

The Coming Reign of Christ

Promise: Life may not seem fair, but it will be in the end

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Jeremiah 33:14-15; Ps 25:1-9; 1 Thes 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

(First Sunday in Advent, 11/28/21)

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. — v. 15

Lead In – This morning we embark on a New Church Year with the Season of Advent. And it occurs to me as the culture around us moves immediately from Thanksgiving to Christmas, that there are a lot of Advent themes that get lost in the shuffle, and that the important lessons of the Season are not well understood. Even the word *advent* serves as an example. I think our First Lesson can get us off to a good start in this regard...

I. What Is the Advent Season All About?

- A. For believers, the coming of the Lord to us...
- B. Anticipation is making me late is keeping me...
- C. Did the prophets know there would be 2 advents?

II. The First Advent Has Come Quite Unexpectedly

- A. Consider Zechariah's prophecy at the birth of JB...
- B. Consider Jesus' words about himself...
- C. Even Jesus' first disciples caught off guard...

III. Jeremiah Helping with Old Testament Themes

- A. The promise to house of Israel and house of Judah...
- B. The righteous branch to spring up for David...
- C. Executing justice and righteousness in the land...

Parting Shot – One of the not so fun lessons to teach our children when they insist something isn't fair is the line we often use, "life is not fair." And especially in this age that is the truth. There are miscarriages of justice every day. Wrongdoers and violators of the law often go undetected, and then when apprehended they sometimes get off scot-free. It would all be so discouraging were there not the promise of the final advent of our Lord! At his coming at the end of the age we are told that all will be put right. What a relief! Right? Well, it depends. We need to be put right to be able to survive in an age of justice and righteousness. And that my friends is what the first advent is all about with Jesus' death and righteousness, and what we need to be about in anticipation, namely, ongoing repentance...

advent: the arrival or coming of something.

Re 22:7 And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.

Re 22:12 Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

Re 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (*Maranatha is Aramaic for "Come, our Lord!"*)

Jeremiah 33:14-15 ESV

The Lord's Eternal Covenant with David

¹⁴"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Lk 1:67 And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying... (*go to page 134 in the LBW*)

Mt 4:12-17 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Ac 1:6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Ge 49:8-10 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Is 11:1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. (*The Lord's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7*)

Ac 17:30-31 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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