

JESUS' ADVENT

The word "Advent" means 'Coming' in Latin. Jesus' Advent is the coming of Jesus into the world as a human being. Christians use the December days up to the 25th to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christ's birth. The name "Christmas" wasn't used of the 25th December until the 9th century and nowhere in the Scriptures are Christians told to celebrate Jesus' birthday or to remember Him specifically on that date. The exact night Jesus was born wasn't recorded but some Jews believe that He was born at Easter when the shepherds were out on the hillside watching over their flocks during lambing season. What a surprise a choir of angels with good news gave them!

Why would we talk about Jesus coming into the world when every person is born into the world? Jesus as the sinless Son of God existed in eternity past and will still exist in eternity future. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God Himself declared that a Saviour would come to fix the sin problem that Adam and Eve could not. (Genesis 3:15)

From that time on for the next 56 generations God sent prophets to teach the people about Himself, His great love for them and how He expected them to live. There were hundreds of predictions made about the coming Saviour, mostly in the Old Testament. They covered who His ancestors would be, His birth, His character and ministry, and aspects of His death, resurrection and ascension. Jesus' name was given by an angel to Joseph, the fiancé of Mary, while Joseph was considering what to do about Mary's apparent unfaithfulness to him.

One well known prediction by Isaiah in 9:6 of his book says: “For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders, and he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” These are only a few of the names to be given to the Lord Jesus. In Isaiah 7:14 God’s Son was to be called Immanuel, meaning “God is with us.” O COME, O COME, IMMANUEL:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 1:</u></p> <p>O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>REFRAIN:</u></p> <p>Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel. O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>REFRAIN:</u></p> <p>Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel. O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 3:</u></p> <p>O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind. Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 2:</u></p> <p>O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar! Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>REFRAIN:</u></p> <p>Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel. O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.</p>

Translator: J. M. Neale (1851)

The name 'Mighty God' is expressed in Psalm 90:2 - "Before the mountains were born
Or before You had given birth to the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are [the eternal] God."

Jesus had the dual nature of being both fully human and fully divine. He was also recognized as the "Son of David" (Matthew 20:30) by two blind men begging Jesus to heal them. In Mark 8:29 the Lord Jesus asked His disciples who people thought Jesus was. They gave several answers but when Jesus asked who they thought He was, Peter boldly said: "You are the Messiah." And in John 4:42 the Samaritan villagers who had spent two days with the Lord Jesus being taught by Him witnessed that Jesus was "indeed the Saviour of the world." SAVIOUR, THY DYING LOVE:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 1:</u> Saviour, Thy dying love Thou gavest me, Nor should I aught withhold, Dear Lord, from Thee: In love my soul would bow, My heart fulfill its vow, Some off'ring bring Thee now, Something for Thee.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 3:</u> Give me a faithful heart, Likeness to Thee, That each departing day Henceforth may see Some work of love begun, Some deed of kindness done, Some wand'rer sought and won, Something for Thee.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 2:</u> At the blest mercy seat, Pleading for me, My feeble faith looks up, Jesus, to Thee: Help me the cross to bear, Thy wondrous love declare, Some song to raise, or pray'r, Something for Thee.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 4:</u> All that I am and have, Thy gifts so free, In joy, in grief, thro' life, Dear Lord, for Thee! And when Thy face I see, My ransom'd soul shall be, Thro' all eternity, Something for Thee.</p>

Author: S. Dryden Phelps (1862)

Of course, all those predictions about the coming Messiah are of little value to the person who does not accept them by faith as being true of the Lord Jesus. If you don't already have a close personal relationship with the Lord Jesus remember that God loves you, and if you have not done so, sincerely admit that you are a sinner; believe that Jesus is the virgin born, sinless Son of God, who died for the sins of the world, was buried and raised from the dead; ask Him to forgive your sins, cleanse you, come into your heart and be your Saviour; then tell someone that you have done this.

Jesus said in John 14:6 – “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” And in John 15:14 Jesus taught: “You are my friends if you do what I command. WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 1:</u></p> <p>What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 3:</u></p> <p>Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge-- take it to the Lord in prayer! Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 2:</u></p> <p>Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!</p>	

Author: Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1855)

There are more names for the Lord Jesus but we will finish with 2 Corinthians 9:15

“Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!” OH, HOW I LOVE JESUS:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 1:</u></p> <p>There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth; it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>REFRAIN:</u></p> <p>O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>REFRAIN:</u></p> <p>O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 3:</u></p> <p>It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe; who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VERSE 2:</u></p> <p>It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free; it tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>REFRAIN:</u></p> <p>O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!</p>

Author (refrain): Anonymous; Author (verses): Frederick Whitfield

Prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, we are so grateful that Jesus is our Saviour. Help us to be faithful and true to you all the days of our lives and to seek out opportunities to help others find Him as their Saviour too. Amen.