

I. Advent (The Season of Expectation):

A. The Scope of Advent

1. The Son of God came into the world, took on flesh, lived a sinless life among us, died on the cross for our sins, offers us forgiveness and new life when we put our faith in Him, models the life of faith, obedience, and righteousness He commands and through the Spirit empowers.
2. Anticipates the real, physical, powerful return of the triumphant Christ to impose justice on His enemies, establish His eternal kingdom in a new creation, and fulfill every promise God makes to His elect, chosen, called, and redeemed people.
3. Advent looks back to a certain historical event with joy. Advent looks forward to another certain historical event with hope based in the faithfulness of God demonstrated by the previous event. God kept His word once and we trust Him with our lives. Because He kept His word once we know He will keep His word again and we trust Him with our future.

B. The substance of Advent

1. **Hebrews 11:1 (ESV) *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.***
2. So Advent is an expression of faith, a celebration of things hoped for.

II. The question of Advent: what impact does future hope have on present faith?

A. Advent hope expects the final victory over evil:

1. The return of Christ is seen as the moment when all injustice and suffering will be overcome, bringing about a righteous and perfect world.
2. References
 - a. **Isaiah 9:6-7** First Advent expectation
 - b. **Rev 19:11-16** Second Advent expectation

B. Resurrection of the dead:

1. Believers anticipate the resurrection of their loved ones who have died in Christ, allowing for reunion in eternity.
 2. **1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 (ESV)** ¹⁵ *For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.* ¹⁶ *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.* ¹⁷ *Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*
- C. Eternal life with God:
1. The second coming marks the beginning of a new heaven and a new earth, where believers will dwell with God forever.
 2. **Revelation 21:1-4 (ESV)** ¹ *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.* ² *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.* ³ *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.* ⁴ *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*
- D. A promise of renewal:
1. The concept of a "new creation" signifies that the current world with its problems will be replaced by something better.
 2. **Revelation 21:5 (ESV)** *And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."* Also he said, *"Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*
 3. **Romans 8:18 (ESV)** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

E. Strength in the present:

1. Believing in the second coming can provide strength and perseverance to face challenges in the current life, knowing that there is a greater purpose and hope to come.
2. **Galatians 6:9 (ESV) *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.***