

First Sunday in Advent – 2024

Saturday, 11/30 at 4:00 & Sunday, 12/1 at 9:00

Jesus Is Coming!

From an OT and NT Perspective!

Text: Jer. 33:14-16; 1 Thess. 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36 NAS 1995

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

Introduction: Dear friends: We are the good guys **BUT** *we are still in great need of Jesus!* Therefore, today, we will hear about His **first** and **second** comings!

As a few in the OT era anticipated His first coming, so we are among the few in the NT era who are anticipating His second coming!

An OT Prophecy of Jesus' Birth – Jeremiah 33:14-16: The LORD is speaking through Jeremiah, *about 600 years before the birth of Jesus:* ¹⁴ **'Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah.** ¹⁵ **In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth.** ¹⁶ **In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which [the city] will be called: the LORD is our righteousness.'**

- **"Behold, days are coming"** – A phrase typically pointing ahead to the coming Messiah.
- **"...the house of Israel and the house of Judah"** – OT people who believed in the coming Messiah.

- “...a righteous Branch of David” – Jesus, the most important descendant of David.
- “Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell in safety” – Both names refer to the Church, which includes all true believers in Jesus.
- “[the city] will be called: the LORD is our righteousness” – The city represents the congregation of the Lord, *clothed in the righteousness of the Lord*.
- What is important? Since we all desperately need a Savior, ***it’s so important that Jesus was promised!***

Thanksgiving for Faith and Love – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13:

Paul was concerned about the faith of the Thessalonians. Then, *hearing about their faith and love*, he wrote:

- ⁹ For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, ¹⁰ as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?
- ¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; ¹² and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you; ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.
- What is important? People in Thessalonica not only confessed their faith *BUT they lived their faith!* **Nothing is more important for ME than YOU knowing Jesus!** Please, don’t just say it, *but show it by helping others according to their needs!* Jesus said, “By this all men

will know that you are My disciples, **if you have love for one another**" (John 13:35).

Jesus' Prophecy of His Return – Luke 21:25-36: Jesus came and finished His saving work. Now, *by God's grace*, we trust alone in Jesus for heaven and *are anticipating His return!*

- **Many will be terrified:** ²⁵ **"There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay [fear] among nations, in perplexity [anxiety] at the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken."** // The Bible says this about the Christ: **Colossians 1:17** "...in Him all things hold together." **But**, when He is coming, *all things will begin falling apart!*
- **Jesus tells about His return:** ²⁷ **"Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory."** // Jesus will come "in the glory of His Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:38). *It will be terrifying for all who rejected Him!*
- **How believers should respond:** ²⁸ **"But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."** // When the universe begins to crumble, let us ♦ look up and ♦ smile *because our Savior is coming to take us home to His Father's house (John 14:2-3)!*
- **Jesus gives a hint about His return:** ²⁹ **Then He told them a parable: "Behold the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. ³¹ So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near."** // As a

tree can help us identify a season, so a comparison between the Bible and our present world can help us identify the nearness of Jesus' return.¹

- **Two things that will not pass away:** ³² **“Truly I say to you, this [unbelieving] generation will not pass away until all things take place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”** // Unbelievers will always be among us until the end of the world – so, let’s share with them God’s eternal truth, *which will endure for ever and ever!*
- **Jesus calls believers to remain ready:** ³⁴ **“Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation [excessive drinking] and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; ³⁵ for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. ³⁶ But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”** // On our own, *we will fall and be eternally separated from God. But, with God, all things are possible!* So, let us ➡ fully trust in Him, ➡ gladly follow His word, and, *by His grace,* ➡ remain ever-ready!
- **What is important?** **Heb. 10:39** **“We are not of those...”**

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, *TY for coming to save us! Now, as we await Your return, keep us ready and use us to be a blessing!*

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¹ **See these resources:** Brochure: [Reality Check](#); Six-Part Sermon Series: Are You Ready to Cross the Finish Line? – go here: BLC7500.com > Sermons > “Are You Ready to...”