus. Give Him the first and the last of your day.

Prayer

Dear Alpha and Omega, You are the entirety of the Scriptures. I want to focus on You this season, as I never have before. So today, I claim You as my Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. My God incarnate.

Amen

Unto Us a Boy Is Born

Fifteenth Century Latin Hymn for Christmas
[Verses 4 and 5]

Now may Mary's Son, who came
So long ago to love us,
Lead us all with hearts aflame
Unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha He!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Doth rend the air asunder.