

Advent

Christmas is about Revealing Jesus Christ.

Adventus (Latin) = coming: the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event

tradition: 1st coming, personal coming, 2nd coming

(Rev 4:8) ⁸The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”

(Rev 1:8) ⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

one of God’s names, Messianic Descriptor (will be completely fulfilled)

Parousia (Greek) = coming: presence, arrival, official visit

ex: Elders of city going out to meet conquering King

used for 2nd coming – significant early church focus

not rapture (us), not antichrist (devil), His return

(Ac 1:9-11) ⁹Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

angels announced next significant historical event

because of OT prophecy, Israel eagerly looked for Christ’s coming

Wise Men from east (Magi ~ astronomers) (Mt 2:1) - Daniel 9 prophecy

(70 weeks Babylonian calendar– command to rebuild Jerusalem to triumphal entry)

We’re to look for His return in the same way

(Heb 9:28) ²⁸so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

(Heb 12:1-2) let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,

What is the joy set before us for which we endure our cross?

(1Th 2:19) ¹⁹For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

His return is the joy set before us!

(Heb 10:35-37) ³⁵Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ⁷“For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

His return is the promise we endure for.

Why focus on His 2nd coming at Christmas?

Because He didn't stay a baby (full Messianic revelation)

His 2nd coming/Christmas is more about Earth than Heaven

redeemed from corruption (Rom 8:19-25)

(Lk 2:13-14) ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

(Mt 1:23) ²³“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” **(still wants that garden)**

(Lk 1:33) ³³“And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Where will Christ's seat of government be? (Isa 24:23, Micah 4:1-7)

(Zec 14:16) ¹⁶And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Tabernacles is about 2nd coming (Peter ~ Mk 9:5)

His 2nd coming will be celebrated annually all millennium

(1Jn 3:2) ²Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1Th 4:16-18) ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Comforting words:

We shall be like Him.

We shall always be with Him. (Earth?)

Bible's last chapter:

(Rev 22:7) ⁷“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.” **(prepared for His coming ~ Mt 25)**

(Rev 22:12) ¹²“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

(Rev 22:17) ¹⁷And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

(talking to Christ, then world)

(Rev 22:20) ²⁰He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!