

The History and Hope of Advent

I. The history and symbolism of Advent

II. What is Biblical hope?

A. A definition of hope.

²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it. Romans 8:24-25 (NASB)

¹⁷ (as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU") in the presence of Him whom he believed, *even* God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. ¹⁸ In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." Romans 4:17-18 (NASB)

B. What are some of the hopes we have?

³ We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel. Colossians 1:3-5 (NASB)

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NASB)

⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life. Titus 3:7

²⁵ Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of* the word of God, ²⁶ *that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, ²⁷ to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. ²⁹ For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me. Colossians 1:25-29 (NASB)

¹⁴ For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ; ¹⁵ not boasting beyond *our* measure, *that is*, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you, 2 Corinthians 10:14-15 (NASB)

¹⁹For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? 1 Thessalonians 2:19 (NASB)

¹³looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, Titus 2:13 (NASB)

C. How do we gain hope?

⁴For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4 (NASB)

Life Group Questions The History and Hope of Advent

1. What are some of the Advent/Christmas traditions you have observed in your family?
2. How can we focus on the Second Coming of Jesus during the Advent season?
3. How is Biblical hope different from worldly hopes?
4. What are some of your hopes?
5. What hope do you look most forward to seeing fulfilled?