



Sermon Series: The Coming Savior

Sermon Title: Why Arrive Twice?

Date: December 5, 2021

For God Almighty - Justice and Mercy, are not balanced, they are both executed by Him at the same time with different individuals. Eternal separation for the non-believer and eternal relationship and life for the believer. Justice and mercy are executed appropriately, according to what God has spoken and through what God has done. **Exodus 33:19**

If the Question is: Why does Jesus have to Arrive Twice? The Answer is

A two stage advent best expresses God's mercy and love.

God provides the plan of salvation with the first Advent **Matthew 1:18-21**

God provides the plan of salvation with the first Advent

Of God's plan, this is the easiest step to wrap our brains around because it has already happened: The birth of Jesus, our salvation!

He is the Gift God gives to all who receive him by faith, knowing God does not want to be separated from us, but he will save his people from their sins.

We remember Christmas, the first Advent, but the real point of the Christmas moment happens about thirty three years later: **Luke 24:46-48**

The first Advent God provides the Plan of Salvation: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. It's a simple offer from God – believe and be saved. Reject and stay separated from God.

God Expands the plan of salvation

(what theologians call the Church Age) The time from when the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, to today, and up to the Lord's return when He comes to collect all the living believers in an event known as the rapture. For you and I it's a period of waiting and working.

The Wait: **2 Peter 3:4-9**. Fortunately, this period really an extension of the first advent; Just as Noah worked on the Ark and day after day passed by, the moment God released the rain – Noah was ready, safe in the ark.

Our present world is waiting for the final judgment of God where the scriptures tell us the heavens and earth will be destroyed and re-created through fire.

This waiting period demonstrates God's love for the lost. 2 Peter 3:9
Paul describes this waiting period in **1 Corinthians 15:58**

As believers we need to see the questions: *Will Jesus come soon?, Will the suffering of this world ever end?, Doesn't God care about my pain?* as the wrong, selfish, independent questions.

Instead, refocus our hearts on the mission: to Seek and Save the Lost. So that one more person can avoid spending all eternity in Hell; forever separated from God, from peace, from love, from enjoyment. Nothing but torment. God is giving everyone a chance, right up until the very last moment.

God completes the plan of salvation

Titus 2:11-14

If God's plan was to only arrive once; there would only be a very small number of people who came to faith in Jesus during the 40 days before he was ascended back into heaven. 500 people, 1000 people? Its unknown actually, BUT it would have been exceedingly finite.

A two stage advent best expresses God's mercy and love because one more person, five more people, thousands, millions, billions have come to faith and will come to faith in Jesus and have eternal life with him.

But on the last day, the day the Lord brings everything to an end – the day when the "Ark of Faith" has it's door closed, the roster of passengers is complete, and the fire rains down...

At that point, it's not the baby Jesus people will see, not the savior on the cross. The best description will can be read in Rev 19:11-16

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Does the truth of Jesus' imminent return affect your daily routine?**
- **What is it that prevents believers from witnessing to others about Jesus? How can believers who avoid witnessing to the lost overcome their hesitation?**
- **Why is Jesus taking so long to return? What would you say to someone who says if Jesus intended on coming back he would have done it already?**
- **Explain Jesus' different roles in the first and second Advent**
- **Read 2 Peter 3:4-9. What is the purpose of God sending fire?**