



## Christian Life Fellowship

*Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ*



### Advent—JESUS Is Coming--Prepare

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#### **Introduction:**

We have worked our way through this season of advent by preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus and also preparing to celebrate His return. Today we talk about the event that actually happened. God had been preparing to share Christ with the world since the fall of Adam and Eve. Jesus first coming was part of God's plan to save the world. His second coming completes that plan. Our text this morning should fill us with joy over the promise that was spoken through the prophet Isaiah. **Isaiah 9:6-7** **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

This was written at a time when there was great darkness. People had not had light for centuries. There was very little hope due to the spiritual conditions they found themselves in. Beloved, it is when it seems life is at its darkest that hope is just around the corner.

#### **I. A child is born to us.**

When a child is born there is such hope, such anticipation of what that child will look like, what will they become. What might they accomplish? What might they discover? Who might they inspire and help? Every child that is born speaks of opportunity, of hope, of potential.

I'm sure when Jesus was born Mary and Joseph, as well as others who saw Him, had great hope and anticipation. Many people knew the prophecies that had been written and spoken about the Messiah. For them it would have been exciting to see the prophecies come to life in front of their eyes.

#### **II. A son is given to us.**

The birth of a son is a blessing. According to the Old Testament, the first-born son was a very special blessing. Not only did that son carry on the family name and lineage, but he became responsible to care for his mother at the death of his father. Because he was the first-born son, he received a special inheritance which was referred to as a "birth right". It entitled him to a double portion of the inheritance. If the family was a royal family, being the first-born also meant royal succession. The gift of a son was huge.

#### **III. Government will rest on his shoulders.**

The scepter, the sword, the key which was worn, was hung on the shoulder. Consider the promise

about the lineage of Jesus and that He would come from the house of David. This child who was born, the son who was given, would be a ruler who would govern in strength.

**IV. He will be called...** The titles given to this son speak of His character.

***Wonderful counselor*** - We can get some pretty good counsel today. Any counselor worth anything has somewhat mastered the skill of listening and responding. Jesus is considered a wonderful counselor. At any time day or night, one can go to Jesus and He will listen and respond to us as a wonderful counselor. How often I have gone to Jesus in prayer and poured out my heart and He has listened and responded to everything I told Him.

***Mighty God*** - Not just any god, but the mighty one. When I think of might, I think of power and strength, of greatness and ability.

***Everlasting Father*** - Generally fathers are good, caring, providing, protecting and defending their children. God does all of that and is not just limited to time. He is eternal, everlasting and unailing.

***Prince of Peace*** - A prince has certain responsibilities and certain opportunities. He also has certain resources that are at his disposal to use in the work of His kingdom. Everything about Christ should lead to peace.

I was reminded this week that by worry we can't change anything. We can't increase how tall or short we are; we cannot add one moment to the span of our life. In fact by worrying, we probably decrease the span of our life. God is in control. His kingdom is now continuing to expand and increase in the lives of people all over this earth. The scripture tells us that the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but joy and life and peace in the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 14:17** For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

**Luke 17:20-21** One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will the Kingdom of God come?" Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God isn't

**ushered in with visible signs. You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is among you."**

**1 Cor. 4:20** For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

Our text declares that the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing it with justice and righteousness. God will accomplish this. There are some things in life that we have to accomplish and then there are some things that only God can accomplish. We do our part and God does His part by His Holy Spirit, establishing His kingdom.

When I think of Christ's coming as a babe, I realize what a miraculous event it was. Emmanuel, God with us was such a wonderful fulfillment of the prophecies. There was divine purpose in His coming. God's plan was unfolding. In these scriptures we have read this morning, we see that God's plan was not simply to set up an earthly kingdom. The kingdom he came to establish was one where people serve because of Love, not fear. It was a kingdom of liberty, not one of slavery and dominion and tyranny. It was a kingdom of peace.

Where is the king reigning today? We read in scripture that Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father, there as our advocate. To properly prepare and celebrate His incarnation and the advent of our Lord, we have to recognize that He is no longer a baby. He was born that way, but He grew up and became a man and now He desires to live in our lives as our Lord and Master. The plan of God is still unfolding. Give place in your life where His kingdom can advance. Prepare a place in your life where peace rules. Prepare a place in your life where love is the motivation for you to serve. Prepare a place in your life where liberty from sin is not the exception but the norm.

Anytime you are remodeling or adding on to a structure, you have to have room to do what you dream about. At times there are walls that prohibit one from remodeling or expanding. The same is true in our lives. If we are going to prepare and allow Christ to reign in our lives, we have to give

Him the permission to rearrange, to build within us the dream He has for us.

Any time a baby is conceived, a new life begins. That baby grows and develops. There are changes to the woman who carries that infant. Her appetite is impacted. Her body shape is impacted. Her desires are impacted. Her sleep is impacted. Everything about her is impacted by that growing infant. As the time gets closer for that baby to be born, the mother begins to yearn to be delivered. She longs to hold that baby in her arms. She looks forward to the time

when what has been developing within her can be clearly seen by everyone.

The same thing is true for all of us who have allowed Christ into our lives. As we continue to prepare for His second coming, I want to challenge you this week to focus on what is being developed within you. As Christ lives in you, your appetites will change. Your shape will change. Your desires will be impacted. You will yearn for Christ to be seen in your life and you will desire that Jesus comes back.

**Conclusion:**

We have found ourselves preparing for Christ's coming throughout this advent season. We have dealt with our fears and faith. We have looked at things accurately in our lives and prepared ourselves to serve and suffer. We have repented and taken time to show the fruit of repentance through our relationship by obeying, changing and being humble. Now we can celebrate the advent of our Lord while we continue to prepare ourselves for His second coming.