

# Advent



December 24th  
2023

*We who must die demand a miracle.  
How could the Eternal do a temporal act?  
The Infinite become a finite fact?  
Nothing can save us that is possible.  
We who must die demand a miracle.*

—W.H. Auden, *For the Time Being*

## —ISAIAH & THE INCARNATION— “A LIGHT FOR REVELATION”

### **Introduction: Light & Anticipation**

This time of year is often one of anticipation. As the first Christmas lights are put out, all who see them begin to anticipate what is ahead in the coming weeks. Children are excited for the coming of Christmas morning. Adults look forward to a few days or weeks off work. Family members long to reconnect and spend time together. The small lights that we associate with anticipation, however, point to a much greater reality.

**Key Point:** As Advent comes to an end, we should rejoice that in the birth of the Lord Jesus God’s \_\_\_\_\_  
for His people has been revealed into our world like a light that shines in the darkness.

### **The Servant Songs of Isaiah**

“The focus of...(chaps. 40-66) features Israel’s responsibility to serve while the “cities lie in ruins without inhabitants, houses are without people, and the land is ruined and desolate” (6:11). The remaining prophecy features two subsequent historical figures. One of them initially addresses the physical captivity: Cyrus the Persian is to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple (44:28). The other addresses the spiritual captivity: the Servant of the Lord is to bring the Lord’s salvation to the ends of the earth (49:1-13).”

—Elliott Johnson, *The Moody Handbook of Messianic Prophecy*

1. **The Servant of the Lord will be given as a covenant for the \_\_\_\_\_ and a light for the \_\_\_\_\_.**

Isa. 42:6-7—<sup>6</sup>“I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, <sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

2. **The Servant of the Lord will make possible the salvation of both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

Isa. 49:5-6—<sup>5</sup>And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—<sup>6</sup>he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

3. **The Servant of the Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ God’s people, will be obedient where they have \_\_\_\_\_, and will call on them to place their \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.**

Isa. 50:5-6, 10—<sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting...<sup>10</sup>Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

**Key Point:** The Servant of the Lord will be the \_\_\_\_\_ by which God accomplishes salvation for all who believe!

### **The Shepherds & Simeon - Luke 2:8-32**

#### **Observations**

1. In the announcement to the shepherds, there was a revealing of the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The proclamation of good news to the shepherds centered on the birth of \_\_\_\_\_, the Savior.

3. Simeon was awaiting the saving act of God that would bring \_\_\_\_\_ to His people.
4. Simeon saw in Jesus the fulfillment of God's \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the Servant of the Lord.

**Key Point:** The birth of Jesus revealed God's salvation in the most \_\_\_\_\_ way.

Isa. 40:1,9—<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God...<sup>9</sup> Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

### **Trusting in the God of Light**

- The light of God's salvation brings \_\_\_\_\_ to His people in the person of Christ, the Servant of the Lord.

Mark 10:45—For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

### **For Reflection During Advent**

- How do you see the salvation of God in the person of the Lord Jesus?
- How does the incarnation shine the light of God into your own personal darkness?

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#### **2. The Servant of the Lord will make possible the salvation of both Jews and gentiles.**

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#### **3. The Servant of the Lord will sustain God's people, will be obedient where they have failed, and will call on them to place their trust in the Lord.**

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**Key Point:** The Servant of the Lord will be the means by which God accomplishes salvation for all who believe!

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**Key Point:** The birth of Jesus revealed God's salvation in the most personal way!

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