



Christmas Advent **Sermon 2**

***“Lights of Christmas or
the Light of Jesus?”***

Sermon Study Guide Questions
December 15th, 2019

Opening:

We are in the second of our 4 Part Series on Advent. Advent means the arrival of someone special, someone notable. The arrival of Jesus to Planet Earth certainly meets that definition. Last week, we opened up the series speaking of the “Hope” that Jesus’ Advent/arrival brings to the world. This morning we learn about the “Light” that Jesus’s Advent brings to the world.

The Setting

The setting for Isaiah’s writing of this prophecy was a dark time in Israel’s history. God’s chosen and handpicked nation was living in darkness because of their **disobedience** and **unbelief**. God had removed His **hand** and His **presence** from Israel, and the children of Israel were living in 400 years of darkness that comes from life without God. The pagan nation **Assyria** had conquered and dispersed the 10 Northern Tribes of Israel and the people who remained were called Samaritans. It is in this dark setting that Isaiah brings this amazing prophecy to Israel.

The Prophecy

A prophecy is a truth that is fulfilled in the future. Some of the Old Testaments prophecies have a dual fulfillment which includes events fulfilled shortly after they were written and a future fulfillment.

Read the passages given and write down the prophecies?

- **Isaiah 9:1-5**

- **Isaiah 9:6**

- What names are given to the Messiah from these verses?
- Isaiah 9:7

The Arrival/Advent

In the Gospel written by Matthew, we see references to the fulfillment of these very words prophesied by Isaiah.

- Jesus had already been born and was 30 years old.
- Jesus had just been baptized and God had spoken from heaven declaring that Jesus was His beloved Son.
- Jesus went into the wilderness and was tempted by the devil over a 40-day period.

Write down the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies found in the gospels?

- Matthew 4:12-16

- **Matthew 4:17**

- **John 1:1-5**

The Result

- **John 1:6-8**

We, like John the Baptist, are not the source of God's light; we merely reflect that light. Jesus Christ is the true Light; he helps us see our way to God and shows us how to walk in that way. But Christ has chosen to reflect his light through his followers to an unbelieving world, perhaps because unbelievers are not able to bear the full blazing glory of his light, firsthand. The word witness indicates our role as reflectors of Christ's light. We are never to present ourselves as the light to others, but are always to point them to Christ, the Light.

- Why is the Christmas Season a time when people are down and prone to being depressed?

- We know from the prophecies and fulfillments that Jesus is the Light of the world. We are to continue to reflect His Light so that others will see the Hope of Christ Jesus. How are you as a believer reflecting His Light? How can you know if you are reflecting Jesus?

The “**Lights of Christmas**” are intended to reflect and point to “**the Light of Jesus.**”

- Faith in Jesus Christ brings His light to our lives and results in the forgiveness of our sins – resulting in eternal life.
- The Light of Jesus exposes the cause of most, if not all, our problems in this life – SIN
- But in that day (the time of the first Advent), and in the centuries that have come since, **many have rejected the light of Jesus Christ.**

John 1:9-13

- Though many would not receive the light, all who did receive the light became children of God. Why would people reject Jesus?

- Although Christ created the world, the people he created didn't recognize him. Even the people chosen by God to prepare the rest of the world for the Messiah rejected him, although the entire Old Testament pointed to his coming. Though people were exposed to the light, the miracles, the dead coming back alive which demonstrated that Jesus was over creation – they rejected the promised one.

One More Result

- **Having received the light, we can walk in the light. What does it mean to “walk in the light”? (1 John 1:5-9)**
- What offer has God made to each of us?

Closing

- It is Jesus who came as the light and who lives within His people by His Holy Spirit. How can I respond to the offer to have Jesus as the **light of my life?**

Notes:

CrossRoads of Arlington
Sermon Study Guide

The Advent

For information or questions, contact Gene-o Parenica
geneo1958@gmail.com 817-501-0212