

Ancient Expectancy

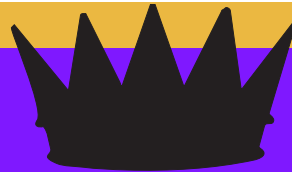
the Messianic Prophecies of Advent

Summary Report



His Birthplace

“ But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting. ” Micah 5:2



His Sign

“ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:
Behold, the virgin shall conceive
and bear a Son, and
shall call His name Immanuel. ” Isaiah 7:14



His Name

“ For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ” Isaiah 9:6



His Peace

“ Therefore He shall give them up,
Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth;
Then the remnant of His brethren
Shall return to the children of Israel.
And He shall stand and feed His flock
In the strength of the LORD,
In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God;
And they shall abide,
For now He shall be great
To the ends of the earth;
And this One shall be peace. ” Micah 5:2-5



His Light

“ The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,
Upon them a light has shined. ” Isaiah 9:2



His Branch

“ Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD,
“ That I will raise to David
a Branch of righteousness;
A King shall reign and prosper,
And execute judgment and righteousness
in the earth. ” Jeremiah 23:5



His Works

“ Thus says the LORD,
The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker:
“ Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons;
And concerning the work of My hands, you command Me.
I have made the earth,
And created man on it.
I—My hands—stretched out the heavens,
And all their host I have commanded.
I have raised him up in righteousness,
And I will direct all his ways;
He shall build My city
And let My exiles go free,
Not for price nor reward,”
Says the LORD of hosts. ” Isaiah 45:11-13



His Salvation

“ I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles,
That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.”

Thus says the LORD,
The Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One,
To Him whom man despises,
To Him whom the nation abhors,
To the Servant of rulers:

“ Kings shall see and arise,
Princes also shall worship,
Because of the LORD who is faithful,
The Holy One of Israel;
And He has chosen You. ” Isaiah 49:6b-7



His Sovereignty

“ Listen to Me, O Jacob,
And Israel, My called:
I am He, I am the First,
I am also the Last.

Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth,
And My right hand has stretched out the heavens;
When I call to them,
They stand up together.

“ Come near to Me, hear this:
I have not spoken in secret from the beginning;
From the time that it was, I was there.
And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit
Have sent Me.”

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer,
The Holy One of Israel:

“ I am the LORD your God, ” Isaiah 48:12-13, 16-17a



His Will

“ Recall to mind, O you transgressors.
Remember the former things of old,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like Me,
Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things that are not yet done,
Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand,
And I will do all My pleasure,’ ...
Indeed I have spoken it;
I will also bring it to pass.
I have purposed it;
I will also do it.

“ Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted,
Who are far from righteousness:
I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off;
My salvation shall not linger.
And I will place salvation in Zion,
For Israel My glory. ” Isaiah 46:8b-10, 11b-13



His Invitation

“ Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.

Cease to do evil,
Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Rebuke the oppressor;
Defend the fatherless,
Plead for the widow.

“ Come now, and let us reason together,”
Says the LORD,

“ Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool. ” Isaiah 1:16-18



His Key

“ He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
And to the house of Judah.
The key of the house of David
I will lay on his shoulder;
So he shall open, and no one shall shut;
And he shall shut, and no one shall open.
I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place,
And he will become
a glorious throne to his father’s house. ” Isaiah 22:21b-23



His Children

“ In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book,
And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.

The humble also shall increase their joy in the LORD,
And the poor among men shall rejoice
In the Holy One of Israel.

Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham,
concerning the house of Jacob:

“ Jacob shall not now be ashamed,
Nor shall his face now grow pale;
But when he sees his children,
The work of My hands, in his midst,
They will hallow My name,
And hallow the Holy One of Jacob,
And fear the God of Israel.

These also who erred in spirit will come to understanding,
And those who complained
will learn doctrine. ” Isaiah 22:18-19, 22-24



His Anointing

“ There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.
The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.
His delight is in the fear of the LORD,
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;
But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips
He shall slay the wicked. ” Isaiah 11:2-4



His Betrayal

“ Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you,
give me my wages; and if not, refrain.”
So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.
And the LORD said to me,
“Throw it to the potter”—that princely price they set on me.
So I took the thirty pieces of silver and
threw them into the house of the LORD
for the potter. ” Zechariah 11:12-13



His Suffering

“ He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ” Isaiah 53:3-6

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?
Why are You so far from helping Me,
And from the words of My groaning? ” Psalm 22:1



His Death

“ He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.
By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,
For He shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,
And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,
Because He poured out His soul unto death,
And He was numbered with the transgressors,
And He bore the sin of many,
And made intercession for the transgressors. ” Isaiah 53:11-12



His Resurrection

“ He will swallow up death forever,
And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces;
The rebuke of His people
He will take away from all the earth;
For the LORD has spoken. ” Isaiah 25:8

“ For You will not leave my soul in Sheol
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ” Psalm 16:10



His Ascension

“ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up,
behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,
who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven?
This same Jesus,
who was taken up from you into heaven,
will so come in like manner
as you saw Him go into heaven. ” Acts 1:10-11



His Coming

“ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord
will by no means precede those who are asleep.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout,
with the voice of an archangel,
and with the trumpet of God.

And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them
in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore comfort one another with these words. ” 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

“ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.”
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! ” Revelation 22:20



His Restoration

“ But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me,
And my Lord has forgotten me.”

“ Can a woman forget her nursing child,
And not have compassion on the son of her womb?
Surely they may forget,
Yet I will not forget you.

See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands;
Your walls are continually before Me.
Your sons shall make haste;
Your destroyers and those who laid you waste
Shall go away from you.

Lift up your eyes, look around and see;
All these gather together and come to you.
As I live,” says the LORD, “ Isaiah 49:14-18



His Comfort

“ For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places;
He will make her wilderness like Eden,
And her desert like the garden of the LORD;
Joy and gladness will be found in it,
Thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

“ Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation:
For law will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest
As a light of the peoples.

My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth,
And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me,
And on My arm they will trust.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath.

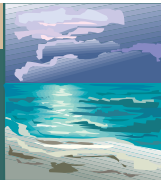
For the heavens will vanish away like smoke,
The earth will grow old like a garment,
And those who dwell in it will die in like manner;
But My salvation will be forever,

And My righteousness will not be abolished. ” Isaiah 51:3-6



His Knowledge

“ His delight is in the fear of the LORD,
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;
But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,
And faithfulness the belt of His waist.
“ The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.
They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
As the waters cover the sea. ” Isaiah 11:3-9



His Reign

“ How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things,
Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion,

“ Your God reigns!”
Your watchmen shall lift up their voices,
With their voices they shall sing together;
For they shall see eye to eye When the LORD brings back Zion.
Break forth into joy, sing together, You waste places of Jerusalem!
For the LORD has comforted His people,
He has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has made bare His holy arm
In the eyes of all the nations;
And all the ends of the earth shall see
The salvation of our God. ” Isaiah 52:7-10



Advent is the joy of anticipation, a time to awaken memories, open doors of hope and to be attentive to the here and now invitations of everyday life. It is cultivating an attitude of listening and openness to mystery. Referring to God in a statement Pope Benedict XVI made in 'God Comes' the-God-Who-comes is a continuous present that is an ever-continuous action: it happened, it is happening now and it will happen again.

In the busyness of getting ready for this season don't miss the coming of Christ. Edward Hayes, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*, p. 187 in his 'Take Time to be Aware' online devotional writes, "Pope John Paul II in his address on Dec.18, 2002 said, "The liturgy of Advent ... helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously."

"Ancient Expectancy, the Messianic Prophecies of Advent" is an Advent Christmas card designed for the 24 days of Advent to encourage daily scripture reading of the prophecies and signs that foretell the coming of the Messiah.

Included in the card are the 24 most significant prophesies regarding the Advent season, His birth, His anointing, His betrayal, His death, His crucifixion, His resurrection, His return in glory and His glorious reign but also some other themes like His birthplace, His ascension, His restoration and His sovereignty. By far the most prophetic book dealing with prophecy about the Messiah is Isaiah and the majority of the scripture references for this card are taken from that book.

Sign or theme titles were assigned to the prophetic scripture selections. Graphic symbols were selected from free clip art files after reading the scripture references for each day's reading and included in the

border at the bottom of the daily readings to help visually represent and reinforce the theme for the day. For example, a crown representing His royalty, a woman bowing in submission, Mary and Joseph and the baby, a shepherd, a light, etc. may provide memory hooks for the specific prophecy mentioned.

I've learned through this research that some churches have much more of an emphasis than others on the season of Advent. The Catholics, in particular have many references to the liturgical readings for Advent. This was not a practice at Christmas time for me in the churches I attended previously. The church I attend now every year creates an Advent devotional written by members of our congregation. Personally, I like having a specific preparation time before Christmas Day to focus on the real meaning of Christmas and taking time for cultivating interior recollection. This year I was asked to lead at our church an Advent study entitled *a thrill of HOPE: The Christmas Story in Word and Art* that includes a DVD presented by faculty from Emory, discussion questions and the art of John August Swanson, presented by Emory Candler School of Theology. This Advent study as well as my online research and Bible study for this project has given me a new appreciation for prophecy and the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. May joy, the true gift of Christmas be yours this Advent season as you meditate on the good news, the enfleshing of God, in the Incarnation.

This card could be used as an online Christmas card for you this year saving you postage and the purchase and time of mailing traditional cards. You can email it to your friends and loved ones. Enjoy it yourself by viewing it one day at a time for the first 24 days in December to prepare for the Christmas celebration of His birth and to get ready for His soon return. Use it as a study resource, meditate on the scripture and discuss it in small groups to encourage one another in repentance, gratitude and wonder of our soon coming Lord Jesus Christ, the Good News that is for all people on earth.

Bibliography

<http://appleseeds.org/christmas-quotes.htm>

Pope Benedict XVI, *God Comes*, in his homily celebration of First Vespers of the First Sunday of Advent (Saturday, 2 December 2006)

Edward Hayes, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*, p. 187 in his 'Take Time to be Aware' online devotional
100prophecies.org

Bible prophecies fulfilled by Jesus' birth

http://catholicism.about.com/od/adventreadings/qt/Adv_Read_SuW1.htm

<http://candler.emory.edu/about/swanson/index.cfm>

Bible references and Signs/Themes Titles

Micah 5:2 His Birthplace

Isaiah 7:14 His Sign

Isaiah 9:6 His Name

Micah 5:2-5 His Peace

Isaiah 9:2 His Light

Jeremiah 23:5 His Branch

Isaiah 45:11-13 His Works

Isaiah 49:6b-7 His Salvation

Isaiah 48:12-13, 16-17a His Sovereignty

Isaiah 46:8b-10, 11b-13 His Will

Isaiah 1:16-18 His Invitation

Isaiah 22:21b-23 His Key

Isaiah 22:18-19, 22-24 His Children

Isaiah 11:2-4 His Anointing

Zechariah 11:12-13 His Betrayal

Isaiah 53:3-6, Psalm 22:1 His Suffering

Isaiah 53:11-12 His Death

Isaiah 25:8, Psalm 16:10 His Resurrection

Acts 1:10-11 His Ascension

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, Revelation 22:20 His Coming

Isaiah 49:14-18 His Restoration

Isaiah 51:3-6 His Comfort

Isaiah 11:3-9 His Knowledge

Isaiah 52:7-10 His Reign