

Third Wednesday in Advent – 2023

Wednesday, 12/20 at 11 am & 7 pm

Your Best Ever Advent and Christmas
**Part 5: A Voice; Greatest Victory;
Awesome Blessings**

*Get a Booklet
Use It Every Day
Bring It Each Week*



Text: NAS 1995

Fourth Sunday of Advent: 12/23 at 4:00; 12/24 at 9:00

Celebrate Christmas: 12/24 at 4:00; 12/25 at 10:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today, *in our Advent-Christmas booklet*, **we will touch on these OT prophecies:**

- John the Baptizer preparing the way for Jesus!
- The good news of Jesus' great victory!
- The awesome blessings we have through Jesus!

Day 13 – Friday, 12/15 – A Voice will Prepare His Way

Read and Think (700 BC): **Isaiah 40:3-5** A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see *it* together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ... // **Mark 1:4-5** John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the

forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

Answer and **Pray**:

- In ancient times, when the king was coming for a visit, meticulous preparations were made for his arrival.
- Who is the voice that is calling? John the Baptizer! *God sent him to prepare the way!*
- Who is the king that is coming? Jesus, *the King of kings!*
- What should each person prepare? His / Her heart! “...man looks at the outward appearance, **but the LORD looks at the heart**” (1 Sam. 16:7).
- What is the LORD looking for? David prayed to God: “...You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart...” (Ps. 51:16-17).
- What is a broken and contrite heart? As our hearts break when a close relationship ends, *so our hearts should break **MUCH MORE** over our sins* – which separate us from God (Is. 59:2). A contrite heart is ✓ sorry, ✓ trying to stop all sinning, and ✓ longing to receive God’s mercy!

Day 14 – Saturday, 12/16 – He will Win the Greatest Victory

Read and **Think** (700 BC): **Isaiah 52:7-10** How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, *And* says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

Listen! Your watchmen lift up *their* voices, They shout joyfully together; For they will see with their own eyes When the LORD restores Zion. Break forth, shout joyfully together,

You waste places of Jerusalem; For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared His holy arm In the sight of all the nations, That all the ends of the earth may see The salvation of our God.

Answer and Pray:

- Image this: You are in a walled city and your army is away fighting a major battle. As you wait you wonder: Who is winning? What will happen to me if my army is defeated? ***The possibilities are terrifying!***
 - Then a runner is spotted on the horizon and coming toward the city; then, arriving, he shouts **the GOOD NEWS**: *the LORD has given us victory, our enemy is defeated!*
 - As we should give thanks for a great military victory, HOW MUCH MORE should we give thanks for Jesus' victory?
 - We should love God with all our **heart, soul, mind, and strength!**
 - We should constantly praise God for ♣loving us and ♣sending His Son to save us!
 - We should keep hungering to ♣know and ♣live God's word!
 - We should faithfully honor the LORD by giving Him the **first** and **best** of all we receive!
 - We should serve Him according to *His will for our lives!*
- Let us never forget that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are worthy of all that I just mentioned *and SO MUCH MORE!*

Day 15 – Sunday, 12/17 – He will Bring Awesome Blessings

Read and Think (700 BC): **Isaiah 61:1-2** [The preincarnate Jesus is speaking:] **The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,**

Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn...

Answer and Pray:

- Imagine being in a miserable prison – *needy, heartbroken, trapped, forgotten.*
 - For all who are **aware of their spiritual prison** and **long to be rescued**, the Messiah came to ♦ supply the greatest needs, ♦ heal the broken hearts, ♦ open the prison doors, and ♦ lead the captives into the freedom of forgiveness.
 - *We, by grace through faith in Jesus, have those **GREAT SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS!** This fallen world can pull us down *but let us always rejoice in the **SPIRITUAL** and **ETERNAL** blessings that belong to us through Jesus!**
- What is the “favorable year of the LORD”? That is *when the LORD is receiving all who are repenting and believing!* That is **now** and **will continue until Jesus returns!**
- What is “the day of vengeance of our God”? That is when Jesus returns to punish all who have rejected Him, that is, *all who “hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD” (Proverbs 1:29)!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, as we look back to Jesus’ birth and saving work, we are rejoicing in ♦ the fulfillment of Your promises and ♦ the eternal blessings that we have received – *by grace through faith in Jesus!*

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