

# The Hope of Advent

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*Acts 3:17-26 (ESV) <sup>17</sup> “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup> But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. <sup>22</sup> Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ <sup>24</sup> And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. <sup>25</sup> You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’ <sup>26</sup> God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”*

## Advent Teaches Me...

### 1. I can trust God EVEN WHEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

*Acts 3:17 (ESV) <sup>17</sup> “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.*

*Acts 3:15 (ESV) <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.*

### When you don't understand – Trust God.

*Pr 3:5-6 (ESV) <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

*Mark 9:24 (ESV) <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”*

### 2. I can trust God TO KEEP HIS PROMISES.

*Acts 3:17:24 (ESV) <sup>24</sup> And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.*

**“All the prophets... proclaimed These days”**

**1) Birth of Christ = Times of REFRESHING.**

*Acts 3:22-23 (ESV) <sup>22</sup> Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. <sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’*

*John 6:14-15 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, “This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!” <sup>15</sup> Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.*

**God started planning early for Christmas...**

*Gen 3:15 (NIV) <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

*Col 2:15 (NIV) <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

**Times of Refreshing...**

*Acts 3:19-20a (ESV) <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...*

*John 10:10 (ESV) <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

**An alienated life from God has 3 things stolen from it:**

- **HOPE**

*2 Cor 5:1 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home [our body] is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

- **PURPOSE**

*Pr 16:4a (NLT) <sup>4</sup> The LORD has made everything for his own purposes.*

- **VALUE**

## **2) Second Coming of Christ = Time of RESTORING.**

*Acts 3:20b-21 (ESV) <sup>20</sup> ...and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.*

### **Last days started...**

*Acts 2:16-17 (ESV) <sup>16</sup> But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;*

*1 Cor 10:11-12 (ESV) <sup>11</sup> Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup> Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.*

*Hebrews 1:1-2 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

## **3. I can trust God’s TIMING.**

*Acts 1:6-7 (ESV) <sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.*

*2 Pet 3:9 (ESV) <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*