

# Advent



December 17th  
2023

## —ISAIAH & THE INCARNATION—

### “HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS”

*Joseph, you have heard  
What Mary says occurred;  
Yes, it may be so.  
Is it likely? No.  
Maybe, maybe not.  
But Joseph, you know what  
Your world, of course, will say  
About you anyway.*  
—W.H. Auden, *For the Time Being*

#### **Introduction: Self-Reflection, Sin, & Regret**

As people reflect upon their lives during this time of year, many have regrets. We may regret things we have or have not done. We may carry sadness for what has been or what could've been because our sin or the sins of others. As a season of reflection, Advent is a time when we are rightly faced with the reality of sin and its consequences. This should lead us, however, to look away from ourselves and unto our Savior.

**Key Point:** During Advent, we are reminded that the Lord Jesus became incarnate as a child in order that He might \_\_\_\_\_ as a man so that we might be saved from our sins.

#### **The Career of Hezekiah**

- 1. Hezekiah, unlike his father Ahaz, did what was \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of the Lord.**  
2 Kings 18:3-5b—<sup>3</sup> And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done. <sup>4</sup> He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). <sup>5</sup> He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel,
- 2. Faced with an invading Assyrian army, Hezekiah \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord on behalf of his people.**  
Isa. 27:16-17, 20—<sup>16</sup> “O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. <sup>17</sup> Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God...<sup>20</sup> So now, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone are the Lord.”
- 3. In the last season of his life, Hezekiah’s \_\_\_\_\_ brought about lasting consequences for his house and his people.**  
Isa. 39:5-8—<sup>5</sup> Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: <sup>6</sup> Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord. <sup>7</sup> And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.” <sup>8</sup> Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the Lord that you have spoken is good.” For he thought, “[Why not if there]...will be peace and security in my days.”

**Key Point:** The best king of Isaiah’s day ultimately failed as \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord and as the \_\_\_\_\_ of His people.

#### **Isaiah’s Prophecy of the Suffering Servant - Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

##### Context

The “Servant Songs” (Isa. 40-55) deal with the reality that Israel will go into exile. Israel as a nation had been chosen as God’s servant, but the people and their leaders had failed to keep His covenant. The only hope for the nation and all of the other nations of the earth was that God would send a Savior, the “Servant of the Lord” who would deliver them from the consequences of their sin.

- 1. The Servant of the Lord will be characterized by \_\_\_\_\_ and will be a \_\_\_\_\_ figure who will be exalted.**  
Isa. 52:13, 15b—Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted...<sup>15</sup>...Kings shall shut their mouths because of him...
- 2. The Servant of the Lord will be rejected and will \_\_\_\_\_.**  
Isa. 53:8b-9a—...that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? <sup>9</sup> And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death...

**3. The Servant of the Lord's death will be on \_\_\_\_\_ of others.**

Isa. 53:4-5, 12b (LXX)—<sup>4</sup>This one bears our sins and suffers pain for us, and we accounted him to be in trouble and calamity and ill-treatment. <sup>5</sup> But he was wounded because of our acts of lawlessness and has been weakened because of our sins; upon him was the discipline of our peace; by his bruise we were healed...<sup>12</sup>...and he bore the sins of many, and because of their sins he was given over.

**Key Point: The Servant of the Lord will secure a \_\_\_\_\_ for His house and His people through His obedience to the will of God.**

Isa. 53:11-12a—Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death...

### **The Genealogy & Announcement to Joseph — Matt. 1:1-24**

**Observations**

1. The genealogy highlight's both Joseph's right to the \_\_\_\_\_ of David and the complex nature of his family history.
2. Joseph understood the \_\_\_\_\_ of the situation that he found himself in regarding Mary's pregnancy.
3. The angel assured Joseph about the nature of Mary's pregnancy and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the child.

**Key Point: Joseph's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ are in many ways a redemption of the legacy destroyed by Hezekiah's selfishness.**

### **Trusting in the God Who Saves**

- Isaiah's prophecies emphasized both the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's people and His \_\_\_\_\_ for them through the coming Servant of the Lord.

Isa. 53:6—All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Joseph's son would be a continual reminder to him the boy's true identity and of the work of redemption that He had come to accomplish.

Matt. 1:21—"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

### **For Reflection During Advent**

- What are the regrets that you have as you reflect upon your life during this season?
- How has your sin or the sin of others affected your family's legacy?
- How does the incarnation of the Lord Jesus and his work of redemption give hope that addresses our regrets and our tarnished legacies?

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