

He Came, He Will Come Again

Text: Revelation 1. 4, 8, 17–18

Theme: Jesus came into the world to save sinners and He will return for those He's saved

Introduction – There was a man, a good and decent fellow

- he was kind to his family, upright in dealing with others
- however, he just didn't...couldn't believe in the Incarnation: God become man
- didn't make sense and wouldn't pretend otherwise
- just couldn't swallow the Jesus story, God coming to earth as a man

Told his wife he was sorry, but at least he was honest about it

- when asked to join her on Christmas Eve for the church service, he declined
- he didn't want to prove a hypocrite, but he would wait up for them
- he stayed and they left to the midnight service

Heavy snow began to fall shortly after they left

- the man went to the window to watch flurries get worse and heavier
- finally, went back to comfy chair in front of fireplace

Soon, startled by thudding noise...and another...and then another

- first, nearly got angry: some troublemakers throwing snowballs at his house
- went to front window only to discover a flock of small birds huddled miserably in snow storm
- caught and now seeming desperate for shelter; some had flown into large front window

Family lived on a farm & man knew if he opened up barn, birds would seek warmth & shelter

- bundled himself up and went outside
- opened the barn doors wide, turned on light so birds would see the way into safety
- but the birds didn't go

Thinking quickly, he ran into house, got bread crumbs, sprinkled liberally on ground

- made trail from house to barn, hoping to entice the frail creatures in to warmth
- heavy trail of crumbs, all way into yellow-light of barn
- yet the birds ignored the crumbs

Desperate to try something that worked, man began trying to herd small creatures to barn

- that failed; scattered and then return
- he was actually able to pick up 2-3 of the nearly frozen birds and take them to barn
- but others simply would not follow

Thought finally came to him:

- if only I could become a bird, I could mingle with them, speak to them, they'd understand
- I could tell them not to be afraid, show them the way to safety
- if I was one of them, I could save them

It was at that moment that the bells of the country church, only 2 miles distant, began to ring

- no sooner had the sounds reached his ears than the man fell to his knees
- he immediately realized, for all his prideful, stubborn unbelief, the truth of Christmas
- the Incarnation was God looking upon us, His poor creatures

- we needed rescuing, saving...we needed a Savior
- and we needed one just like us to do so

That's what this day is all about...recognizing our great need and God's great provision

- God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son...
- saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world
- let's consider how that came to be & why it's so necessary to look beyond first advent

First, let's think about some of...

I. THE PROPHECIES OF HIS COMING

- we could spend better part of the day pouring over Old & New Testaments
- seeing one prophecy after another foretelling His coming

1. Genesis 3.15

- *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*
- we don't know how long first man & woman were in garden before they sinned
- but we know what God foretold came about immediately: day you eat of it, you shall die
- this death was more than just physical death, however
- fellowship with God: broken
- spiritual relationship: dead, now going to be at war
- but praise God, He is gracious and merciful: He foretold of a Deliverer to come
- He would be like us, suffer like us, even die like us, but His death would do something greater
- it would set us free
- so, this One, this Messiah sent from God must come

2. Deuteronomy 18.15

- *The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—*
- God's people were, at times, a stubborn and sinful lot
- God raised up a great prophet—Moses—to lead them from their slavery
- but a greater prophet than Moses would be raised up to deliver from slavery as well
- this exodus was not to a new land but to a whole new life: eternal life
- and when He came, people would need to listen to Him
- *"This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; listen to Him"*

3. Isaiah 28.16; 55.4

- *therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'*
- *Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.*
- Jesus would fulfill this foretelling of the suffering and rejection of God's Christ
- He would be the stone, rejected, yet providing the sure foundation of righteousness
- whoever believes will... live in Him

4. Foretold the time

- *I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel...*

(Numbers 24:17 ESV)

- Daniel 9 speaks of the time of this Deliverer's coming as well
- the language is clear, if one would simply have been watching for the signs from God's hand

5. His divinity was also foretold

- *I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.* (Psalm 2:7 ESV)
- *Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him.* (Psalm 45:6–7, 11 ESV)
- *He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'* And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. (Psalm 89:26–27 ESV)

6. The place where He would be born was given as well

- *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.* (Micah 5:2 ESV)

7. So many others as well

- His mission & office were foretold by prophets of old
- *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. In 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.'* (Jeremiah 33:15–16 ESV)
- Isaiah 7.14 tells us He would be born of a virgin
- Jeremiah 23.5 gives the importance of His family tree: of the line of David
- He would be preceded in His coming by one like Elijah—Malachi 4.5–6
- A messenger would prepare the way for His arrival as well—Malachi 3.1

As mentioned, we could be here for several hours simply looking to God's Word

- He did not leave us clueless as to who His Deliverer would be
- *but now, let's take a look at...*

II. THE PERSON OF HIS COMING

- every description of Jesus Christ is important
- it tells us who He is, His character, His attributes, His very being

1. Son of man

- Daniel described Him as such
- *"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.* (Daniel 7:13–14 ESV)

- then, in the New Testament Gospels, He is seen to fulfill that title
- *And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going.*
(John 12:32–35 ESV)

2. Son of God

- in His coming and in His life, Jesus was the very Son of God
- this must be believed or one cannot truly be saved, be a Christian at all
- *If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*
(1 John 5:9–12 ESV)

3. Greater than Moses

- the prophetic voice which Moses himself used to foretell this coming One, came true
- *Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.*
(Hebrews 3:5–6 ESV)
- this makes Jesus the perfect Prophet

4. Greater than Aaron

- *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*
(Hebrews 4:14–16 ESV)
- And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;
(Hebrews 5:4–5 ESV)
- this makes Jesus the perfect Priest

5. Greater than David

- *from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”*
(2 Samuel 7:11–12, 16 ESV)
- and this came about, just as God had said it would

- *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*

(Luke 1:32–33 ESV)

- this makes Jesus the perfect King

6. Savior, Deliverer, Messiah

- *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*

(Matthew 1:21 ESV)

- *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”*
(which means, *God with us*).

(Matthew 1:23 ESV)

Could we not dwell here longer, my brothers and sisters?

- to meditate upon who Jesus is on the day we celebrate His first advent...
- it ought to cause your hearts to swell large with adoration
- *but, we must move one to consider...*

III. THE POWER OF HIS COMING

- is it not true and fascinating that the Jews had received God’s Words
- they had the prophecies...every one of them which told of this One’s coming
- all they had to do was look to the signs and know He had come & was among them
- but the Jews lost sight of what God had said
- instead, they, like a self-centered child on Christmas morning, only wants his or her own toys
- they wanted a king, but not a Savior
- they wanted a deliverer, but only through politics and military might
- they failed because they only saw with their own eyes, blinded by self and sin
- Charles Spurgeon once said:
- we must see with the eye of faith, for in that lowly manger in Bethlehem came great power
- those little hands will one day grasp the scepter of universal empire;
- those little arms will one day grapple with the monster ‘Death’, and destroy it;
- those little feet shall tread on the serpent’s neck, and crush that old deceiver’s head;
- yes, and that little tongue, which has not yet learned to articulate a word, shall, before long, pour from his sweet lips such streams of eloquence as shall fertilize the minds of the whole human race, and infuse his teaching into the literature of the world;
- and again a little while, and that tongue shall pronounce the judgments of heaven on the destinies of all mankind.
- we have all thought it wonderful that the God of glory should stoop so low;
- but we shall one day think it more wonderful that the Man of sorrows should be exalted so high.
- Earth could find no place too base for him; heaven will scarcely find a place lofty enough for him.

Our time is come and nearly gone, so I’ll not wax long on this; we’ll see more in the New Year as we continue in Revelation, far more about...

IV. THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING AGAIN

- it was prophesied that He would come the first time
- but there are actually far more prophecies in the Old Testament about Second Coming than 1st

- Jesus Himself would teach His disciples this truth
- *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”* Thomas said to him, *“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”* Jesus said to him, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

(John 14:1–6 ESV)

- yet, even with all this, even His own disciples needed to be told that He would come again
- *“...as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’”*

(Acts 1:9–11 ESV)

- it’s then we know, because of who God is & who Jesus is, that His second coming is certain
- it’s as certain as the one we now celebrate for the 2,022nd time is God
- God says:
- *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”*

(Revelation 1:8 ESV)

- then the Son says:
- *“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*

(Revelation 22:12–13 ESV)

- oh, and won’t that return be glorious for all who love Him, trust Him, believe upon Him?
- *“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”*

(Revelation 19:11–16 ESV)

Conclusion – The Light of Life

- *In him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

(John 1:4 ESV)

- *“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”*

(John 8:12 ESV)

Life

- it’s what Jesus came to bring us
- we’re dead in our sin, living in bondage to our sinful desires, all in darkness
- but Jesus is the Light of the world, come to make you see
- how fitting—He came into world like any of us
- newborn infant—the beginning of life on this earth
- but this Light grew to be a man and this Light got Him killed by His own people

- but this Light could not stay hidden by Satan's schemes or darkness of death
- He burst forth in marvelous light on the Resurrection Sunday morning, raised to new life
- it is this life He offers to you and to me
- all you need do is receive it
- and once you receive it, all you need do is let that light shine before men