

Advent • Week 2
A Proper Perspective On Christmas
It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year, Or Not...
The Art Of Looking Through Things And Not At Things.

Before time there was God. Before time and before creation there was a plan. Creation began the unfolding of the plan. The plan was one of salvation. Salvation of the creation by the creator. The purpose of the plan was to magnify the glory of God for the delight and joy of the redeemed. All of history is the history of redemption. Redemptive history had a beginning and has an end. The birth of Jesus is the beginning of the end. Christmas is the story of the beginning of the end.

“The long, dull, monotonous years of middle-aged prosperity or middle-aged adversity are excellent campaigning weather for the devil.” **C. S. Lewis**

“If we discover a desire within us that nothing in this world can satisfy, also we should begin to wonder if perhaps we were created for another world.”

C. S. Lewis

"Always winter and never Christmas; think of that!"

"How awful!" said Lucy.

Matthew 1:21 She will bear a son, and **you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**”

Hebrews 11:1 Now **faith is the assurance of things hoped for**, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having **seen them and greeted them from afar**, and **having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.**

Hebrews 8:5 They serve **a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.** For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.”

Hebrews 9:11 But when **Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent** (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)

Hebrews 9:12 he entered **once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.**

Hebrews 9:23 Thus it was necessary for the **copies of the heavenly things** to be purified with these rites, but **the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.**

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places **made with hands, which are copies of the true things**, but into heaven itself, **now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.**

Hebrews 9:25 Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own,

Hebrews 9:26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, **he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**

Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me **Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.**

Zechariah 3:3 Now Joshua was standing before the angel, **clothed with filthy garments.**

Zechariah 3:4 And the angel said to those who were standing before him, **“Remove the filthy garments from him.”** And to him he said, **“Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.”**

Isaiah 9:1 But **there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish**. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the **latter time he has made glorious the way** of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

Isaiah 9:2 **The people who walked in darkness** have seen a great light; those who **dwelt in a land of deep darkness**, on them has light shone.

Isaiah 9:3 You have multiplied the nation; you have **increased its joy**; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

Isaiah 9:4 For the **yoke of his burden**, and the staff for his shoulder, **the rod of his oppressor**, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a **child is born**, to us a son is given; and the **government shall be upon his shoulder**, and his name shall be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**.

Child Is Born

Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, **he himself likewise partook of the same things**, that **through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil**,

Hebrews 2:15 and deliver all those who through **fear of death** were subject to lifelong slavery.

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a **merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God**, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, **he is able to help those who are being tempted**.

Hebrews 4:15 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.

Hebrews 4:16 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.

“There is no temptation or trial that he cannot understand. There is no struggle or sadness with which he cannot sympathize. There is no hardship or difficulty for which he cannot provide strength to endure.” **Sam Storms**

The Government Shall Be Upon His Shoulder

Daniel 2:21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Revelation 1:5 and from **Jesus Christ** the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and **the ruler of kings on earth**. To him who **loves us** and **has freed us from our sins by his blood**

Wonderful Counselor

Psalms 119:24 Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.

John 14:26 But the Helper (Counselor), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Mighty God

Revelation 11:17 saying, “We give thanks to you, **Lord God Almighty**, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.

Everlasting Father

Psalms 68:5 Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

Prince of Peace

Luke 2:14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace among those with whom he is pleased!**”

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.** Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 16:33 I have said these things to you, **that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation.** But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

2Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

2Corinthians 1:9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. **But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.**

2Corinthians 1:10 He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. **On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.**

Matthew 22:2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a **king who gave a wedding feast for his son,**

Revelation 19:9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

“There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”

“And for us this the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All

their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on for ever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.”

“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now...Come further up, come further in!”

“The term is over: the holidays have begun. The dream is ended: this is the morning.” **C. S. Lewis**