

Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

December 21, 2025 – Christmas: Already...But Not Yet

Main Passage: Isaiah 9:1–7; Luke 2:1–14; Revelation 21:1–7

Main Idea:

Christmas celebrates what God has already done in Christ—and strengthens our hope in what God has not yet finished.

Sermon Outline

1. Christmas Is a Season of Promise and Waiting

- Christmas is joyful, but it is also honest about longing
- *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* is not a song of cheer—it is a **cry for deliverance**
- God's people have always lived in the tension between:
 - Promises **made**
 - Promises **fulfilled**

Christ has already come — and Christ is not yet finished.

2. Israel Knew the Pain of Exile

- God's people were taken captive and removed from their land
- They lost:
 - Their freedom
 - Their identity
 - Their sense of God's nearness
- Even after returning to the land, they were:
 - Still under foreign rule
 - Still oppressed
 - Still waiting

Exile wasn't just physical — it was spiritual.

3. The Silence Made the Waiting Harder

- No prophet for 400 years
- God had promised redemption, yet heaven felt quiet
- The people cried out:
 - *Where is God?*
 - *Has He forgotten us?*

“God's people have always been a waiting people.” — Charles Spurgeon

4. God Answered the Cry in Luke 2

- God did not remain distant — **He came near**
- Jesus was born:
 - Not in a palace, but a stable
 - Not to kings, but shepherds
- For the first time since Ezekiel:
 - **The glory of the Lord appeared again**

“Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you...” (Luke 2:11)

The exile was ending — but not the way anyone expected.

5. Jesus Entered Our Exile

- Jesus did not remove suffering immediately
- He stepped **into** it
- He came to:
 - Bear our sin
 - Carry our shame
 - Redeem us from spiritual bondage

The Messiah did not rescue Israel from Rome — He rescued us from sin.

6. Christmas Is the “Already.”

- Salvation has come
- Forgiveness is available
- Eternal life is offered freely
- God has done what we could not do for ourselves

Salvation is received, not achieved.

7. Revelation 21 Is the “Not Yet.”

- God promises a future where:
 - Tears are wiped away
 - Death is no more
 - Pain and sorrow are gone
- God will dwell with His people **forever**

Christmas began the end of exile — Revelation completes it.

“O come, O come, Emmanuel.”