

The Coming of the King... Again

Advent: Week 4

Randy Hageman

Part of The King is Coming Christmas at Gateway 2023

December 17, 2023



Advent = *adventus* (Latin) = coming; arrival =

- **a four-week period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and the freedom he began to win for us through his life, death, and resurrection, and**
- **a looking ahead also to Christ's Second Coming as our King, when his victory will be complete.**

And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

—Hebrews 9:27-28 (NLT)

Advent proclaims that the celebration of Jesus' birth isn't just a past event but also a coming event, when he will judge and crush evil and bring his kingdom fully into our day and lives.

QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR KING AND HIS KINGDOM

1. When will Jesus return?

Jesus: So if someone tells you, "Look, the Messiah is out in the desert," don't bother to go & look. Or, "Look, he is hiding here," don't believe it!

—Matthew 24:26 (NLT)

Jesus: However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.

—Matthew 24:36 (NLT)

Jesus: ...The Father alone has the authority to set those dates & times, and they are not for you to know.

—Acts 1:7 (NLT)

No one knows when Jesus will return, but we do know we are in the "last days."

For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but he has now revealed him to you in these last days.

—1 Peter 1:18-20 (NLT)

2. How will we identify the event of Jesus' return with certainty?

"Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him—even those who pierced him..."

—Revelation 1:7 (NLT)

After saying this, (Jesus) was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-

robed men suddenly stood among them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

—Acts 1:9-11 (NLT)

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

—1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NLT)

Jesus: *And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.*

—Matthew 24:30-31 (NLT)

The events of his coming will be unmistakable because they will be so universal and awe-inspiring, and we will see, hear, and feel it happening around us.

3. What will happen at his return?

God’s Kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was

the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

—Revelation 19:11-16 (NLT)

The devil himself will be captured and punished.

Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.... There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

—Revelation 20:10 (NLT)

Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

—Revelation 20:14-15 (NLT)

The Final Judgment will be tragic for those who chose not to trust in Christ.

The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

—2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

We're here to bring people to God because He loves them and doesn't want them destroyed.

Those who refuse to accept or even choose to be ambivalent about God's incredible offer of salvation through Christ are making a choice with tragic consequences.

...God elevated (Christ Jesus) to the place of highest

honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

—Philippians 2:9-11 (NLT)

Everyone on earth and *ultimately in hell* will bow to Jesus, King of God's Kingdom, and will confess that Jesus is Lord, whether they want to or not.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

—Revelation 21:1-2 (NLT)

Christ will redeem not just people but all of God's creation.

Those who have gotten glimpses of heaven have told us there are no words to describe the wonder and awe of God's restoration of His Creation.

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children."

—Revelation 21:3-7 (NLT)

Christmas is really an invitation from God for us to invite the

Christ child into our lives as King, Lord and Savior, to initiate the beginnings of His Kingdom in us, so that He can grow us and use us to fight for the Kingdom and bring more and more people to it.

Next Week (Christmas Eve): *The Birth of the King!*

No AM Services Next week

Candelight Christmas Eve Services at 3, 5 or 11 PM

(Communion at 11PM)

Christ's First Advent	Christ's Second Advent
Christ's first advent was prophesied by prophets	Christ's second advent was prophesied by prophets and Christ himself
Christ was prophesied to be despised and rejected by people (Isaiah 53:3)	Christ will return to be worshiped by all (Philippians 2:9; Revelation 5:13; Psalms 150:6)
Christ was miraculously conceived (Luke 1:35)	Christ will miraculously return (Matthew 24:30-31; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
Christ came as a newborn baby (Luke 2:7)	Christ will return as a conquering King (Revelation 19:11-16)
Christ came in secret – virtually no one knew of his coming	Christ will return visible and known to all (Matthew 24:30)
Christ came in weakness as a baby (Luke 2:16)	Christ will return in power as King (Philippians 2:9-11)
Christ came and submitted himself to human authority (Luke 2:51)	Christ will return and submit to no one on earth (Revelation 19:6)
Christ came and was known simply as the carpenter's son (Luke 4:22)	Christ will return and be known in all his glory (Revelation 19:16)
Christ came into a world marked with sorrows and sin	Christ will return to a world in which there will be no more tears, death, suffering, crying or pain (Revelation 21:4)
Christ came with meekness, riding on a donkey (Matthew 21:1-5)	Christ will return with power on a white horse (Revelation 19:11-16)
Christ came to bring peace to the human heart (Ephesians 2:13-19; Romans 5:1)	Christ will return to bring peace to the entire world (Isaiah 9:6-7; Zechariah 9:10)
Christ came, comforting the oppressed, healing the blind, preaching good news, and ministering to the hurting, sick and broken-hearted (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18)	Christ will return and destroy all evil and suffering (Isaiah 63:3-4; Revelation 19:15)
Christ came and the government was in the hands of men (Herod the Great, the Romans, etc.)	Christ will return and the government will rest on his shoulders (Isaiah 9:6-7)
Christ came to be the Savior of Sinners (Matthew 1:21)	Christ will return to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16)
Christ came and only a select handful of his followers witnessed his glory (Matthew 17:1-6)	Christ will return and all will witness his glory (Philippians 2:9-11)

Christ came into Jerusalem hailed as King, but they crucified him (Matthew 21:1-11; Matthew 27:32-44)	Christ will return to the New Jerusalem as King, and all will bow down to him (Revelation 21)
Christ came and was rejected by the Jewish people (John 1:11)	Christ will return to be received by the Jewish people (Zechariah 12:10-11; Romans 11:25-28; Matthew 23:39)
Christ came and allowed himself to be beaten, spit upon and crucified on a cross (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:30-31)	Christ will return leading his armies into battle (Colossians 2:15; Revelation 11-16)
Christ came and was killed by his enemies (Matthew 27:20-25)	Christ will return and punish his enemies (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 19:21)
Christ came to bear our sins and sorrows (Isaiah 53:4)	Christ will return to be glorified by all (Isaiah 9:6-7)
Christ came and was confronted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11)	Christ will return and imprison Satan to eternal punishment (Revelation 20:10)
Christ came and his death/resurrection signaled the beginning of the end of Satan, but Satan continues to wreak havoc	Christ will return and vanquish Satan and cast him forever into the fiery lake of burning sulfur (Revelation 20:10)
Christ came to die (Matthew 20:28)	Christ will return to rule and reign
Christ came and wore a crown of thorns (Matthew 27:29)	Christ will return wearing a crown of power and glory
Christ left on the clouds, ascending to heaven, seen only by his followers (Acts 1:9)	Christ will return in the clouds, seen by all, with a shout of the archangel and the trumpet call of God (Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Matthew 24:30-31)
Christ came to give birth to the Church (Matthew 16:18)	Christ will return to marry his bride, the Church (Revelation 21:2)
Christ came, and the Kingdom of God was a spiritual kingdom that existed only in Christ fully and partially in those who welcomed him in	Christ will return and the Kingdom of God will be a physical kingdom that fully exists on earth