

Third Sunday in Advent – 2023

Saturday, 12/16 at 4:00 & Sunday, 12/17 at 9:00

Your *Best Ever* **Advent** and **Christmas**

**Part 4: Bethlehem; Son of David;
Spirit of the LORD**

Get a Booklet
Use It Every Day
Bring It Each Week



Text: NAS 1995

Advent Wednesdays: Services at 11 & 7; Free Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Thanks for joining me on the journey through our Advent-Christmas booklet.

If you haven't started yet, **TODAY** is the perfect day to begin ★reading, ★thinking, ★answering, and ★praying! If you need a booklet, print your own: [click here](#)

Day 10 – Tuesday, 12/12 – He will be Born in Bethlehem

Read and **Think** (700 BC): **Micah 5:2** “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.” // FYI: The word **Bethlehem** means **house of bread**.

- Micah wrote “Bethlehem Ephrathah” to distinguish it from the other Bethlehem:
 - Ephrathah – In the south, near Jerusalem, in the land given to the tribe of Judah (Jacob’s 4th son).
 - The other Bethlehem – in the north, near Nazareth, in the land given to the tribe of Zebulun (Jacob’s 10th son).

Luke 2:4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David... //

- **Joseph** – A descendant of David (*Matt. 1*), had to return to Bethlehem to register and pay the tax.
- **Mary** – A descendant of David (*Luke 3*), gave birth to Jesus when they were staying in Bethlehem.

Answer and Pray:

- Bethlehem was an insignificant town – but:
 - The LORD always knows all things.
 - The LORD knew Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.
 - The LORD made it known to us through Micah.
- Bethlehem Parma – a Christmas church: We want everyone to:
 - Remember where Jesus was born.
 - Trust in Him as the Promised Messiah!
- He is from “*the days of eternity*”; what does that mean? He was the Son of God *from before creation*, then God and Man *from conception*.
- How does the Day 10 content apply to you? I’m thankful that ▶God controls all and ▶Jesus is my Savior and Lord!

Day 11 – Wed, 12/13 – He will be the Promised Son of David

Read and Think (700 BC): **Isaiah 11:1** Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. ... // **Matthew 1:1** The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David... // **Matthew 9:27** ...two blind

men followed [Jesus], crying out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” [Those words expressed their faith in Jesus!] ... // **Matthew 21:9** The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD...”

Answer and **Pray**:

- David, the son of Jesse:
 - Became the king over Judah and Israel after King Saul.
 - Was the greatest king over Israel and Judah.
- Jesus is the promised son of David – not an earthly king, *but the **King of kings!***
- Which of these words describe the history of the world?
Planned Random Coincidence **Purposeful** By Chance
// God loves us, so He carefully planned our salvation!
- How does the Day 11 content apply to you? I am rejoicing in the promised Son of David, *who is my Savior and Lord!*

Day 12 – Th, 12/14 – The Spirit of the LORD will Rest on Him

Read and **Think** (700 BC): **Isaiah 11:2-4** The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him [John 1:32], The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and [Godliness (from the LXX) and] the fear of the LORD. // God the Father anointed the human nature of Jesus with the Holy Spirit, after He was baptized. Jesus has all the gifts of the Holy Spirit continually resting upon Him.]

And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will

strike the earth with the rod of His mouth [*His powerful word*],
And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.

Answer and Pray:

- To fear the LORD IN A POSITIVE WAY is to ✦trust Him and ✦keep His commandments: **Psalm 111:10** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments...* It delighted the Messiah to do God's commandments! *May the HS work the same desire in each of us!*
- When a judge decides, he is limited to what a person *says or does*, but the Messiah penetrates every heart *to fully know all things*: ✦sorry or not, ✦trusting in Him or not, ✦being honest or not, ✦etc.
- Knowing that Jesus knows everything about you, how do you feel? At Peace **or** Afraid! Since Jesus knows everything, let us ✦sincerely confess, ✦fully trust, and ✦be certain of peace between us and God!
- How does the Day 12 content apply to you? Even though I have sinned, and Jesus is coming, *I am not afraid*:
 - On Good Friday, *God put my sins on Jesus!*
 - Through faith, *God put Jesus' righteous life on me!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, because of Your Bethlehem birth, Your connection to David, and the HS resting upon You, *we are convinced that You are the Christ!* Thank You for taking away our sins and opening the way to heaven!

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