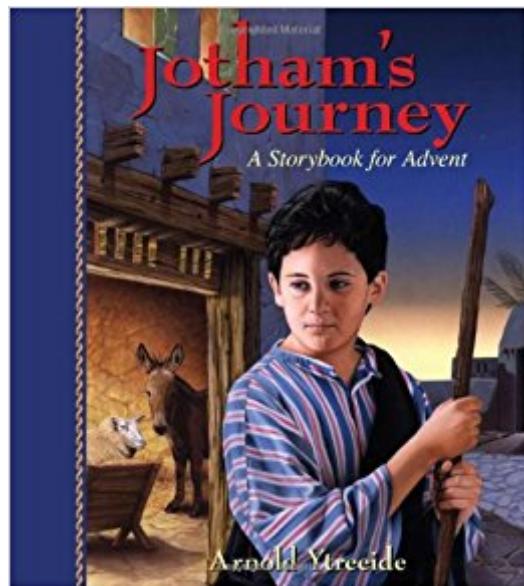


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# Jotham's Journey: A Storybook For Advent



## **Synopsis**

In this widely popular, exciting story for the advent season, readers follow ten-year-old Jotham across Israel as he searches for his family. Though he faces thieves, robbers, and kidnappers, Jotham also encounters the wise men, shepherds, and innkeepers until at last he finds his way to the Savior born in Bethlehem.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 168 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 219 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #223,653 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Holidays > Christmas #159 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Prayer #214 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Devotional

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Arnold Ytreeide is a fine storyteller who cares deeply about spiritual growth in families. Ytreeide is the founder of Storyteller Productions and lives with his wife and two children in Nampa, Idaho.

I'm rating this book as three stars mainly because of the recommended age. This story is what I would describe as historical fiction. If you're looking for strictly scripture reading for advent, this isn't it. Jotham is a young boy separated from his family because of his disobedience. His journey is to be reunited with his parents and brothers. Along the way he meets some kind people, many who talk of the coming Messiah, and one horrible, dangerous, angry man that seems to show up every time it looks like Jotham has escaped. At the end of each day's reading there are scripture verses and a short devotion guiding the reader to look forward to the coming Messiah. The book itself is well written. We were on the edge of our chairs each night and frequently had cries of "I knew it!" and groans when the reading ended on a cliff hanger. Having said that, my children range in age

from 11-17. There is no way I would recommend this for the 4-8 range as the book says. The book is too intense and has too many violent scenes. Had I read this to my children at the book recommended age, I don't know that we would have made it past night one before putting the book away. Do I recommend the book? Yes....for about age 10 and above.

We are ruined forever after reading this book this Christmas! Every other storybook, and I'm afraid - Advent - book will now pale in comparison! My children are 3 and 5, and I was initially worried this book may be too advanced for them. I found quite the opposite to be true- the storyline is so suspensful that they begged and reminded me each day to read "Jotham"! I didn't edit a couple of more scarier lines of the text, but overall, they got the lessons Jotham had to learn. They truly understand the nativity and the true meaning of Christmas this year and this book made it even more "real" to them. My husband joins all the others mentioned in reviews who don't particularly enjoy reading, but couldn't put this book down and had to be stopped from skipping ahead to see what happens! We purchased the rest of the books in Ytreeide's series, including the Easter book and are eagerly awaiting reading them in the years to come. This will be a new tradition we intend to keep each Christmas season for years to come! Our only disappointment is that there are additional books written by this author!

We read this book as a family each night of advent this past Christmas season and it was fantastic! Both of our boys, ages 4 and 7, absolutely loved the book, as did both adults reading! It was a great amount of reading each night (10-20 minutes) and the short reflection at the end of each nightly reading were the perfect way to each each day leading up to Christmas day. The boys talked about the book all the time, and at one point our 4 year old said he didn't want any presents for Christmas, he just wanted to finish the Jotham book! (The cliffhangers each night had our boys asking to get ready for bed by 4:00 p.m. the next day just to find out what happened next!). The action and emotions were intense. My boys are generally pretty sensitive to scary scenes in movies (most Disney movies terrify them) but reading these scenes in the safety of our candlelit living room as a family helped soften it enough for their ages, and make it realistic and exciting. I highly recommend this for all ages. We plan to buy the other books and do this every year at Christmas.

My son, 11 years old, and I read this for Advent. As in previous reviews this book is not for young or impressionable kids. There is a lot of action and twists (I know sounds odd in an Advent book). It is extremely well written. We would end a day and both want to read the next to find out what happens

next. The questions at the end of each day were good, I added some of my own. The first day there was a lot to read because it was setting up the story. You are to start reading the 1st Sunday of Advent and each day after that. The last week of Advent the book has a chart by the year it is showing how many days to read so you end on Christmas. I will be buying the next book in the series for next year.

Can't say enough about this book - there are actually three books from this author that intertwine with each other. This is the first in the series - Jotham becomes separated from his parents (shepherds) and goes on a journey to find them - reunited at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The other two books are the same story - only told from the viewpoint and experiences of two other characters that are in the Jotham book! You begin reading on the first night of Advent and reach a chapter each night up to Christmas. Almost every chapter ends in a cliff hanger and your child does not want you to stop reading! At the end of each chapter are scripture verses and a prayer. We have used this series for years - we would alternate the books and then start over every 3rd year. My kids loved these growing up and are now using them with their children. I can't tell you how many of these books I have given away as gifts to young families! Buy all three books - a wonderful tradition to have with you kids at Christmas!

I read this advent story with our two boys (ages seven and nine) this December, 2013. Each night, we gathered together and read through the chapter, eager to find out whether Jotham would get any closer to finding his family. The author did a wonderful job wrapping historical facts from the Bible and this fictionalized account of a young boy who gets separated from his sheep herding family together. I appreciated the emphasis on children obeying their parents, as well as the author tying God's word throughout the story and in most of the end-of-chapter devotions. Parents of younger children, note that the antagonist, Decca of Meddigo, mistreats Jotham physically, which was a bit disturbing for us, although the story ends well. His character creates lots of exciting tension and action in the story, but a couple of the chapters deal with somewhat dark situations. I would say this advent storybook is for ages six and up (depending on the child). Otherwise, our family really enjoyed Jotham's Journey and think other families would, too! We're looking forward to reading more advent stories from this author.

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