

Second Wednesday in Advent – 2023

Wednesday, 12/13 at 11 am & 7 pm

Your **Best Ever** Advent and **Christmas**
Part 3: Virgin; Light; For Us

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Use It Every Day
Bring It Each Week*



Text: NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: As we continue in the **Advent – Christmas booklet**, we are focusing on great OT passages that pointed to the coming Messiah. *Thanks for joining me on this journey to better understand the Christ!*

Day 7 – Sat, 12/9 – A Virgin will be Pregnant, God With Us

Read and **Think** (700 BC): **Isaiah 7:14** “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.” //

When the nation of Judah was being sharply threatened by its enemies – *causing great fear*, the LORD made two promises.

The first was fulfilled around 700 BC – *overcoming physical enemies*. **The second** about 700 years later – *overcoming spiritual enemies*.

An angel of the Lord spoke these words to Joseph regarding Mary, his fiancé: “**BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,**” which translated means, “GOD WITH US” (Matthew 1:23).

Answer and Pray:

- Think about the promise made through Isaiah... it is completely impossible – **a virgin being pregnant, yet it happened just as the angel said!** God can do anything AND His promises will always come to fulfillment!
- What are two great reasons we should believe every promise of God in the Bible? **(1) God is almighty, so He CAN! (2) God is holy, so He MUST!**
- What does the fulfillment of the promise tell us about Jesus? With Him being the **Son of God** – *from God the Father*, and the **Son of Man** – *from Mary*, He is the most important and most unique Person of all time!
- How does today's content apply to you? Stepping back, I can see God's grand plan to save us – ★from Eden to Abram, ★a prophet like Moses, ★David's most important descendant, ★promised through a virgin, and ★born of a virgin. Jesus is certainly **GOD WITH US**, the One sent from God to take away our sins!

Day 8 – Sun, 12/10 – Great Light to those in Darkness

Read and Think (700 BC): **Isaiah 9:2-3** The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. // Matthew chapter 4 identifies the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali as places where people were sitting in darkness – *blind to the truth*. Then, Jesus, the **GREAT LIGHT OF THE WORLD**, did much of His ministry in that place of great darkness!

Answer and Pray:

- Imagine being in *physical darkness* – no match, no candle, no flashlight, no electricity, no nothing; you cannot see your hand in front of your face. Then, imagine being in *spiritual darkness* – being 🌀crushed by your sin and 🌀overwhelmed with guilt, yet having no hope for forgiveness and peace 😞 😞 😞.
- Then, by the grace of God, great spiritual light shines upon you – freely giving you the precious gifts of forgiveness and peace. How would you express your gladness? It is proper for us to 📌trust in Jesus as our Savior, 📌obey Him as our Lord, and 📌live to God’s glory!
- How does today’s content apply to you? Many years ago, I was in darkness – *and didn’t even know it*, but now, by the Holy Spirit, *I have the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus!*

Day 9 – Monday, 12/11 – He will be Born for Us

Read and Think (700 BC): [During the ministry of Isaiah, the northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians and the southern kingdom of Judah was faltering; however, Isaiah brought **great news of the Messiah** who would be born in the future:] **Isaiah 9:6** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Answer and Pray:

- When a child is born, it is born to its parents – *my children were born to me, and your children were born to you.* But

this child, born to other parents, *was born TO US – for our eternal benefit!* The Son of God put on flesh for the eternal benefit of every person of all time!

- Write some brief thoughts about His four compound names:
 - **Wonderful Counselor:** His advice is always best!
 - **Mighty God:** He is almighty in power!
 - **Eternal Father:** Like a father, He provides and protects!
 - **Prince of Peace:** He made peace between us and God the Father by taking away our sins!
- How does today's content apply to you? If left to myself, I would be ☹️without peace and ☹️without hope and facing ☹️physical death and ☹️eternal punishment. Therefore, *I am so thankful for Jesus and God's gift of salvation!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Father in heaven, by Your Spirit through Your word, You have shown us the darkness and death of our sin. But then, *in Your mercy*, You have given us Your only Son: ★entering through a virgin, ★illuminating our darkness, and ★being all we need for forgiveness and eternal life. Keep us **knowing** Jesus, **rejoicing** in Him, **living** for Him, and **sharing** Him – *with anyone who is willing to listen.*

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