

Advent: The Coming of Our Savior // Hope

Have you ever wished you could foresee the future? It's something we've all considered! Most would run to the lottery and get the winning numbers. I'd use it to figure out who to start in Fantasy Football! George Springer used it (2014) to predict an Astros' World Series win. We might use it to see what to do in life, how long we'll live, and what mistakes to avoid. It is called foreknowledge!

Today, as we begin a new series, "Advent: The Coming of Our Savior", we see God's divine foreknowledge. Isaiah 7:14 (ESV) says, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." This was written ~700 years before an angel of the Lord appeared to Mary and Joseph in dreams, foretelling Jesus' birth (Matt. 1:23).

Isaiah 9:6 (ESV) says, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." In a world where we can't predict what will happen to us tomorrow, this is a beautiful picture of the coming Christ Messiah, the Anointed One, our Prophet, Priest, and King.

In Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV), Paul says, "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." In Jesus' Name, we remember John 3:16 (ESV), "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

These verses give hope. Hope is a confident trust with the expectation of fulfillment! It's in the 300+ Old Testament prophecies of Christ. It's in the Christmas characters of Zechariah, Elizabeth, John, Joseph, Mary, the angels, the shepherds, and the Magi. It's in the disciples who believed, "You're the Christ, the Son of the living God." And, it's in our lives today! It's hope for our coming Savior!

Let's pray! Lord God, in Psalm 39:7 (ESV), David says, "My hope is in you!" Lord, this Advent/Christmas season, as others chase presents, fill us with the hope of Your Presence. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, give us Your hope that will never perish, spoil, or fade. May this be an enduring hope for our life on earth and our eternal life to come.

Amen!

Scripture Reading

“1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15(John bore witness about him, and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, “He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.”’) 16For from his fullness we have all re-

ceived, grace upon grace. 17For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.” - John 1:1-18 (ESV)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message Series

Advent - The Coming of Our Savior

Message Topic

Hope

Message Points

NOTES:

Memory Verse

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name, Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).” - Matthew 1:23 (ESV)

Small Group Questions

- What is your favorite Christmas tradition, past and/or present? Why do you look forward to this tradition so much in your life?
- Read Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23. What does this title, Immanuel, for Jesus mean? Why does the fulfillment of this prophecy give us hope?
- Read Galatians 4:4-5, John 3:16. Why are these verses so important to the Christmas story? Why do they give us hope from God?
- Advent is a time where we prepare for our coming Savior, Jesus. How can you and your family prepare their hearts for Him this Christmas?
- The holiday season can be a time where many friends and family feel hopeless. How will you share the story of Christmas hope with others?

YouVersion

<http://bible.com/events/316339>

Children's Message

Boys and girls, this morning, we begin the season of Advent. Does anyone know what that word, Advent, means? *Take answers.*

The word "Advent" means "Coming" or "Arrival". During Advent, we look forward to the coming or arrival of Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Savior.

Over here, I have an Advent wreath. Each week, we will be lighting a candle. Does anyone know what this first purple candle is called? *Take answers.*

This first Sunday of Advent, the candle lit is the "Prophecy Candle". We light it in remembrance of the prophets, like Isaiah, who foretold Jesus Christ's birth.

This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah. Ok. Who wants to help me light it! *Have one of them help light.*

Let's pray. Lord, Thank you for Advent/Christmas. Thank you for the arrival of Jesus. Help us ALL to look with anticipation for the coming of our Savior, Jesus.