

November 27, 2022

The First Sunday of Advent

Mathew 24:36-44

Wow, here we are again staring at four weeks of Advent. Where did this year go? Advent creates great expectation of the birth of Our Saviour. This season of the year is filled with watching, expectation and hopefully learning. At this time of the year I often think of the Roman God Janus. They often depict him with two faces. One that is looking back at the past year and one face that is looking into the future.

Advent is kind of like that in many ways. As Christians we pour over the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. The Old Testament prophets and the Psalms are read in great abundance. They all point to the coming of the Messiah. These prophecies are fulfilled to the fullest with the coming of a child. The One who will be the Prince of Peace and the One who will lead His people back to God.

The lens that we use to read the prophecies of the past should be used to read our current events! We are much more fortunate than those in

the time of Noah. They knew nothing about the coming flood. It seemed that Noah was the only one who had information about what was to follow. We have the information for our days now. Jesus tells us in the scriptures. He is coming back! Do any of us use this information to prepare?

In order to prepare, if you are so inclined, we are told to watch and be vigilant. "Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming" Herod had no clue when or where the Christ Child would be born. It took three wise men from Persia to fill in the details for him. Herod had his suspicions because of the rumors he heard. The Son of Man came at an unexpected hour 2026 years ago. Between you and I, it might be similar the next time.

Speaking about prophecies in our day. I have been following some events in Israel. They are getting ready to build the third temple. They supposedly have blessed the instruments for the temple. The tenth red heffer has been born. The Jews say and believe that when the third temple is built the messiah will appear. I think that this will be great. Unfortunately, I have so many questions. Is the Messiah only for the Jews and are the rest of us included in this? Will the Messiah be just human? What exactly is the Messiah going to do here? Will the Messiah be a Jew, Christian or Moslem? Does the Messiah really need a temple or can he come without one?

With each Advent I always try to learn something. Either about myself and my relationship with the Lord. Try to look at the current

conditions of our world and those around me with fresh eyes. New perspectives are a good thing. Advent is an awakening of the human spirit for greater and better times. It is filled with hope. Our human souls yearn to feel and experience the Divine Presence in our world and our lives. We wish to draw closer to the Divine, but the Divine draws closer to us on the 25th. This is what we wait for on Christmas.

It is very hard to watch and not expect to see signs. Jesus tells us not to look for signs. We are just to watch. God is in control and Jesus will return at the appropriate time. Not even Jesus or the angels in heaven know His return. Only God knows. Just keep watching and preparing yourself. Have a great week, Pastor D