

Introduction:

- Last Wednesday I began comparing the two advents.
- Advent is Latin for the 'coming or arrival'
 - The First Advent is what we celebrate this time each year. God became a man and entered our world as one of us.
 - The second advent is what we look to at the end of the age.

I. The Message of the First Advent

- A. The message to mankind—towards men: Lk 2:14 *to those with whom God is pleased.*
1. Recipients of God's good pleasure, man is the object of God's good pleasure.
 - a) The whosoever would believe.
 - b) Jn 3:17 God did not send his Son to condemn.
 2. Man was already at war with God or an enemy of God. Yet God's heart is reconciliation: *"For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son."* (Romans 5:10, NLT)
 - a) God wants relationship with us.
 - b) God wants us to have life forever with Him.
 3. He was after the undoing of the system of Satan in the heart of men. He initiated the peace process, (by destroying the curse of sin) and He paid the price for our peace. Isa 53:5 *but He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.* NKJV
 - a) Peace
 - (1) On earth Peace *"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."* (Luke 2:14, NLT)
 - (2) Greek = absence of war, conflict. Great understanding is that peace is materially parallel with zoe. Zoe=life or salvation.
 - (3) Hebrew = well being. This speaks of peace...spirit soul and body.
 - (4) The finished product *"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."* (John 14:27, NLT)
 4. Jesus is stating the end. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
 - a) Good will towards men
 - b) God's good pleasure, God's favor.
- B. The character of the arriving One - The Revelation - Apokalypsis - unveiling, Epiphania - the appearing
1. Savior/*soter* = sozo = the life giving One Lk. 2:11. sozo has to do with salvation or deliverance to the total man spirit soul and body.

2. Christ = the anointed one. Smear/rub with oil. Is. 10:27 destroys the yoke. The most common form of anointing in the OT is the anointing of Kings. God does the anointing Ps 45:7
3. Lord/kyrios = Supreme authority. Lordship combines two elements: power and authority. Lord also has the understanding of caretaker of slaves, or guardian as over a wife and children. For Jesus this implies a position equal to God.
4. Immanuel = God with us. Mt. 1:23
5. David - fulfillment of prophecy.
 - a) Luke 1:32 throne of His father David
 - b) Luke 2:11 city of David

II. Message of the Second Advent

- A. The message to mankind—towards men = recipients of God's judgment and wrath.
 1. *“Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! I came not to bring peace, but a sword. I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Your enemies will be right in your own household!”* (Matthew 10:34-36, NLT)
 2. Great and terrible Day of the Lord.
 - a) *“The Lord is at the head of the column. He leads them with a shout. This is his mighty army, and they follow his orders. The day of the Lord is an awesome, terrible (something to fear) thing. Who can possibly survive?”* (Joel 2:11, NLT)
 3. *“For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to survive?”* (Revelation 6:17, NLT)
 4. Terrible (the Hebrew word communicates: I am very afraid) for the rebellious for four reasons
 - a) Judgments of God - God will work his judgment through the sin of mankind. The purpose is not destruction but repentance. “God uses the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level.” A father disciplines his son to cause him to turn, or change direction.
 - b) Rage of satan, Rev 13. His rage is against God, Christ and the people of God.
 - c) Bowls of Gods wrath
 - (1) The actions of evil people - lawlessness=murder, sorcery, immorality, theft. Rev 9:21
 - (2) Convulsion of the earth: earthquakes, storms, drought, floods
 - d) God is making His Son famous in this time!
 - (1) Every knee will bow. Is 45 and Phil. 2.
 - (2) In the first advent men have a choice to bow, in the second advent man will hit the deck or run in fear. In the first advent men had a chance to throw themselves upon the Rock of Christ. In the second advent the rock will be thrown upon them.
 - (3) Revelation is full of judgment and judgment has to do with Justice

- B. The character of the arriving One = see above, Apokalypsis and Epiphaneia
1. Eyes of fire Rev. 1:14. They see right into your soul and they speak to you as you are being seen.
 2. Feet as fine brass = brass in scripture speaks of judgment.
 3. His voice as the sound of many waters=sound of power, capturing the heart.
 4. Two-edged sword in his mouth.
 - a) I am He who lives, I was dead but I am alive.
 - b) I have the keys of Death and Hades!
 5. Lion of Judah
 6. Root of David
 - a) In the first advent, he has the throne and city of David.
 - b) In the second advent he is the foundation out of which Davids kingdom came.
 7. Rev. 19:11
 - a) He judges and makes war
 - b) Clothed with a blood soaked garment
 - c) Rules with a rod of iron
 - d) Treading out the winepress of God's wrath.

Conclusion:

- The first advent introduces us to the heart of God. Love, peace, reconciliation to God.
- The second advent calls for the total dismantling of all ungodly systems and our participation in making Jesus Lord of all by partnering in the place of prayer.
- The first advent reveals his incredible heart towards us. The second advent reveals the might, intensity, and intimacy, of his justice.
- Come quickly Lord Jesus!