

## It's Advent! – Preparing for Christmas – Nov. 30, 2022

**Advent season** – celebrating Christ's birth & anticipation of 2d coming

- Latin **adventus** - "coming; arrival"
- lasts 4 Sundays leading up to Christmas.
- Christians need 3 perspectives to really celebrate Advent:

**Advent: (1) celebrate the past – Bethlehem; (2) focus in the present on giving Jesus our hearts; (3) look to the promise of Second Coming.**

**Isaiah 9:6-7** - *“For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

*And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Vs.7 - Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time  
on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”*

### **1 – The Past. Isaiah 9:6-7**

**“For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given . . .**

*It happened - Past – **Child was Born to Mary.** Luke & Matthew tell us.*

- Mary said to Gabriel: “may it happen to me as you have said.”
- Elizabeth said to Mary: “You are blessed because you **believed** that the Lord would do what he said.” (*Luke 1:45*)
  - Mary **believed.** Do we? Celebrate the **virgin birth. Bethlehem**
- **To us a son is given** – the Son of God. Son of God came w/a mission.
  - **More than belief... we must open our hearts to Son of God.**

### **2 – The Present. Isaiah 9:6 – “And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”**

In the present, we need to focus on these **4 attributes.**

Mary was afraid . . . but listened to Gabriel. Counselor - moved forward.

Do we allow God to be our **Wonderful Counselor?** Direct our paths?

Mary was young . . . but knew God's greatness.

Is God a **mighty God** to us? Believe He can move mountains?

Mary was willing to be obedient to God the Father. . . God use me.

Do we pray for the Father's will? Willing to do? **Everlasting Father**

Know His love is everlasting? Knowing love, don't doubt future.

Mary wasn't educated . . . but knew God & what He could do. Peace.

Do we have peace in our circumstances? **Prince of Peace**

Peace isn't the absence of problems, but the presence of God.

This Advent, let our present focus be on those **4 attributes of Jesus:**

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

### **3 – The Future. Isaiah 9:7**

*“Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”*

#### **1 – Greatness of His Government.**

No poll needed. Favorable. Happy with it. Gladness and Joy!

- **Isaiah 35:10** – The Redeemed “will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”

#### **2 – Peace that Will Not End.**

There will be peace. We want it here, not going to happen.

Peace will exist in Heaven when the Redeemed gather with God.

**Isaiah 11:6-8** – “In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. 7 The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. 8 The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm.”

#### **3 – Reign Forever. God's gov't established & sustained**

No elections. No change in policies. God's goodness forever.

There is stability. No worry/fear. Happiness/joy always. Eternity!

#### **4 – God’s Government is Justice & Righteousness.**

We will see consequences for our pain. Nobody is off the hook.

**Psalm 9:7-8** - “The Lord reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. 8 He rules the world in righteousness and judges the people with equity.”

- **Justice:** we will be made whole. Treated fairly. No partiality!
- God doesn’t struggle with both justice and mercy.

#### **5 – Lord Almighty Will Accomplish This.**

God will make it happen. He will do it.

We look forward to Jesus’ 2d Coming as Israel looked for the 1<sup>st</sup>

B/c we know what God has promised and done in the past, we can know what the future will be.

Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinated.

Song of the week: FOR KING & COUNTRY – “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”