

December 1st

Advent 2019

—A SEASON OF HOPE—



“He has been manifested in a human body for this reason only, out of the love and goodness of His Father, for the Salvation of us men.”

—Athanasius of Alexandria,
On the Incarnation (4th C.)

“HOPE FOR MANKIND”

Series Introduction:

- The English translation of the Latin word “adventus,” which means “arrival” or “coming.”
 - ⇒ *It was a season of _____ that preceded a season of _____.*
 - ⇒ *Hope was a significant theme associated with Advent because the coming of Christ was tied to the _____ of God’s promises to His people.*
- Hope remains a significant theme of the generic “Christmas Season” that is commonly celebrated in today’s world.
 - ⇒ *It tends, however, to be generic and undefined, being associated primarily with _____.*
 - ⇒ *This kind of hope is woefully inadequate to deal with the difficulties of life in a _____ world.*
- As we reflect this season upon Scripture (the birth narratives primarily), we want to be reminded that true hope is based upon the fact that God makes promises and keeps them!

Key Point: This season we want to consider that the birth narratives remind us of how the incarnation of the Lord Jesus gives us reasons to be a _____ people in spite of our earthly circumstances.

Hope & the Story of Scripture

- **God created mankind to know Him, love Him, live with Him, and glorify Him.**
Gen. 1:27-28b—²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. ²⁸ And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...
- **The rebellion of our first parents had tragic and lasting consequences for humanity.**
 1. Brokenness was introduced into our relationship with _____. (Gen. 3:7-10)
 2. Brokenness was introduced into our relationship with _____ (Gen. 3:12-13)
 3. Brokenness was introduced into our _____ of life in the world.
 - * *The birthing and rearing of children would be exceedingly difficult* (Gen. 3:16)
 - * *Marriage would be exceedingly difficult* (Gen. 3:16)
 - * *The work that done in the world would be exceedingly difficult* (Gen. 3:17-18)
 - * *The culmination of a life of work in the world would be death* (Gen. 3:19)

Key Point: Nothing of our experience of life in a fallen world can give us any _____ and _____ hope.

The Word of the Lord to Our First Parents:

1. **The Promise of a _____** (Gen. 3:15)
 - * *He would be _____ them and of them (“Offspring”)*
 - * *He would be _____ them.*
2. **The Picture of _____** (Gen. 3:21)
 - * *They could not _____ themselves.*
 - * *_____ had to be shed on their behalf.*

Key Point: God’s promise of a Redeemer meant that mankind could now live with hope even in the midst of the difficult circumstances of life.

Hoping for the Redeemer

- The early chapters of Genesis demonstrate that mankind was looking for the Redeemer to come just as God had promised.

Gen. 4:25-26—²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.”

Gen. 5:28-29—²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son ²⁹ and called his name Noah, saying, “Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.”

- As the Scriptures unfold, the promised Redeemer is linked to the families of two specific men.

Abraham

Gen. 22:17-18—¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

David

1 Chron. 17:11-12—¹¹ When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹² He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever.

Hope and the Story of Advent

- The failure of Israel to faithfully keep God’s covenant with them led to the collapse of their kingdom and, following the time of the prophets, 400 years of silence regarding the Word of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord to Mary — Luke 1:26-38

Observations:

1. The Word of the Lord is spoken to a woman, promising the birth of a _____ child.
Luke 1:30-31—³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.
2. The child is linked to the fulfillment of God’s promises to _____ and _____.
Luke 1:32-33—³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”
3. The unique circumstances of His conception and the names to which He is referred, are intended to link the child back to our first parents.
Luke 1:35—And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”

Key Point: The announcement to Mary was the declaration of the _____ fulfillment of God’s promise to our first parents that He would send a Redeemer to save mankind!

⇒ Luke’s genealogy confirms this: Jesus is *the son of David* (3:31)...*the son of Abraham* (3:34)...*the son of Lamech* (3:36)...*the son Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God* (3:38).

Hoping in the True & Better Adam

1. Through the incarnation, we see that God _____ for us what we are incapable of on our own!
Heb. 2:17—Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
2. Through the incarnation, we see that God brings redemption in the midst of _____!
3. Through the incarnation, we see that God keeps His promises and that we can therefore live with _____ expectation that He will complete the work that He has begun!