

## 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.