

Haiku for an Advent Calendar

Day 1 - Genesis

After paradise
not even Lot's wife looks back.
Memory turns round.

Day 2 - Exodus

The bones of Joseph
in their gilt sarcophagus
travel night and day.

Day 3 - Leviticus

If she is too poor
to afford a sheep, she may
offer two pigeons.

Day 4 - Numbers

Dawn in my distance,
the wise watchers will see him,
star of their searching.

Day 5 - Deuteronomy

Moses from Pisgah
overviews all. It is not
space but time he lacks.

Day 6 - Joshua

Going over Jordan
Joshua above all sees
that the ark goes first.

Day 7 - Judges

Said the trees to the
bramble, 'Come, be our ruler!'
'Wait!' said the mustard.

Day 8 - Samuel

Hannah, drunk as an
apostle at Pentecost,
magnifies the Lord.

Day 9 - Kings

She came with riddles.
His more than answers more than
took her breath away.

Day 10 - Isaiah

In the wilderness
a voice cries for centuries
seeking an echo.

Day 11 - Jeremiah

Rachel refuses
to be comforted - even
when we turn the page.

Day 12 - Ezekiel

In the end it is
all in the name of the city:
The Lord is there.

Day 13 - The Twelve Prophets

Then, as before, will
Bethlehem bear the shepherd
of the scattered sheep.

Day 14 - Psalms

If there were glory
only, praise like the last psalms,
would that be the end?

Day 15 - Proverbs

Too clever by half
are the foolish. The wise know
the folly of God

Day 16 - Job

God answered Job but
not his question. Maybe he
will do that again.

Day 17 - Song of Solomon

Yes, he will haste like
a gazelle. Nothing is more
impatient than love.

Day 18 - Ruth

Tough old Naomi
bounces a child on her knee -
her wild hope come home.

Day 19 - Lamentations

Jerusalem hurls
her desperate hopes against
God's forgetfulness.

Day 20 - Ecclesiastes

Whatever God does
and whoever else may be
who knows? The wise wait.

Day 21 - Esther

Probability
counts for nothing when Esther's
G-d is in the plot.

Day 22 - Daniel

Nebuchadnezzar
dreams of the doom of despots
and the wide world wakes.

Day 23 - Ezra-Nehemiah

After the exile
returnees did not look back
more than could be helped.

Day 24 - Chronicles

Adam, Seth, Enoch,
Noah, Abraham, David,
Zerubbabel ...

Notes: The sequence is that of the twenty-four biblical books in the Hebrew Bible.
These verses are haiku in form (5-7-5 syllables), but not content.