

Opening: **Define ADVENT**

- The word ‘Advent’ has a Latin origin meaning ‘the coming,’ or more accurately, ‘coming toward.’
- A time of fasting to concentrate on the Two Comings

[Show Book Covers on Tron?]

**Remembering His First Coming: The First Advent**

- **Began in the Garden**

**Genesis 3:15**

*And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

- **Prophesied**

**Deut. 18:18-19**

*<sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.<sup>19</sup> And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.*

*<sup>18</sup> I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him. <sup>19</sup> I will personally deal with anyone who will not listen to the messages the prophet proclaims on my behalf.*

**Isaiah 7:14**

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel*

- **Came as a man**

**Philippians 2:5-8**

*<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,<sup>[c]</sup> being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

*<sup>5</sup> You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.*

*<sup>6</sup> Though he was God,<sup>[a]</sup> he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.*

*<sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges<sup>[b]</sup>; he took the humble position of a slave<sup>[c]</sup> and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.*

- **Announced**

**Luke 2:10-14**

*<sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

*<sup>10</sup> but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. <sup>11</sup> The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! <sup>12</sup> And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”*

*<sup>13</sup> Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,*

*<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in highest heaven,  
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”*

- **Time predicted /designated**

**Daniel 9:25**

*<sup>5</sup> Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again<sup>[a]</sup> with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.*

*<sup>25</sup> Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven<sup>[a]</sup> will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One<sup>[b]</sup>—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses,<sup>[c]</sup> despite the perilous times.*

## Remembering His First Coming; Anticipating His Second

- To save the lost

**Matthew 18:11**

*For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.*

- Subject to government

**Matthew 17:24-27**

The Temple Tax

*<sup>24</sup> When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the tax?" <sup>25</sup> He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?" <sup>26</sup> And when he said, "From others," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. <sup>27</sup> However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself."*

[<sup>24</sup> On their arrival in Capernaum, the collectors of the Temple tax<sup>[a]</sup> came to Peter and asked him, "Doesn't your teacher pay the Temple tax?"

<sup>25</sup> "Yes, he does," Peter replied. Then he went into the house.

But before he had a chance to speak, Jesus asked him, "What do you think, Peter?<sup>[c]</sup> Do kings tax their own people or the people they have conquered?<sup>[c]</sup>"

<sup>26</sup> "They tax the people they have conquered," Peter replied.

"Well, then," Jesus said, "the citizens are free! <sup>27</sup> However, we don't want to offend them, so go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take it and pay the tax for both of us.]"

**L/G (On White Board..2 Volunteers to write down)****What are ways to celebrate The First Advent, His first coming:**

CHRISTMAS: Party, Celebrations, Gifts

Memorize Scripture

Accept Christ

Joy – Find it, Cultivate it, Share it (Vs

Share my faith

Happiness)

Read scripture because it is truth

Share Hope

Seek more of the Holy Spirit

Share Christ!

What we do "because of" Christmas is part of how we celebrate the First Advent....so what do I do? (First Advent makes our lives GRATEFUL...because of His great love, I do....) I Worship = ????

**Are the gifts I give ones of Worship?****Anticipating His Second Coming: The Second Advent**

- Is Prophesied

**John 14:1-3**

*"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.*

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;<sup>[a]</sup> believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also

- Come as God

**1 Thessalonians 4:16**

*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.*

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

- As a Thief

## Remembering His First Coming; Anticipating His Second

**1 Thessalonians 5:2**

*For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.*  
For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

- **At a time unknown**

**Matthew 24:36**

*"However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.*

"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son,<sup>[a]</sup> but the Father only.

- **To Judge the Lost**

**Matthew 25:31-33****The Final Judgment. (aka The Great White Throne Judgment)**

<sup>31</sup> *"But when the Son of Man<sup>1</sup> comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.*

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

**Matthew 25:41-46**

<sup>41</sup> *"Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'*

<sup>44</sup> *"Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?'*

<sup>45</sup> *"And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'*

<sup>46</sup> *"And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."*

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

- **Source of Government**

**Revelation 22:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> *No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup> And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.*

No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup> They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

**Revelation 20:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> *Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

<sup>5</sup> *This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.) <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years.*

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

## Remembering His First Coming; Anticipating His Second

**S/G****What we do with Christmas?****[First promise/First Advent has happened so we know the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent will, too.]**

(Salvation) is part of how we LIVE in anticipation of the Second Advent...so what do I do? (The Second Advent makes our lives \_\_\_\_\_...I do this because He is returning, Heaven is for real.)

To LIVE in anticipation means...I am excited, curious, I SHARE CHRIST..Resolute, Steadfast, Loyal, Unswerving

**S/G What are ways I LIVE In Anticipation of His Second Coming (a.k.a. Putting Advent Into Practice) :****Coming Toward!**

Share my faith.

Study His names to know His character better.

Live with an eternal focus (Decisions based on Scripture)

Understand and become comfortable with the prophetic

Take a class on Eschatology

Read a book on Eschatology

**Putting Advent into practice:**

- It is about Jesus.
- What helps you focus on Jesus?
- Don't think it has to be a big faldral. The quieter, the better.
- Scripture is a part of it.
- What helps you relax? Art – make it about Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. Walking – Meditate on the above scripture while walking.
- Sharing the love of Christ is part of Advent.
  - With family
  - With friends
  - With coworkers
  - With those in need
  - With the unknown
- Involve the children of your world. (Advent Calendar)
- Advent Wreath:
  - Prophecy Candle (Purple Candle – Christ's Royalty. Attitude of humility and repentance. May I add WORSHIP ): Christ's coming was revealed by god through the prophets hundreds of years before He was born.
  - Bethlehem Candle (Purple Candle – Christ's Royalty. Attitude of humility and repentance. May I add WORSHIP ): Christ becoming a man in Bethlehem.
  - Shepherd's Candle (Rose Candle – God's love and faithfulness): We must come to Christ like the Shepherd's did, believe in Him and tell other's about Him.
  - Angel's Candle (Purple Candle – Christ's Royalty. Attitude of humility and repentance. May I add WORSHIP ): Anticipate Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming and focus on salvation.
  - Christ Candle (White Candle – Christ's holiness and perfection): Center of the wreath. Jesus Christ is the Light of the World and we celebrate His birth today (lit on Christmas Day).
- Using the Four Candles to highlight:
- **It is a season of HOPE, so share Hope**
  - Believe and act on His Promises. (Cultivate Hope).

**Act on His promises****2 Corinthians 1:19-23 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup>For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, does not waver between "Yes" and "No." He is the one whom Silas,<sup>[a]</sup> Timothy, and I preached to you, and as God's ultimate "Yes," he always does what he says. <sup>20</sup>For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory. <sup>21</sup>It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned

## Remembering His First Coming While Anticipating His Second Coming

*us, <sup>22</sup> and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.*

<sup>19</sup> For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. <sup>20</sup> **For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.** <sup>21</sup> Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, <sup>22</sup> who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

- **Wait Well** (This life is NOT Heaven) Live in Preparation (waiting or prophecy)
- **Exude Joy** (which produces peace)
- **Do Love** (adoration)

**NOTES:****What is an advent calendar? How does an advent calendar relate to Christmas?**

**The word ‘Advent’ has a Latin origin meaning ‘the coming,’ or more accurately, ‘coming toward.’** For Christian believers, Christmas is one of the greatest events in the yearly cycle, being **the celebration of the greatest gift ever given by God to mankind.** That gift was Jesus, the Son of God Himself, born into this world in human form and **coming to live among us to show us the true nature of God, experience human joy and sorrow along with us, and finally, going of His own will to die a horrible, agonizing death.** In this way the price was paid for all human sin that had cut us off from our Holy God and Heavenly Father, resulting in our complete and total reconciliation with Him.

Centuries ago, the importance of this event caused many Christians to feel that it was inadequate merely to mark off only one day on the yearly calendar for celebrating this incredible gift from God. **Believers had (and still do have) such a sense of awe and overwhelming gratitude and wonder at what happened that first Christmas that they felt the need for a period of preparation immediately beforehand.** They could then not only take time themselves to meditate on it, **but also teach their children the tremendous significance of Christmas.**

**At first, the days preceding Christmas were marked off from December 1 with chalk on believers’ doors. Then in Germany in the late 19th century the mother of a child named Gerhard Lang made her son an Advent Calendar comprised of 24 tiny sweets stuck onto cardboard.** Lang never forgot the excitement he felt when he was given his Advent calendar at the beginning of each December, and how it reminded him every day that the great celebration of the whole year was approaching ever nearer. As an adult he went into partnership with his friend Reichhold and opened a printing office. In 1908, they produced what is thought to be the first-ever printed Advent Calendar with a small colored picture for each day in Advent. Later on, at the beginning of the 20th century, they hit on the idea of making the pictures into little shuttered windows for the children to open day by day in order to heighten their sense of expectation.

The idea of the Advent Calendar caught on with other printing firms as the demand swiftly increased, and many versions were produced, some of which would have printed on them Bible verses appropriate to the Advent period. By now the Advent Calendar had gained international popularity, and children all over the world were clamoring for them as December approached. Unfortunately, the custom came to an end with the beginning of the First World War when cardboard was strictly rationed and only allowed to be used for purposes necessary to the war effort. However, in 1946, when rationing began to ease following the end of the Second World War, a printer named Richard Sellmer once again introduced the colorful little Advent Calendar, and again it was an immediate success.

Sadly, with the wane of Christianity in Western nations, the Advent Calendar, although still enormously popular with all children, has lost its true meaning. Many, many children and their parents have no idea of the history of the little calendar or its true purpose, which is to prepare us for the celebration of the advent of the Christ-child. Even if they do know, most would not care. Also, the makers of today’s Advent calendars are anxious only to sell their product, and the majority of these neither know nor care about the meaning and purpose of Advent. Their calendars depict Santa Claus and his reindeer, snowmen, holly, mistletoe, and all the secular trappings of Christmas behind the little windows, often along with a piece of chocolate. Fortunately, however, Christian printers are still with us to manufacture calendars for children from Christian families that unfold the story of the nativity with each window that is opened. We, as Christian believers, pray that one day the whole world will be aware of the incredible wonder of the true meaning of Advent and Christmas.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Got Questions Ministries. (2002–2013). *Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

## Remembering His First Coming While Anticipating His Second Coming

**PEACE:**

**Numbers 6:25-27** English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

<sup>26</sup> the Lord lift up His countenance<sup>[a]</sup> upon you and give you peace.

Job 22:21-22 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> “Agree with God, and be at peace;  
thereby good will come to you.

<sup>22</sup> Receive instruction from His mouth,  
and lay up his words in your heart.

Psalms 29:10-11 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

<sup>11</sup> May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless<sup>[a]</sup> his people with peace!

**Psalm 119:165**

Great **peace** have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

Matthew 5:8-10 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons<sup>[a]</sup> of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**John 14:27**

**Peace** I leave with you; my **peace** I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

**John 16:33**

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have **peace**. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

**Galatians 5:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Ephesians 6:10-16 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

**Philippians 4:7**

## Remembering His First Coming While Anticipating His Second Coming

And the **peace** of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23**

Now may the God of **peace** himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 12:14**

Strive for **peace** with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

James 3:16-18 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

**HOPE:**

Job 4:5-6 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> But now it has come to you, and you are impatient;  
it touches you, and you are dismayed.  
<sup>6</sup> Is not your fear of God<sup>[a]</sup> your confidence,  
and the integrity of your ways your hope?

Psalms 33:17-19 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> The war horse is a false hope for salvation,  
and by its great might it cannot rescue.  
<sup>18</sup> Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love,  
<sup>19</sup> that he may deliver their soul from death  
and keep them alive in famine.

Psalms 42:5-6a English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my salvation<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>6</sup> and my God.

Psalms 71:14-15 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> But I will hope continually  
and will praise you yet more and more.  
<sup>15</sup> My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,  
of your deeds of salvation all the day,  
for their number is past my knowledge.

Psalms 119:73-75 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>73</sup> Your hands have made and fashioned me;  
give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.  
<sup>74</sup> Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice,  
because I have hoped in your word.  
<sup>75</sup> I know, O Lord, that your rules are righteous,  
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

## Remembering His First Coming While Anticipating His Second Coming

Psalm 130:4-6 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

<sup>6</sup> my soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.

**Jeremiah 29:10-12** English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> “For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare<sup>[a]</sup> and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

**Lamentations 3:18**

so I say, “My endurance has perished; so has my **hope** from the Lord.”

**Lamentations 3:21**

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have **hope**:

**Lamentations 3:24**

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will **hope** in him.”

**Lamentations 3:29**

let him put his mouth in the dust— there may yet be **hope**;

Romans 5:3-5 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 8:23-25 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

1 Corinthians 13:6-7 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**Ephesians 1:17-19** English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

1 Timothy 4:9-11 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. <sup>10</sup> For to this end we toil and strive,<sup>[a]</sup> because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

<sup>11</sup> Command and teach these things.

## Remembering His First Coming While Anticipating His Second Coming

Hebrews 11:1-3 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

**1 Peter 1:3**

[ *Born Again to a Living Hope* ] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living **hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**LOVE:**

**Exodus 15:13**

“You have led in your steadfast **love** the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

**Leviticus 19:18**

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall **love** your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

**Leviticus 19:34**

You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall **love** him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

**Deuteronomy 6:5**

You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Proverbs 3:11-13 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof,  
<sup>12</sup> for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.  
<sup>13</sup> Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding,

Matthew 5:43-45 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 22:36-39 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Mark 12:29-31 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

**John 3:16**

[ *For God So Loved the World* ] “For God so **loved** the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

## Remembering His First Coming While Anticipating His Second Coming

**John 15:9**

As the Father has **loved** me, so have I **loved** you. Abide in my **love**.

**Romans 8:28**

And we know that for those who **love** God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

**1 Corinthians 8:3**

But if anyone **loves** God, he is known by God.

1 Corinthians 13 English Standard Version (ESV)

**The Way of Love**

**13** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,<sup>[a]</sup> but have not love, I gain nothing.

**4** Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant **5** or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;<sup>[b]</sup> **6** it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. **7** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**8** Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. **11** When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. **12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

**13** So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**1 Corinthians 16:14**

Let all that you do be done in **love**.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 English Standard Version (ESV)

**14** For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; **15** and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

**22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Ephesians 4:15-16 English Standard Version (ESV)

**15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

**Ephesians 5:2**

And walk in **love**, as Christ **loved** us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Philippians 1:9-10 English Standard Version (ESV)

**9** And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, **10** so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

## Remembering His First Coming While Anticipating His Second Coming

Colossians 3:13-15 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup> so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

### 1 Timothy 1:5

The aim of our charge is **love** that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

### 2 Timothy 1:7

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and **love** and self-control.

### Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how to stir up one another to **love** and good works,

2 Peter 1:3-8 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to<sup>[a]</sup> his own glory and excellence,<sup>[b]</sup><sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue,<sup>[c]</sup> and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities<sup>[d]</sup> are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### 1 John 3:18

Little children, let us not **love** in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

### Revelation 3:19

Those whom I **love**, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

## JOY:

### Deuteronomy 16:15

For seven days you shall keep the feast to the Lord your God at the place that the Lord will choose, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.

### 1 Kings 1:40

And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great **joy**, so that the earth was split by their noise.

### 1 Chronicles 16:27

Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and **joy** are in his place.

### Psalm 4:7

You have put more **joy** in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

### Psalm 5:11

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for **joy**, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.

### Psalm 16:11

## Remembering His First Coming While Anticipating His Second Coming

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of **joy**; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Psalm 51:12**

Restore to me the **joy** of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psalm 63:6-8 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> when I remember you upon my bed,

and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

<sup>7</sup> for you have been my help,

and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

<sup>8</sup> My soul clings to you;

your right hand upholds me.

**Psalm 119:111**

Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the **joy** of my heart.

**Isaiah 29:19**

The meek shall obtain fresh **joy** in the Lord, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

**Isaiah 35:3-7**

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

**Jeremiah 15:16**

Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a **joy** and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

**Jeremiah 31:13**

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into **joy**; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

**Matthew 2:10**

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great **joy**.

**Luke 15:10**

Just so, I tell you, there is **joy** before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

**John 15:11**

These things I have spoken to you, that my **joy** may be in you, and that your **joy** may be full.

**John 16:24**

Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your **joy** may be full.

**Acts 13:52**

And the disciples were filled with **joy** and with the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 14:17**

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and **joy** in the Holy Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 7:4**

I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with **joy**.

## Remembering His First Coming While Anticipating His Second Coming

Philippians 1:3-5 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 2:1-3 English Standard Version (ESV)

**2** So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

**1 Thessalonians 2:20** For you are our glory and joy.

James 1:2-3 English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers,<sup>[b]</sup> when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

**1 Peter 1:7-9** English Standard Version (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**3 John 1:4**

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

### The Gifts of Advent:

#### 3.) Reminds us - It is a Miracle we are celebrating

How to embrace miracles today:

Know Christ – Miracles of Scripture

Trust Christ

Ask

Altar prayer time for this

[miracle verses as h.o.??]

## WORSHIP – Next Wednesday – Christmas Fire

### CHRISTMAS

#### A. The Cost Of:

- For Christian believers, Christmas is the celebration of the greatest gift ever given by God to mankind.
- That gift was Jesus, the Son of God Himself, born into this world in human form
- coming to live among us to show us the true nature of God,
- experience human joy and sorrow along with us, and finally,
- going of His own will to die a horrible, agonizing death.

## Remembering His First Coming While Anticipating His Second Coming

- **Atonement (washing):** The covering of our sin, the reconciliation between God and man.
- **Justification (just-as-if-I've-never-sinned):** The divine act whereby an infinitely holy God judicially declares a believing sinner to be righteous and acceptable before him because Christ has borne the sinner's sin on the cross. All this on the basis of faith and not works. (Romans 3:28-30, Galatians 2:16)
- **Reconciliation (restoring change):** The restoration to friendship and fellowship after estrangement. In the Old Testament we get the image of "covering" while in the New Testament it becomes to "change thoroughly." Someone is completely altered and adjusted to a required standard. Man is reconciled to God, not God to man.
- **Propitiation (paid-in-full):** The divine side of the work of Christ on the cross.
- **Expiation (no consequences demanded):** Denotes the end accomplished by certain divinely appointed sacrifices in respect to freeing the sinner from the punishment of his sins.

**B. Celebrating – A Response to the Cost:**

- The importance of this event + overwhelming gratitude and wonder at what happened that first Christmas that they felt the need for a period of preparation immediately beforehand.
- Time to meditate on it
- Teach their children the tremendous significance of Christmas.

**C. A Process to Follow:**

- At first, the days preceding Christmas were marked off from December 1 with chalk on believers' doors.
- Then in Germany in the late 19th century the mother of a child named Gerhard Lang made her son an Advent Calendar comprised of 24 tiny sweets stuck onto cardboard.

Lang never forgot the excitement he felt when he was given his Advent calendar at the beginning of each December, and how it reminded him every day that the great celebration of the whole year was approaching ever nearer. As an adult he went into partnership with his friend Reichhold and opened a printing office. In 1908, they produced what is thought to be the first-ever printed Advent Calendar with a small colored picture for each day in Advent. Later on, at the beginning of the 20th century, they hit on the idea of making the pictures into little shuttered windows for the children to open day by day in order to heighten their sense of expectation.

**GOAL (BLOG):**

"I need to worship Jesus for who He is in the privacy of my home before I can fully celebrate His birth in the company of His congregation."

*Unwrapping The Names Of Jesus* by Asheritah Ciuciu

**The Gifts of Advent:**

- 1.) **Teaches us to Meditate** (Focuses US on the two related "Comings" (Bedrock belief of Christianity.)  
(Reminds us - It is a Miracle we are celebrating)

**Benefits of Concentration...a.k.a. Meditation:**

**Psalm 1:1-2** (Concept of meditation is scriptural. Actually a Christian Discipline)

*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,*

*nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;*

*<sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

**Psalm 119:97**

## Remembering His First Coming While Anticipating His Second Coming

Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

**Joshua 1:8**

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and...

**Psalm 19:14**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

**MEDITATES.** (Ps. 1:2) *hagah* (hah-gah); Strong's #1897: To reflect; to moan, to mutter; to ponder; to make a quiet sound such as sighing; to meditate or contemplate something as one repeats the words. *Hagah* represents something quite unlike the English "meditation," which may be a mental exercise only. In Hebrew thought, to meditate upon the Scriptures is to quietly repeat them in a soft, droning sound, while utterly abandoning outside distractions. From this tradition comes a specialized type of Jewish prayer called "davening," that is, reciting texts, praying intense prayers, or getting lost in communion with God while bowing or rocking back and forth. Evidently this dynamic form of meditation-prayer goes back to David's time.

**MEDITATION—the practice of reflection or contemplation.** The word meditation or its verb form, *to meditate*, is found mainly in the Old Testament. The Hebrew words behind this concept mean "to murmur," "a murmuring," "sighing," or "moaning." This concept is reflected in Psalm 1:2, where the "blessed man" meditates on God's Law day and night. The psalmist also prayed that the meditation of his heart would be acceptable in God's sight (Ps. 19:14). Joshua was instructed to meditate on the Book of the Law for the purpose of obeying all that was written in it (Josh. 1:8).

The Greek word translated as meditate occurs only twice in the New Testament. In Luke 21:14 Jesus instructed His disciples not "to meditate beforehand" in answering their adversaries when the end of the age comes. The word may be understood in this passage as the idea of preparing a defense for a court appearance. Paul, in 1 Timothy 4:15, urged Timothy to meditate on, or take pains with, the instructions he gives. The idea of meditation is also found in Philippians 4:8 and Colossians 3:2.

Meditation is a lost art for many Christians, but the practice needs to be cultivated again. This form of meditation is not to be confused with either the cultish or oriental practices of mindless abandonment or focused mind control. This might better be described as "waiting on God" and "thinking on His Word or His love."<sup>2</sup>

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**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.
- In a second sense "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. See *Church Year; Parousia; Second Coming*.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Hayford, J. W., Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1995). *Hayford's Bible handbook*. Nashville, TN; Atlanta, GA; London; Vancouver: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> Grissom, F. A., & Bond, S. (2003). *Advent*. In C. Brand, C. Draper, A. England, S. Bond, E. R. Clendenen, & T. C. Butler (Eds.), *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (p. 31). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

## Eschatological and messianic emphases

### *Eschatological and messianic emphases in Zechariah 9–14*

This section of the book in particular has messianic implications. According to some commentators, “The messianic implications of Zechariah 9–11 focus on events surrounding Christ’s first advent. Zechariah 9:9 epitomizes this emphasis: ‘See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey.’ Chapters 12 to 14 encompass Christ’s second advent when he establishes the eternal kingdom of God. The theological climax of the Messiah’s arrival appears in **14:9: ‘The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.’**” That is somewhat of an overstatement. Several passages in chapters 12 to 14 are quoted from or alluded to in the NT as applying to Christ’s first advent as well as his second. However, because chapter 14 in particular is clearly eschatological, those passages from chapter 14 that apply to Christ’s first advent probably are best seen as doing so because the two advents are connected: **the first inaugurated the kingdom; the second consummates the kingdom.**<sup>4</sup>

Zach 9-11

## V. THE FIRST ORACLE OR BURDEN, EMPHASIZING MESSIAH’S FIRST ADVENT (Chaps. 9–11)

The remaining chapters contain two oracles or burdens. The first, in chapters 9–11, emphasizes the First Advent of the Messiah, while the second one, chapters 12–14, looks forward to Christ’s glorious appearing.<sup>5</sup>

**Advent** (Lat., *adventus*, coming) 1. The coming of Jesus Christ. 2. In the Western Church, the season prior to Christmas honoring the birth of Christ, the traditional beginning of the ecclesiastical year. Advent begins with the Sunday nearest to St. Andrews Day on November 30. Four Sundays in Advent thus always precede Christmas. In the Eastern Church, Advent is a much longer season, beginning the middle of November. Originally, the sixth-century *Gelasian Sacramentary* called for five Sundays in Advent. Formerly, believers fasted during Lent, but the season is still **observed as a solemn time for preparation for the mystery of the Incarnation.** The season’s liturgical color is purple, except on Gaudete Sunday (or third Sunday), when it is rose.

<sup>4</sup> Menn, J. (2013). *Biblical Eschatology* (pp. 435–436). Eugene, OR: Resource Publications.

<sup>5</sup> MacDonald, W. (1995). *Believer’s Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*. (A. Farstad, Ed.) (p. 1165). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

## Remembering His First Coming While Anticipating His Second Coming

**Advent wreath** Circle of evergreen set with four candles, one of which is lighted every week of the season, beginning Advent Sunday.

**Adventism** Belief in the imminent and literal return of Jesus Christ to the earth. It is related to millenarianism and apocalypticism, and was widely held by the early Church Fathers including Polycarp, Ignatius, Papias, Hermas, and Justin Martyr. It was a key tenet of Montanism which predicted between 150 and 175 that a new age would begin with the descent of a heavenly Jerusalem near Papuza in Phrygia. The belief was dormant in the Middle Ages but was revived in the thirteenth century by Joachim of Fiore, in the fourteenth century by the Hussites, and in the nineteenth century by William Miller and the Seventh Day Adventi<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Kurian, G. T. (2001). In *Nelson's new Christian dictionary: the authoritative resource on the Christian world*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.