

# THE ADVENT OF OUR GOD

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## *Selected Scripture*

### **Introduction:**

An old childhood memory – as a child I always looked forward to my grandparents coming to visit. A couple of times a year, usually every spring and fall, they would come for several days or even a few weeks. As children, we were always filled with anticipation, waiting for their coming. We looked forward to their arrival. However, the interesting thing was that, although we knew they were coming, they didn't always tell us just when they would arrive, even what day they would get there. We would be busy getting ready for supper some evening and would look out the window and see their car drive into the yard.

Today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. The word advent is not found in the Bible, but it accurately describes a very important concept in Scripture. It means "coming" or "arrival". It speaks of the anticipation and expectation that accompanies a long-awaited arrival. The word is used of many things, but when we speak of the season of Advent, we are thinking of the coming or arrival of the Promised One, the Messiah.

I want to spend some time this morning looking at that first advent of the Messiah. There are three aspects to the advent (coming) of our God that I want to consider this morning.

- The Promise
- The Waiting – the largest portion of our time
- The Fulfilment

### **I. The Promise**

Turn back to Gen. 3:15 – Discuss Adam's disobedience and the resulting sin and death. Go through the promise of a Redeemer – the seed of the woman – one who would deal with their sin problem – one who would destroy the work of Satan. The promise of one who would come and redeem them from the clutches of the enemy – sin and death.

Over and over that promise is repeated as people waited for the coming of that Promised One – the Redeemer, Messiah.

### **II. The Waiting**

Years went by – evil became worse and worse. Still no Redeemer came. God judged the world – the Flood. Noah and his family were saved and began to repopulate the earth.

- Gen. 12:1-3 (about 2100 BC) – the promise of a family line through whom that one would come who would bless every nation throughout the whole earth. The promise is repeated. Still they waited.
- Exodus 6:6 (1450 BC) – More than 600 years have passed. God's people, that chosen family in bondage in Egypt. God promises to bring them out – to redeem them. It is a picture of our redemption from bondage to the sin and death that came upon us through Adam in the Garden of Eden. A reminder of the promise of a redeemer. Still they waited.
- King David (1000 BC – another 450 years) – 2 Sam. 7:12-16 – the promise of an eternal kingdom. A kingly line from which would come a ruler who would reign forever on David's throne. Psalm 18:49-50 (a psalm of David) – his anointed – the offspring of David forever. And so, they waited for his coming, his arrival...
- Isaiah (700 BC – another 300 years) 7:14 – the son of a virgin 9:6-7 – The one who will rule on the throne of David, with perfect power and might, justice and righteousness 11:1 – the promised Messiah, from the stump of Jesse.
- Micah 5:2 (700 BC) – the coming ruler would be born in Bethlehem. But still they waited. Generations came and went, and they waited and watched for his arrival, the advent of the Redeemer, the one who would redeem Israel.
- Zechariah (500 BC) 6:9-13 – the branch, who would be both king and priest and rule on the throne in Jerusalem. 9:9-10 – the king riding on a donkey.

And so, the people waited – year after year, generation after generation, century after century. Waiting for his coming, waiting for the advent of the one who would redeem them. He would redeem not only the nation of Israel, but his advent would mean redemption for everyone who would believe, from every tribe and nation.

### III. The Fulfilment

Finally, more than 4000 years after the promise was made in Gen. 3:15, the time was right. Turn to Gal 4:4-5... *read the verses.*

*"But when the fulness of time had come..."* – when the time was right. At the perfect time in God's plan, the promise was fulfilled. God sent forth His Son. He arrived. And what does it say about him?

- Born of a woman – of course, but there is significance in that statement. In the Bible human lineage or genealogy is always traced through the father. But not this time. Refer back to Gen 3:15 – the offspring of the woman – the virgin birth.
- Born under the law – subject to the law – but he kept the law perfectly, something we could never do. Why? To redeem those who were under the law – v. 5

He came as the Redeemer – the one God had promised, the One for whom the world had been waiting for thousands of years. The day of advent was finally here.

Turn to Luke 2:25-38 – go through these verses – Simeon and Anna, two individuals who also were waiting for the coming, the arrival, the advent of the Promised One, the Messiah.

### Conclusion:

So how does this affect us? All of this is in the past, isn't it? I believe there is a two-fold application for us today:

1. Are we prepared to welcome Jesus in our celebration of Christmas? Do we expect him to come to us? Are we expecting his arrival in our hearts at this season of the year? Turn to Hymn #141 – O Little Town of Bethlehem, go through vv. 3-4
2. There is another advent – the Second Coming of our Lord. 33 years after his first coming, he went back into heaven with this promise, "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Ac 1:11 ESV)

Are you anticipating his coming this Christmas?

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!