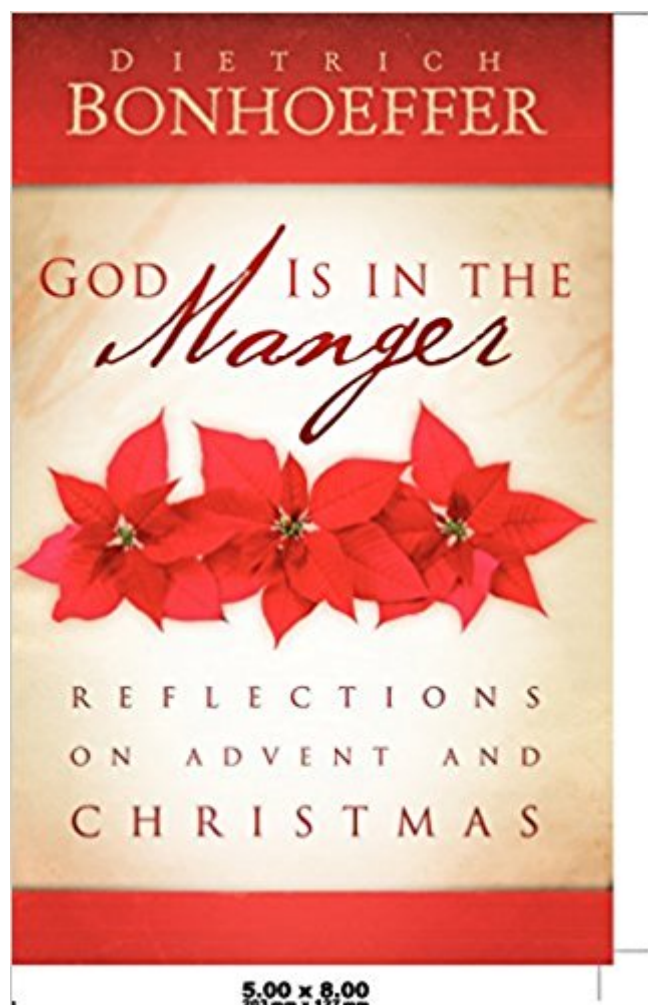


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# God Is In The Manger: Reflections On Advent And Christmas



## Synopsis

"There are only two places where the powerful and great in this world lose their courage, tremble in the depths of their souls, and become truly afraid. These are the manger and the cross of Jesus Christ." "No priest, no theologian stood at the cradle of Bethlehem. And yet, all Christian theology finds its beginnings in the miracle of miracles, that God became human." These stirring words are among forty devotions that guide and inspire readers as they move thematically through the weeks of Advent and Christmas, from waiting and mystery to redemption, incarnation, and joy.

Supplemented by an informative introduction, short excerpts from Bonhoeffer's letters, and passages from his Christmas sermons, these daily devotions are timeless and moving reminders of the true gift of Christmas.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

GOD IS IN THE MANGER: REFLECTIONS ON ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS by DIETRICH

BONHOEFFER I realize this is January but I wanted to let you know about a book I read during Advent and Christmas. I have been looking for a good Advent book for a long time and I have found it. This little book is divided into 5 parts: \* Advent Week One--Waiting\* Advent Week Two-- Mystery\* Advent Week Three--Redemption\* Advent Week Four-- Incarnation\* The Twelve Days of Christmas and Epiphany Reading devotional literature by Dietrich Bonhoeffer can be challenging. But God is in the Manger opens up the gospel and will take you to the heart of the Christmas story. Most of these devotions are taken from writings during the time Bonhoeffer was being held in a Nazi prison cell.

Also included with each day's reading are short excerpt from Bonhoeffer's letters and passages from his Christmas sermons. I plan to read this again before Advent 2011. We need to be reminded about the real reason for Christmas--Christ.

This is not your average Christmas devotional. This book does not bounce through the events leading up to and following the birth of Jesus like I expected from a book subtitled "Reflections on advent and Christmas". For one, the writing is heavy, deep, originally written in the 1940's in German by someone who stood up against Hitler's control of Germany at the time. Some of the insights in this book come from the writer's experience in prison, where he was hanged at 39 years of age, less than three weeks before Hitler committed suicide. There are 40 devotionals altogether, 4 weeks preceding Christmas day and 12 days after. Each week has a theme, each day a short excerpt from a sermon, a snippet of a letter (like to his fiancée), & related Scripture. I found the layout very easy to use. The content is remarkable. The first week is about "Waiting", for example. "For the greatest, most profound, tenderest things in the world, we must wait. It happens not here in a storm but according to the divine laws of sprouting, growing, and becoming." Other themes are Mystery, Redemption & Incarnation. Altogether these devotionals expand the expectation and celebration of the Advent and Christmas. Did I agree with everything Bonhoeffer said? No, actually. But even where I disagreed, I was provoked to thought about why and how. His opinions are strong coming from his hard experience, but the small, devotional doses are just right. It's not a book full of ideas to swallow whole, it's a book to enter with your brain turned on (as I say to my kids) to examine what the Bible says, what you believe, and a readiness to celebrate Jesus as never before. My Rating: 4.5 - Good book for your library, to read & reference over and over.

This is offered as a book by Bonhoeffer but contains very little of his writing. It's a clever package using Bonhoeffer's name to sell a book. Decent Advent/Christmas reflections by an editor and it may be worth it for that. But each entry is 2 pages and a very small portion of that is Bonhoeffer (10 lines average?). It makes me sad to see such a great servant to be used this way.

This book was actually written by Jana Reiss, whose name doesn't appear anywhere on the outside of the book. Inside, she calls herself the editor, but that is simply not the case. This book features daily devotions written by Ms. Reiss, a short quote from Bonhoeffer, and a scripture verse for each day. It might be an intriguing piece if she would have claimed authorship of a devotional that is inspired by Boenhoeffer, but as it is presented, the reader is misled from the very beginning, and it's

hard not to read each day without noting that the actual author falls far short of the labeled author. It's worth noting that a translator has taken care to remove any masculine pronouns from the original writings, so these will appear different than in other places.

This is a challenging devotional. Take the time to let the words sink in. You will find gratitude for your own situation in these readings regardless of what it might be. Bonhoeffer is a truly remarkable man. I wish that there were more like him in this world.

I read this book and was amazed. The words from Bonhoeffer interspersed with the devotional words and Bible verses really showed me what a stark reality he faced during that time. It was a reminder that even in the darkest days hope can be found, and hope can be shared. Grace can be embodied even in a cell, with a death sentence over your head. I don't want to spoil anything of the read but I will say this: if you want more from your Christmas devotional time, get this. If you want more depth, more grace and more heart, read this book. If you desire to get past the sweetness of the season and wish to see how someone can find true peace and joy during the darkest days of their life, read this. A very worthwhile read, and a great gift for those friends and family who truly have a desire to go deeper in their search for the Jesus of the season, for the Christ child.

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