

Advent.....

---

**What Does The Bible Say**

---

Advent-Word with Latin roots, meaning “coming.” Christians of earlier generations spoke of “the advent of our Lord” and of “His second advent.” The first phrase refers to God’s becoming incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth. The latter phrase speaks of Jesus’ second coming. Advent designates a period before Christmas when Christians prepare for the celebration of Jesus’ birth. This practice may have begun in some churches as early as the late fourth century. Advent began as a time of fasting. Sermons focused on the wonder of the incarnation. By the Middle Ages four Sundays had become the standard length of the Advent season. Since then, Advent has been considered to be the beginning of the church year.

Grissom, F.A., & Bond, S. (2003). Advent. In C. Brand, C. Draper, A. England, S. Bond, E.R. Clendenen, & T.C. Butler (Eds.), *Hollman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (p.31). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

---

# What Does The Bible Say

---

Advent-refers to the coming of Jesus. We celebrate this time of year because of his birth.

Incarnation-this word means “flesh”; theologically, the doctrine that in Jesus of Nazareth God took on human flesh and became the God-man. He was God and He was a man. Incarnation helps us to identify with Jesus because he was human and divine all at the same time. Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P.W. (2001). In Tyndale Bible dictionary. (p. 631). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

---

# What Does The Bible Say

---

When we talk about this season of Advent we are excited about the coming of Jesus. The season of Advent prepares us for the coming of Jesus. Four Sundays prior to Christmas our thematic thrust is all about the coming of Jesus. Which means you will hear stories and narratives from the Old and New Testament.

The coming of Jesus was prophesied in the Old Testament and reaches fulfillment in the New Testament. This is what we call a symmetry between the Old and New Testament as it relates to the birth and life of Jesus Christ. So this time of year is always festive and celebratory because we are in preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ. When you and I think of birthdays, it is always a time of giving thanks; but the arrival of Jesus signals a change and transformation for the world.

---

# What Does The Bible Say

---

Old Testament Prophecies: Isaiah gives us imagery and words that are unmatched when we talk about Jesus' coming. He gives a glimpse of what is to come in the New Testament.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

The book of Isaiah is written around 730 B.C. During this time the Kingdom of Judah was threatened by other nations. In this writing Isaiah wanted to convince King Ahaz that Assyria would soon fall. He makes the claim (prophecy) that a boy named Immanuel will be born. Some scholars wrestle with the word "virgin" and they want to replace it with "young woman." We keep the word virgin because it speaks to the purity of the women in which will carry Jesus.

---

# What Does The Bible Say

---

For to 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. Isaiah 9:6

One again Isaiah is giving us a prophetic word of what will come to pass in the New Testament. The Messiah will be born a human baby and He will be sent as gift from heaven. He informs us that the one who will change the world will be a son and he will have the power to carry the government upon his shoulders. No world power will be greater than Him. Governments will be built and destroyed, but He will remain forever.

---

# What Does The Bible Say

---

The titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6 carries a specific meaning:

The Messiah royal titles attest to his close relationship to God and depict him as a mighty warrior capable of establishing peace in his realm. Four titles are listed...

Wonderful Counselor-portrays the Messiah as an extraordinary military strategist

Mighty God-that God would energize Him for battle so that He would display superhuman prowess against His enemies

Everlasting Father-a ruler who demonstrates fatherly concern for His people

Prince of Peace-indicates that the Messiah's kingdom will be characterized by social justice and prosperity

Dockery, D.S. (Ed.). (1992). Holman Bible Handbook (p. 390) Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

---

# What Does The Bible Say

---

Advent is all about the coming of Christ. Let us never mistake the commercialism of the holidays (Christmas) with the birth of Christ. This season is always festive, filled with joy, happiness, and fun times with friends and family. Advent awakens us to what will happen and for whatever reason individuals seem to be more kind and nice around this time of year. When we as a body of believers take into account the meaning of Advent it should spark in us a renewed hope, joy, anticipation and things to come.

All of have memories of this time which were formed as children. Whether you prepared a speech for the Christmas program, were in a play at church or school, the wonderful times with your family decorating the house and putting a Christmas tree, this season of Advent and I will say it again, is all about us preparing for the birth of Christ.

---

# What Does The Bible Say

---



What the New Testament says about Advent:

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about; His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in here is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). Matthew 1:18-23

We now see what was prophesied in the Old Testament being fulfilled in the New Testament. This helps us because these are same words from Isaiah 7:14.

---

# What Does The Bible Say

---

REVEREND DR. ANDRE D. IVY

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it written in the Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way—a voice one crying in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the lord, make straight paths for him.” Mark 1:1-3

We find Isaiah words again...this helps us to see that the Old and New Testament are linked. Isaiah 40:3-5 reads: A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

---

# What Does The Bible Say

---

## Advent perspectives:

- \* Mary and Joseph and what they endured
- \* The scrutiny from the local community
- \* The importance of angels speaking to both of them
- \* They both played a powerful role in shaping our Christian history and thought

## What Advent is not:

- \* Santa Claus coming down the chimney
- \* Reindeers and snowmen
- \* Elaborate decorations but no traces of Jesus or the Nativity scene
- \* Holiday gatherings and never saying the name of Jesus

---

# What Does The Bible Say

---

Advent is always about the coming of Jesus and celebrating his birth...nothing should take precedence over the real meaning of this season....

---

# What Does The Bible Say

---

God bless and keep you....

---

# What Does The Bible Say

---