

Dr. Ron Armstrong • December 5, 2021
Advent: Get Ready and Start With Hope

Matthew 12:17 This fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah concerning him:

¹⁸ “Look at my Servant. See my Chosen One. He is my beloved, in whom my soul delights. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will judge the nations.

¹⁹ He does not fight nor shout; he does not raise his voice!

²⁰ He does not crush the weak or quench the smallest hope; he will end all conflict with his final victory,

²¹ And his name shall be the hope of all the world.”

A. Get ready.

1. Not all Christian traditions use the term Advent, but they all celebrate it. It means “arrival” in three ways: manger, heart, and sky.

a. The birth of Jesus.

b. Accepting Jesus into your heart.

c. And the return of Jesus. (Second coming.)

2. Advent starts looking a little frantic for a lot of people as Christmas gets closer. It’s a ton of preparation.

3. But our Christmas purpose is easily sidetracked. Trees, presents, parties, and plays, or a savior? It’s like we forgot the baby at the hospital.

4. Advent is about getting spiritually ready. We’re here to get ready for the arrival.

B. Where should we start? Start with hope.

1. Israel had hoped for a long time. So long in fact, a lot of people had probably given up.

2. Maybe we don’t find hope; maybe we allow hope. It’s there, but our fear of disappointment causes us to push it away.

3. What are you hoping for? Not wishing for, but I mean really hoping for? Let’s start there.

Luke 2:1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

² (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.