

JOY TO THE WORLD

Inductive Study for Advent

ADVENT – a time to reflect upon and celebrate the wonder of Jesus, God the Son, born into the world to save us; but also, look forward to His return when He shall judge the earth and bring to completion the salvation of those who are waiting for Him.

In this study we will look more closely at both advents of Jesus and how we are to respond and live in light of them.

THE LORD IS COME

READ Psalm 98:1-3 (Scripture passages at the back of the study):

- circle every reference to the *LORD / GOD* (including pronouns).
- underline every *action* of the LORD.

98:1 – What are we called to do? Why?

Who alone then can save us?

98:2a – What has the LORD *made known*?

98:2b – What has the LORD *revealed*? Where?

98:3a – What has the LORD *remembered*? To whom?

98:3b – What is the result of God's faithfulness?

READ Luke 2:25-33:

- circle every reference to *Simeon* (including pronouns and synonyms).
- mark with a cross every reference to *Jesus* (including pronouns and synonyms).

2:25 – What do we learn about Simeon?

2:26 – What had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit?

2:27-32 – What did Simeon see when he saw Jesus (v30-32)?

2:33 – How did Jesus's father and mother respond?

READ John 3:16-18 and:

- circle every reference to *God* (including pronouns).
- underline every reference to *believe(s) / believed*.

BELIEVE (*pisteuō*) Strong's G4100 – To place confidence in, to entrust one's spiritual well-being to Christ.

3:16 – How did God love the world? Why?

3:17 – Why did God send His Son into the world?

3:18 – What is only true of those who believe in Jesus, the Son of God?

READ Romans 3:21-26:

- circle every reference to *righteousness* (including pronouns).
- underline every reference to *faith / believe*.

3:21-22a – What has now been *manifested / revealed*?

3:22b-23 – Why do we need it?

3:24-25a – How are we *justified*?

JUSTIFIED – Those who through faith in Jesus have had their sins forgiven and been credited by God the Father with the perfect righteousness of His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. What a glorious exchange!

PROPITIATION – The death of Jesus on the cross for our sins, enduring the wrath of God that we deserved, so that all who trust in Him could be delivered from it.

3:25b-26 – Why did God do it this way?

LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING

Jesus – the long-awaited Saviour-King, who lived and died to save us, delivering all who trust in Him from the power of sin, and death and Satan.

THE RETURN OF THE KING

READ Psalm 98:4-9 and:

- circle every reference to the *LORD* (including pronouns and synonyms).
- underline every reference to *singing* (including synonyms).

98:4-6 – How are we to worship the LORD who saved us?

98:7-8 – How is creation summoned to join with us in praise to the LORD?

98:9a – Why else are we to praise the LORD?

98:9b – How will He judge the world?

READ Acts 17:30-31:

REPENT (*metanoēō*) Strong's G3340 – To change one's mind, to feel sorry that you have sinned against God and offended Him.

17:30 – What does God command all people to do?

17:31a – Why?

17:31b – How has God given assurance to all of this?

READ 2 Peter 3:8-13 and:

- circle every reference to *day*.
- underline every reference to *waiting*.

3:8 – What one fact should not be overlooked?

3:9 – Why is the LORD not slow to fulfil His promise?

3:10 – How will the day of the Lord come for those who don't repent?

What will happen on that day?

3:11-12 – What kind of lives are we who are *waiting* for and *hastening* that day to live?

3:13 – What are we waiting for?

READ Revelation 20:11-15 (a prophecy about the final judgement to come) and:

- circle every reference to *books*.
- underline every reference to *book / book of life*.

20:11 – Where is Jesus the Judge seated? What do we learn about Him?

20:12a – Who are standing before the throne?

20:12a – What will be opened?

20:12b – What *book* will also be opened?

20:12c-13 – How will the dead be judged?

20:14 – What is the second death?

HE RULES THE WORLD WITH TRUTH AND GRACE

Jesus will return and judge the world. The Righteous King of all the earth who will punish eternally all who refused to receive Him as their King but lead into fullness of joy in His presence forever all who lived waiting for and hastening the Day of His coming.

And so, until that Day dawns, we who are Christ's, servants of the King, are to be fervent in love, proclaiming in word and deed the Good News of Christ's victory that those who are lost may see their need of Jesus, turn from their sin, and find salvation in Him.

RESPOND:

- **Have you received Jesus as your King?** Put your confidence in Him to save you? If not, why not do so today. Tell Jesus you are sorry for your sins and trusting in Him to save you.
- **How did you come to trust in Christ?** What is your story? How has God been changing you since that day? Pray for courage and opportunities to share the Good News of Christ's victory and to be filled with the love of Christ to shine for Him in the contexts where He has placed you.
- **Sing praise to the LORD** - why not sing praise to the LORD for His salvation. Below is the well-known carol by *Issac Watts (1719) – Joy to the world! the Lord is come!* that you could sing. It doesn't matter if you are tuneful or not!! This carol is based on Psalm 98 that we looked at earlier:

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

PSALM 98:1-3

A Psalm.

98 Oh sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things!

His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

² The Lord has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

LUKE 2:25-33

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him.

JOHN 3:16-18

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

ROMANS 3:21-26

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

PSALM 98:4-9

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!
⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!
⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!
⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together
⁹ before the Lord, for he comes
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

ACTS 17:30-31

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

2 PETER 3:8-13

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient towards you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

REVELATION 20:11-15

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.