



Advent Day 5 (Written by Deb Bakken)

A Star

Genesis 15:1-6

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir." The the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars-if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. (NIV 1984)

Scientists make new discoveries every day. With high powered telescopes, they are still discovering "new" stars they didn't even know were there before. As technology improves, and as better telescopes are made, perhaps even more stars will be discovered.

God asked Abraham if he could count the stars. Then God told him his descendants would be as many as those stars. Of course, Abraham could not count them. Scientists are still discovering them! But Psalm 147 says, "[God] determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name." What a great God we have! We can't even imagine the size of his promises. We can't begin to appreciate his goodness to us. Yet he knows each star by name. Jesus told his disciples, "The very hairs of your head are all numbered." God knows how many hairs we have and each of our names, too. He will never forget his promises to us.

Prayer: God, you are wise and you are powerful. You are holy and you are loving. Thank you for your unforgettable promise of a Savior from sin. Amen.