

**The Season of Advent
The Prophetic Sunday of Hope
Sunday, December 5, 2021**

* The History of Advent:

1. The earliest dating of the celebration of Advent is difficult to determine.
2. In Christian history, Easter began to be celebrated in response to the Jewish Passover.
3. Just as the blood of the Passover Lamb applied to the door post of the Israelites provided life to them so does the blood of the Lamb of God applied to our sinful and separated lives provided new life to all!
4. It is believed that Advent began to be celebrated during the winter solstice, the darkest day of the year, because the "Light of the world" has brought light to all of mankind! Thus, Christmas in December!!
5. Once December 25th was the "fixed date" for Christmas, Advent became the "center of gravity" along with Easter in the Christian faith!
6. By the fourth century, written evidence for Advent was found in Spain and other parts of Europe.
7. The earliest official mention of Advent was from the "Council of Sargossa" in 380 A.D.
8. By the 5th and 6th centuries more firm dating of the Advent Season can be found!
9. The name "Advent" comes from: The Latin word *adventus* which was translated from the Greek word *parousia*. This word was used to describe both Christ coming in human flesh and His Second Coming!
10. It is said that Advent and Christmas was not just about the coming of Jesus, but about everything since His Birth. He changes everything!

I. The first Sunday of Advent is the "Prophetic Sunday of Hope!"

Romans 8:20

20 All of creation has collapsed into emptiness, not by its own choosing, but by God's. Still He placed within it a deep and abiding hope.

A. The beginning, the problem, the sin, the Fall and the separation!!

Genesis 1:26

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

1. We were created in the image of God!
2. Ask yourself, "Am I presently a reflection of God's image and likeness?"
3. Do I act like God, think like God and speak like God?
4. It is obvious that something has happened to change things!

Genesis 3:6

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

B. From the Fall of Man we learn that our entire "world view" changed!

Genesis 3:7

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

1. They were naked before this! What happened?
2. They began to see things differently now!
3. So it is now with us! We too see things through different eyes!
4. The Hebrew phrase for "their eyes were opened" is the words for seeing with emotions, reasonings and logic!

5. God designed us to be “Spirit led!” We see it over and over!

C. Man lost his place of relationship and fellowship!

Genesis 3:24

24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

1. Here's the strange thing! I thought God wanted us to have His life! Why is he pushing me away and guarding that which gives life?
2. You see, man was now in a fallen and rebellious state!
3. Now, God's plan of redemption is set in motion!! Yes, even “way back then!” THIS IS THE HOPE OF ADVENT!

II. Throughout the Old Covenant we see God's salvation and redemption referred to and desired!

A. We see the Song of Moses.

Exodus 15:2, 12-13

2 "The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

12 "You stretch out your right hand, and the earth swallows your enemies. In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

B. The Song of David!

2 Samuel 22:2-4 (NIV)

2 He said: “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; 3 my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation.

He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior—from violent people you save me. 4 “I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and have been saved from my enemies.

C. The Song of Mary.

1. The fulfillment of HOPE!

Luke 1:46-50 (NIV)

46 And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

2. You and I are blessed to look back on this HOPE! Unlike our forefathers who had to look forward to this HOPE!

3. Paul explains it this way in Colossians 1:19-22...

19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation!

The Hope of Advent!