

A nativity scene is depicted in a dark, cave-like setting. The scene is illuminated by warm, golden light. In the center, the Virgin Mary is seated, holding the infant Jesus. To the left, a woman in a blue dress stands. In the foreground, several figures are kneeling or sitting on the ground. The background shows a stable with a wooden structure. The overall atmosphere is serene and reverent.

# Wonder

A PICTURE ADVENT  
BOOK

YEN CABAG

# WONDER

A Picture Advent Book

20 days of artwork-based  
Christmas devotions for the family



**Wonder: A Picture Advent Book**

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**All Bible passages included in this work are from the King James Version.**

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# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Thank you for purchasing Wonder: A Picture Advent Book. We hope this can help you restore wonder this Christmas season, as we contemplate together on the different aspects surrounding Christ's birth two thousand years ago.

The reason we prepared this book is simple: we realize that not everyone might have the extra time during this busy season to read through several pages of an advent book together as a family—even though many of us might greatly desire to carve out that time to make the season more meaningful. We hope that by creating a more visual advent book, we can help more families take even just a few minutes each day to remember the reason for Christmas: God's love for us expressed in the coming of His Son Jesus Christ, who then gave up His life for us to be restored back to Him.

We want to keep this simple. We have prepared one artwork for each day of this advent book, with the title and artist's name, along with the corresponding Bible passages that served as the basis or inspiration for the artwork.

You may just use it as a PDF on a tablet or laptop, or decide to print the pages.

## **If you decide to print:**

You may print the entire book out as a book to leaf through together, although it's only good for 20 days, and we would recommend printing the pages on cardstock so you can preserve the pages for a longer time.

For printing, this is in 8.5” x 11” landscape format.

If you intend to read it as a book, make sure that odd-numbered pages are on the right side so you can view the pictures on the left while you read the right side. For back to back printing and using the picture cards separately, print the even-numbered pages on front, the odd numbers on the back.

After you finish going through the devotional, you may also cut the paintings out for displaying around your home.

**How to use as a devotional:**

The Bible passages trace the Christmas story over twenty days. You may read through the Bible passage while looking at the artwork together. You might want to make observations about the things you see in the artwork. That’s it. Whether or not you end up with discussions about the scene or the story, it depends on your family.

We hope this can add even just a little bit of wonder back as you celebrate Christmas this year. Merry Christmas!



## Day 1. Merry Christmas by Viggo Johansen (1891)

*What Child is this?*

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?*

*Chorus:*

*This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading. [Chorus]*

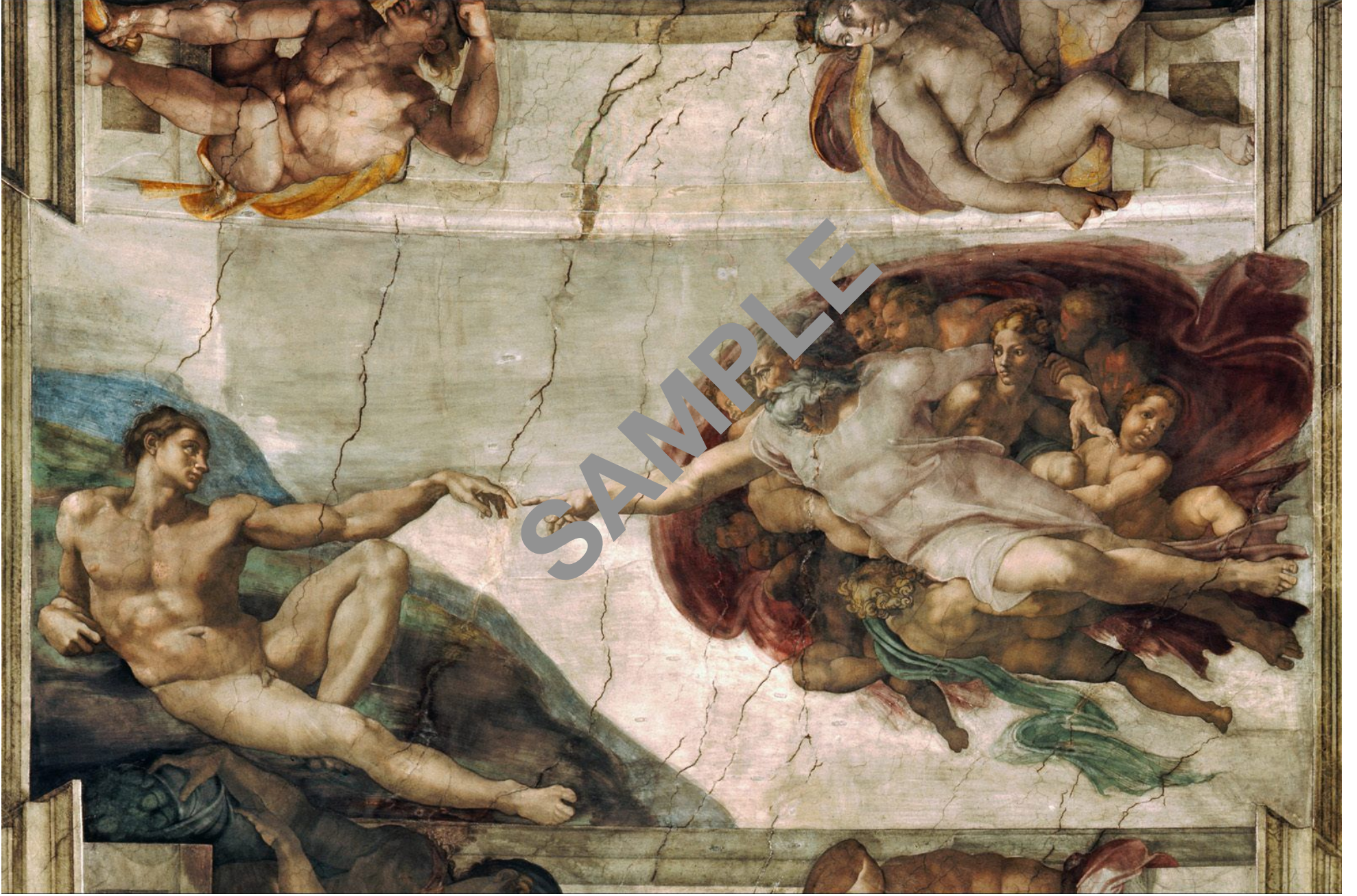
*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.*



## Day 2. Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden by Jan Brueghel the Elder

*And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

*Genesis 2:8-9*



## Day 3. God holding out to Adam, Sistine Chapel Fresco, by Michelangelo

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

*And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

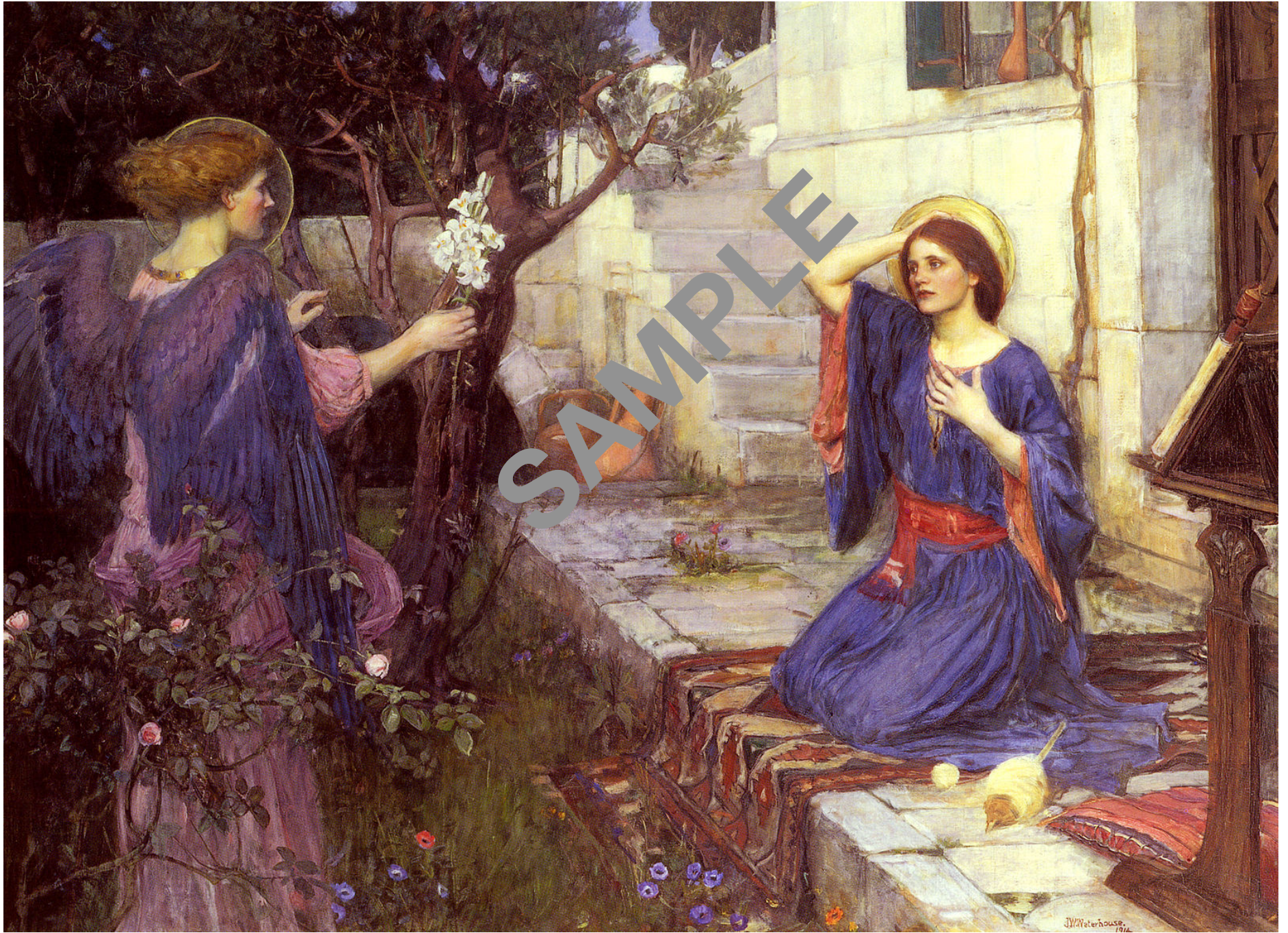
**Genesis 1:26-31**



## Day 4. The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise by Benjamin West (1791)

*And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

**Genesis 3:22-24**



## Day 5. The Anunciation by John Wiliam Waterhouse (1914)

*And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

*Luke 1:26-33*

# THANK YOU

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Philippines*

*Do you ever get sick and tired of all the Christmas consumerism? What is Christmas truly about, anyway?*

*Make Christmas more meaningful by contemplating on the Christmas story through this picture advent book.*

*No long readings. Just twenty days of captivating artwork by the masters, along with passages from the Bible that tell the story of God's amazing love for us.*

*just right for the busy family.*



*Charlotte Mason  
Philippines*

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Based in Iloilo City, Yen Cabag is a homeschooling mom, writer, entrepreneur, and Charlotte Mason coach, trainer, and advocate, who loves reading, storytelling, and creating just about anything—from kitchen concoctions to stories, articles, songs, curriculum, and crochet pieces!

Growing up, her daily diet included a dose of Sweet Valley Twins, Sweet Valley Kids, and Sweet Valley High, only falling in love with classic books when she started learning and applying the Charlotte Mason philosophy in their homeschool and family life. Since then, her husband Mark has also jumped on the bandwagon, devouring books left and right, despite not having enjoyed it in his younger years. (Score for living books!)

Yen's favorite me-time activity is digging for treasure in one of the many branches of Booksale, while the family also loves walking or biking along the river on Iloilo Esplanade, spending time on the beach, snorkeling in one of the marine sanctuaries that Iloilo is blessed with, or hiking/camping up in the mountains.

Yen and Mark are also champions for fostering and adoption, with two of their three boys coming into the family through this beautiful gift.

Yen graduated magna cum laude for B.S. in Business Administration from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas, and went on to become a licensed teacher. She has also taken up units in Master's in School Management.

