

# Advent Devotional



## The Unexpected Hour

*Written by Naomi McQuiller  
Matthew 24:36-44*

As a child, I didn't understand the passage of time, let alone the concept of waiting. In situations that required patience, the famous phrases "are we there yet?" and "just five more minutes!" emerged. I needed to know when to expect things. As all humans do, I longed for instant gratification – the comfort of knowing, the feeling of safety, and the ease of anxiety and other emotions. As an adult, I've had to prepare presentations and wait for feedback. I've had to prepare for the possibility of "no" and "not yet." These scenarios can be coupled with a sense of the unknown.

As the body of Christ, we are to prepare, get ready, and wait for the days to come – the last days. The word advent stems from the Latin root *Adventus*, which signals the arrival of a notable or important person. For Christians, our notable, special guest is the Son of Man. We can find comfort in knowing that Jesus the Messiah came to fulfill what was said in the Law and through the prophets. But what about His return?

The disciples witnessed signs, wonders, and miracles. However, they did not receive reassurance or an outline regarding the Return. Imagine hearing from Jesus, the Son of GOD, that even He doesn't know the hour in which He will return and fulfill the Word given to the prophet Isaiah. When will the LORD's house be established on the highest of mountains? When shall the nations go to the house of the GOD of Jacob? When will nation cease to lift up sword against nation and no longer learn war? It will all come to pass in the Unexpected Hour.

### Reflection

Living in the unknown can be made more active and joyful when we purposefully engage in the faith and hope of what is to come. This passage calls us to be intentional in our waiting. How can we apply our "adventus" practices to the coming of the last days?

### Prayer

Lord of the Unexpected Hour, You are with us in the waiting. Guide us as we prepare, get ready, and wait. Help us to stay on our toes for the good of the Kingdom. May it be so – amen.

