

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
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Sermon Title: Prepare Your Heart for Hope, John 1:1-5

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INTRODUCTION: Today marks the first Sunday of Advent. As many of you know, Advent is a season of expectant waiting for the coming of Christ to earth. Someone told me one time, we are living in an “advent era”—an expectant waiting for the second coming of Christ. We get the word advent from the Latin word, meaning “coming.” Bernard of Clairvaux, a monk in the 12th century, came up with three comings of Christ—in the flesh, in our hearts, and in glory in his second coming.

We long for the coming of Christ again to earth. But, let’s try to put ourselves in the period of expectant waiting for the coming of Christ in the day of the OT prophets.

I have three main points today:

1. The hope of Christ was revealed in the beginning.
2. The hope of Christ was foreshadowed throughout time.
3. The hope of Christ became reality in the New Testament.

First, THE HOPE OF CHRIST WAS REVEALED IN THE BEGINNING.

SCRIPTURE: John 1:1-5 *¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

EXPLANATION: In celebrating the birth of our Savior, some might be tempted to identify Jesus as a created being. But, we know Jesus is not created. He is Creator. He is the Word of God—through whom all things were made.

So, we know Christ was from the beginning. But, when do we see evidence for this hope revealed to mankind? We didn’t have to wait until the birth of Christ on earth.

It was revealed in the Garden of Eden. The first promise of the coming of Christ was given in very first book of the Old Testament, in Genesis 3:15.

Because Adam and Even disobeyed, God delivered his curse for mankind, but for Satan, the curse was complete defeat.

“And I will put enmity...” God spoke to the serpent, who is identified as Satan. God desired no friendship or alliance between himself and Satan. The two were declared enemies.

“...between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed.” God’s distinction between “your seed” and “her Seed” is clear. Satan’s seed would be evil, and her “Seed” would be Jesus.

Notice there is no mention of Adam’s seed. This foreshadows the virgin birth. **“He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”** In this scripture, God predicted the defeat of Satan by the coming of Christ, the Messiah. God drew the battle lines between himself and Satan. “You shall bruise His heel” refers a temporary wound. The crushing of Satan’s head means a lethal blow to Satan. Here, Satan bruised the heel of Jesus, but looking ahead to the cross, Satan’s head will be crushed.

Here’s the image: Jesus stomps Satan’s head so hard it bruises his heel but crushes Satan’s head. The way to escape Jesus’ crushing blow is to join Jesus today. Repent, and ask him to save you.

Second, THE HOPE OF CHRIST WAS FORESHADOWED THROUGHOUT TIME. *Look in Colossians 1:27*

To deny Christ is the Savior is really an exercise in ignorance. Many people didn’t recognize Jesus as Savior, and many still don’t. But, the Lord was still faithful in revealing the mystery—that is Christ in you—the hope of glory. He revealed it first to the Jews. Now he has to the Gentiles.

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:27 ²⁷ *To them [the Gentiles] God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

God gave Adam and Eve, after their sin, the hope of glory. We still maintain this hope, as the hope of Christ crushing Satan is repeated in the Book of Romans.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 16:20 ²⁰ *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*

And, we see it too in the Book of Revelation.

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 20:10 ¹⁰ *and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

In addition to God's promise to Adam and Eve, we see the coming of Christ prophesied in the Old Testament and revealed in the New Testament.

1	Messiah would be born of a woman.	<u>Genesis 3:15</u>	<u>Matthew 1:20</u> <u>Galatians 4:4</u>
2	Messiah would be born in <u>Bethlehem</u> .	<u>Micah 5:2</u>	<u>Matthew 2:1</u> <u>Luke 2:4-6</u>
3	Messiah would be born of a virgin.	<u>Isaiah 7:14</u>	<u>Matthew 1:22-23</u> <u>Luke 1:26-31</u>
4	Messiah would come from the line of <u>Abraham</u> .	<u>Genesis 12:3</u> <u>Genesis 22:18</u>	<u>Matthew 1:1</u> <u>Romans 9:5</u>
5	Messiah would be a descendant of <u>Isaac</u> .	<u>Genesis 17:19</u> <u>Genesis 21:12</u>	<u>Luke 3:34</u>
6	Messiah would be a descendant of <u>Jacob</u> .	<u>Numbers 24:17</u>	<u>Matthew 1:2</u>
7	Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah.	<u>Genesis 49:10</u>	<u>Luke 3:33</u> <u>Hebrews 7:14</u>
8	Messiah would be heir to <u>King David's</u> throne.	<u>2 Samuel 7:12-13</u> <u>Isaiah 9:7</u>	<u>Luke 1:32-33</u> <u>Romans 1:3</u>
9	Messiah's throne will be anointed and eternal.	<u>Psalm 45:6-7</u>	<u>Luke 1:33</u>

		<u>Daniel 2:44</u>	<u>Hebrews 1:8-12</u>
10	Messiah would be called <u>Immanuel</u> .	<u>Isaiah 7:14</u>	<u>Matthew 1:23</u>
11	Messiah would spend a season in Egypt.	<u>Hosea 11:1</u>	<u>Matthew 2:14-15</u>
12	A massacre of children would happen at Messiah's birthplace.	<u>Jeremiah 31:15</u>	<u>Matthew 2:16-</u>

God always keeps his word.

Third, THE HOPE OF CHRIST BECAME REALITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 7:14 ¹⁴ *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

And, what do we see in the New Testament? A virgin—Mary gave birth to a son, and she named him Immanuel.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:22-23 ²² *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:* ²³ *“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).*

Once the prophecy was fulfilled, we see more about this wonderful hope—God with us!

The birth of Christ gave hope!

Now, Christ had come in flesh. Although the hope of Christ was a reality in the Old Testament as much as the New Testament, the difference is in the New Testament, he entered human time and became a person. The theological word for this is the incarnation: God becoming man.

What does this hope that became reality do for us? James Boice said:

- “Jesus endured a human birth to give us a new spiritual birth.
- He occupied a stable that we might occupy a mansion.
- He had an earthly mother so that we might have a heavenly Father.
- He became subject so that we might be free.
- He left his glory to give us glory.
- He was poor that we might be rich.
- He was welcomed by shepherds at His birth whereas we, at our birth, are welcomed by angels.
- He was hunted by Herod that we might be delivered from the grasp of Satan.”
- Boice continues, “That is the great paradox of the Christmas story. It is that which makes it irresistibly attractive. It is the reversal of roles at God’s cost for our benefit.” [James Montgomery Boice. *The Christ of Christmas*. (Chicago: Moody, 1983) p. 59]

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:5-7 ⁵*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

The incarnation—God becoming man. In any other world religion, whoever the leaders of religions are—there’s not even a story of one of those leaders becoming man.

ILLUSTRATION: This week, I saw a video of a Muslim man who became a Christian through the study of the Quran. He said, in his studies, he went to one of his teachers and said, “The Quran talks about Jesus as His Word and His Spirit. And, it talks about Mary.” And, he questioned his teacher about these sayings in the Quran. His teacher got angry because it created a paradox he couldn’t answer. The Muslim man found another statement in the Quran that said, “If things are not clear here, refer to the Bible.”

So, he says, *I came to faith in Christ because the Quran presents Christ*. Isn’t that fascinating? This is a man—who was seeking truth regardless of what he had been taught and regardless of the anger of his teacher who talk him he shouldn’t be asking such things—came to faith. He talked about how Mohammad was dead, but Jesus is not dead. Jesus—God incarnate—came to us.

EXPLANATION: We have a new hope: we no longer have to live for ourselves. But, through the gift of Christ in us, we have a new hope of glory—glory as we know Christ more and glory in our new life in heaven.

So...

- Jesus' birth gives us hope, and—

Jesus' **resurrection** provides hope!

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 2:20 ²⁰*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

CONCLUSION: Today's message has been about hope. And, a phrase you can adopt throughout the season is: *I am hopeful*. [Can you say this with me]. *I am hopeful*. We are hopeful because we have a Savior who gives us all we need. Hope for today, hope for tomorrow.

If you don't know this hope, you can know this hope by repenting of your sin and believing. That's it. Let me ask, have you repented of your sin? Have you trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

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Sincerely, Paul Gunn
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