

# HEART & HOME

FOR CHRISTMAS

*Celebrating Joy in Your Living Space*

Victoria Duerstock



#### SEASONAL TIP

The Christmas season sprinkles lots of grace around. I know we can't buy grace at a store, but I think that anytime we find ourselves anxious and stressed, we should stop to consider if our expectations are at fault. If so, we may need to be more flexible and filled with grace for whatever situation we are facing. Our families and our homes will be happier places if we put this in action.



## HOW SHOULD A KING COME?

*"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD,  
"When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king . . ."*

JEREMIAH 23:5 (NASB)

Here's a lovely Christmas carol that talks about the expectation of the King's arrival for the Jews. The Savior, the King who was promised to the nation of Israel didn't come as they expected. He came not as a King who conquered and vanquished all their human foes, but instead wrapped in our limited flesh as a helpless babe in a humble manger.

Do your expectations ever get shattered? Is reality a much different place than you expected it to be? The lesson here is that sometimes our expectations are just wrong. What expectations could you let go of today to make your heart a readier place for the Spirit of God to work in a mighty way and bring you joy?

*Lord, I lay down every expectation  
and faulty idea that is not from You. Show me Your way,  
for I know it is higher and better than my own.*





#### SEASONAL DÉCOR TIP

While there are a variety of options for tree toppers, I personally love placing a star at the top of my Christmas tree. It reminds me that the star was a sign for those that were seeking and that He may be found. At the highest point of our tree, the star reminds us He may be found.



## STAR OF WONDER, STAR OF NIGHT

*“a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel . . .”*

NUMBERS 24:17 (ESV)

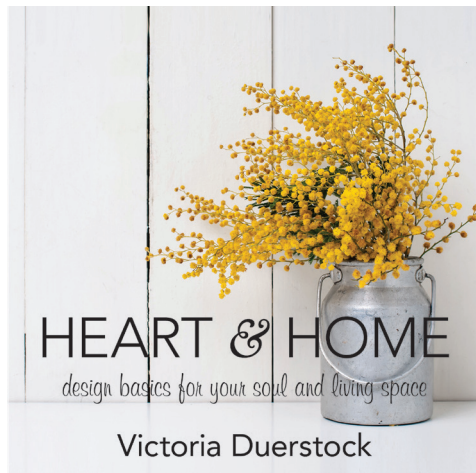
Prior to the birth of Christ, the prophecy of the Messiah’s birth was taught not only to the Jews, but the people surrounding them. The Babylonian captivity was an event that brought great distress to the Jewish nation, but God redeemed this painful time by placing teachers of the Jewish tradition and the ancient manuscripts among Gentile and Heathen nations so God could use them to also influence future generations and accomplish His purpose.

The night of Christ’s birth, the sky was illuminated with a bright shining star—signaling to the world that the Christ child had been born. It was a signal for all those seeking Him. The star reminds us that He is available to be found by those who seek Him. I am reminded that sometimes the most difficult moments in our lives are opportunities for God to step in and grow our faith. God receives the greatest glory in our lives and it’s more evident when God turns our difficulties into blessings. While the Jewish captivity was not planned or wanted, God used the situation for good by allowing the next generations to seek Him.

*Lord, thank You for allowing those who seek You to find You  
and for redeeming our darkest hours to bring You glory.*



**Victoria Duerstock** is a writer, blogger, teacher, and speaker. With more than 20 years in the furniture and home-design industry, she uses her creativity to inspire hope in readers and ignite bigger dreams in their lives. She writes for the blogs Encouraging Women Today, Everything's Gravy, and Creative Corner, and she has contributed to devotionals from Worthy Publishing.



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These short devotionals draw a clear connection between the basics of interior design and scripture to encourage spiritual growth. The devotionals in both books include a scripture, reflective writing, a prayer, and a design or lifestyle tip accompanied by a gorgeous photograph of a designed space.

In ***Heart & Home: Design Basics for Your Home and Living Space***, Victoria writes 90 devotionals about topics such as unity and harmony, focal points, balance, and negative space. In ***Heart & Home for Christmas: Celebrating Joy in Your Living Space***, she understands that all the tasks and stress of the holiday season make it easy to forget true joy. In these 100 devotionals, she connects easy decorating tips with spiritual thoughts for reflecting the true spirit of Christmas in your home and actions.

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