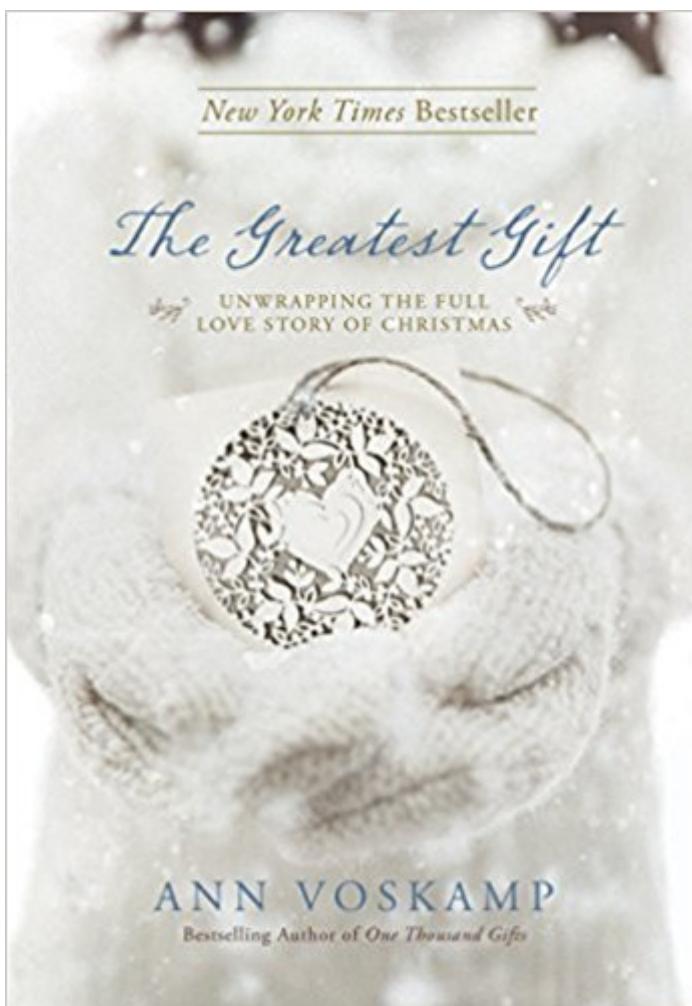


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The Greatest Gift: Unwrapping The Full Love Story Of Christmas



Synopsis

Hundreds of thousands of readers have already fallen in love with Ann Voskamp's One Thousand Gifts, and this Christmas, Ann invites readers into the rich and meaningful celebration of Christmas we all long for --- a celebration of the complete love story that's been coming for you since the very beginning. In what is certain to become an instant holiday classic, Voskamp reaches back into the pages of the Old Testament to explore the lineage of Jesus -- the greatest gift --- through the majestic advent tradition of "The Jesse Tree," each day featuring its own exquisite ornament highlighting the Biblical story (free download of each of the 25 ornaments available from Voskamp's website, annvoskamp.com). Beginning with Jesse, the father of David, The Greatest Gift retraces the epic pageantry of mankind, from Adam to the Messiah, with each day's profound reading pointing to the coming promise of Christ, so that come Christmas morning you find that the season hasn't blurred past you but your heart's fully unwrapped the greatest gift you've always yearned for. Sure to become a holiday staple in every Christian home, The Greatest Gift, a New York Times bestseller, is the perfect gift for the holidays and a timeless invitation into the richness of the true meaning of Christmas.

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Customer Reviews

Why Bring Home 'The Greatest Gift' this Christmas?" Ann Voskamp on Christmas is Monet on sunsets -- made for each other." ~Max Lucado, pastor, best-selling author" The Greatest Gift isn't simply words on a page; it's a song your heart already loves: a song about Jesus from the beginning to end...a glorious way to celebrate the season!" ~Liz Curtis Higgs, speaker,

best-selling author" No one unveils Jesus like Ann Voskamp. " Journeying through The Greatest Gifts will fill you with wonder, awe and gratitude. Emmanuel, God with us." ~Christine Caine, founder of the A21 Campaign, speaker, author. " Leave it to Ann Voskamp to powerfully and poetically call our hearts to respond to the real meaning of Christmas. Her pen crafts a beautiful masterpiece that slows us down only long enough to lift us up to see Him more clearly. Thank you, Ann. " You've done it again." ~Priscilla Shirer, speaker and best-selling author " Breathtaking. Stunning. The Greatest Gift --- a gift for life." ~Patsy Clairmont, speaker and best-selling author

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS? "I don't want a Christmas you can buy. I don't want a Christmas you can make. What I want is a Christmas you can hold. A Christmas that holds me, remakes me, revives me. I want a Christmas that whispers, Jesus." --Ann Voskamp

Hundreds of thousands of readers have already fallen in love with Ann Voskamp's One Thousand Gifts, and this Christmas, Ann invites readers into the rich and meaningful celebration of Christmas we all long for --- a celebration of the complete love story that's been coming for you since the very beginning. In what is certain to become an instant holiday classic, Voskamp reaches back into the pages of the Old Testament to explore the lineage of Jesus -- the greatest gift --- through the majestic advent tradition of "The Jesse Tree," each day featuring its own exquisite ornament highlighting the Biblical story (free download of each of the 25 ornaments available from Voskamp's website, annvoskamp.com). Beginning with Jesse, the father of David, The Greatest Gift retraces the epic pageantry of mankind, from Adam to the Messiah, with each day's profound reading pointing to the coming promise of Christ, so that come Christmas morning you find that the season hasn't blurred past you but your heart's fully unwrapped the greatest gift you've always yearned for. Sure to become a holiday staple in every Christian home, The Greatest Gift, a New York Times bestseller, is the perfect gift for the holidays and a timeless invitation into the richness of the true meaning of Christmas.

"The Greatest Gift" is a sort of Advent calendar and devotional all wrapped together. 25 days of Advent each have their own reading, with passages from the Old and New Testament. Each has an ornament of cut white paper, elegantly designed as an illustration. But that's not all; you can download these beautiful designs and create your own "Jesse Tree" representing the House of Jesse, who was King David's father and ancestor of Jesus. Jesse's family tree, the mighty House of David was cut down over time but revitalized when Jesus was born as the Messiah. You make a

Jesse Tree (on paper, felt or a real tree) and hang each ornament in its time. The idea is that over 25 days of devotional reading, you and your family will come into the Christmas season fully steeped in the meaning of Christmas and have a beautiful Christmas decoration to remind you of the journey. This is a lovely idea for families. It would even work for a prayer group. The ornaments are so beautifully designed, yet elegantly simple in their white layers of cut paper, that it would be a joy to re-create them. The ornaments are not just Christmas-themed; the one of Noah's Ark is particularly lovely and many of the designs would make delightful cards to send to friends. So this book is not just useful for Christmas. If you enjoy crafts with paper or scrapbooking, there is a lot here you could adapt for other uses. If your family is looking for something to make a more meaningful Christmas and retain the Christmas message amid all the jollity and distractions of the season, I can hardly think of a better idea.

The unfolding of the greatest Gift ever, changed my whole concept about Christmas. I am so glad that this book is mine...to read,,to be filled with new gratitude for God's love...His blessings...His grace. I have new appreciation/love/adoration for Jesus,whose love changed my life... Reading it from day 1,is like opening a gift every day...

I like the devotional book so I looked forward to using the DVD in my Sunday school class. Very disappointing. Unlike the DVD that goes with A Thousand Gifts, this one doesn't have Ann's lovely photography or video of the farm or other visual elements to support the message. She is sitting in a chair, looking uncomfortable and talking in a monotone. Her words are amazing, but they are easy to miss in this bland presentation.

I'm a mom to three small children, so my focus during Advent tends to be on how I can make the season memorable for them, how I can teach them what it means that God became a baby to save the whole world. After I tuck them in at night, or when I wake up in the still dark for a few moments of quiet before they wake, I'm tired--tired from the mothering and the making it through of another holiday season. This is why I am utterly thrilled to make this book a new part of my holiday tradition. A Jesse Tree ritual--for me. A tired--happy, yes, but tired--mama. Because that baby came in to the world for me, too. Ann's powerful poetry of words are strung together so that I can be reminded on those dark, cold hours of Christmas that I have reason to rejoice just as much as my children. He is Emmanuel! Her words are a warm blanket during a busy season, reminding me to reflect, renew, and rejoice.

Many advent books are written for family participation. This is possible with the greatest gift, but the focus is much more introspective. However, one can pick and choose from the various elements for each day to select what would be best for a family setting. This is a fantastic book traveling the reader through the main family line of Jesus. In doing so, Ann Voskamp ties us to the individuals in the Old Testament, drawing out their challenges and difficulties and their part in Jesus' story. The book includes a main Scripture reading for each day, an extended reading written by Ann, practical application and thought-provoking questions. Free print outs of the ornaments pictured in the book are also accessible after purchase. I found her style consistent with her 1000 Gifts book: poetic, with a tendency to create great pauses in the syntax so that one pauses and has time to consider. A book to chew slowly on and prayerfully use to look forward to more of Jesus in one's life.

If you appreciate Ann Voskamp's ability to paint word pictures you will love her Advent devotional based on the idea of the Jesse Tree. Every day leading up to Christmas you will read scripture and Ann's devotional that take you from creation through Jesus Christ telling the entire story of Christianity in a few short minutes a day. Extremely well done. For the creative minds she has also included a picture each day of a cutwork ornament that goes with the day's story. The book has a link to her website where she has these patterns as coloring pages that would be good to use with your children or as other creative inspiration. *The Greatest Gift: Unwrapping the Full Love Story of Christmas*

Being raised in the church, as much as I hate to say it, the Christmas story can become mundane. Living in the American culture, the real impact of the Christmas story can get choked out of my heart because of the crazy demands upon a woman at this time of year. This book led me through advent in a way that kept me engaged with the meaning of this season. Ann walks you through the story of the whole Bible in such a masterful way. I found my hands lifted in worship during the Esther reading. This book brought this church girl to my knees at the incredible gift of redemption that God gave us when He entered this world as a baby. I won't face another December without *The Greatest Gift!*

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