

Advent 2023

Seeing Life from an Advent Perspective

December 3, 2023

Isaiah 64v1-9

Mark 13v24-37

24 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, **25** and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. **27** Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. **29** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. **31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **33** Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. **34** It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. **35** Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, **36** or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. **37** And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Advent = Coming (Second Coming!)

Baby steps!

What if we could learn to see life from an "Advent Perspective"?

Life - Death - Judgement - Eternity

The Exodus?

A People Who Wait?

"Advent itself is always BC!"
_from Tish Harrison Warren in *Advent*

"We do not speak great things, but we live them."
_ Cyprian recorded in *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church*

What's with the Mark reading?

Isaiah 64v1-3

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

Ideas for Observing Advent

The King is Coming

Mimetic vs Poietic
(The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self)

Books: *Advent* by Tish Harrison Warren; *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church* by Alan Kreider; *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self* by Carl R. Trueman

Podcast: The C4SO Podcast (They just did a series on Advent.)

Songs: Until These Tears Are Gone, Take Courage, O Come O Come Emmanuel, Seasons, Come Holy Spirit Come, Bright Star

Looking to Connect?: One of the staff would love to meet for a walk, on the phone, or for a beverage. To schedule a time please visit our website and click on the "Meet with Staff" button on the home page.

1 Corinthians 1v3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, **5** for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— **6** just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— **7** so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. **8** He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.