

The Arrival—1

Hope When It Feels Hopeless

Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming” or “arrival.”

- **Hope**
- **Peace**
- **Joy**
- **Love**

Hope deferred makes the heart sick ... Proverbs 13:12 NIV

מָשַׁח

***mashach*: deferred, to push aside or delay**

3 Truths About God’s Hope That Never Fails

1. Hope has a name.

“[Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21 NIV

- **Jesus is “our hope.” 1 Timothy 1:1**
- **Jesus is our “blessed hope.” Titus 2:13**
- **Jesus is our “living hope.” 1 Peter 1:3**

... God ... gave [Jesus] the name above all other names, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord ... Philippians 2:9-11 NLT

2. Hope has perfect timing.

Jesus Would Be Born

- **Of a woman (Genesis 3:15; fulfilled in Galatians 4:4)**
- **Of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; fulfilled in Matthew 1:22-23)**
- **In Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; fulfilled in Matthew 2:1)**

... when the right time came, God sent his Son ...

Galatians 4:4 NLT

Intertestamental Period

- 1) The Socratic method became a new way of learning.**
- 2) The Old Testament was translated into Greek.**
- 3) Alexander the Great conquered the world.**

For the First Time in History ...

- 1) People were encouraged to ask questions.**
- 2) Everyone had access to the Bible in a language they understood.**
- 3) The good news could spread in a common language through the Jewish people to the entire known world.**

3. Hope is coming again.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. Proverbs 13:12 NIV

TALK IT OVER

What is your experience with Advent? What are you hoping for as you celebrate this tradition this year?

Look at the three truths about God's hope. Which one feels the easiest to believe, and which one is the hardest to believe? Why do you think that is?

Read **Proverbs 13:12**. Is there an area of your life where it feels difficult to have hope? How does knowing Jesus influence your trust in God?