
Some thoughts to take with you *The Hope of Rejoicing*

The Church does not superstitiously observe days, merely as days, but as memorials of important facts. Christmas might be kept as well upon one day of the year as another; but there should be a stated day for commemorating the birth of our Savior, because there is danger that what may be done on any day, will be neglected.

Samuel Johnson

[The entire Old Testament] ground-plan is the whole scheme of Messianic prophecy, from the germinal revelation in Genesis concerning the suffering, yet triumphant Seed of the Woman to the coming to His Temple of the long-absent "Angel of the Covenant" in Malachi. That hope alone explains the Book, giving meaning and consistency to its story. Was it a chimera, an hallucination? According to the prophecy of Micah, the messianic Shepherd of Israel had to be born in Bethlehem. It is unthinkable that an heir to the throne of David could be born in Bethlehem now, and be also able to prove his legitimacy by documentary evidence. The event must clearly have taken place already, or Micah is a false prophet, a raiser of false hopes, along with the other writers in the Old Testament.

Max I. Reich

The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity – the hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory – because at the Father's will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross.

J. I. Packer

The fact is that the greatest mystery of all – the incarnation – comes at the very beginning and is the central reason why we believe in God. We cannot explain it: there is the beginning of the mystery of faith. But because of the evidence neither can we explain it away: there is the beginning of the rationality of faith.

Os Guinness



SERMON NOTES
December 2, 2007

Rejoice! the Lord is Come
The Hope of Rejoicing

Genesis 3:13-15; Is. 9:2-7; Ezekiel 34; John 10:7-27

Introduction: Today is the First Sunday of Advent. Traditionally, on this day we begin our intentional reflection on the amazing miracle that is the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And because the coming of Jesus into this world as a baby was promised at the beginning of time, it is appropriate to remind ourselves of that promise, and of the hope that it provided throughout the Old Testament era.

Genesis 3:13-19

The problems

The promise of the He

Isaiah 9:1-7

The problems

The promise of the King

Ezekiel 34

The problems

The promise of the Shepherd

John 10

The promised fulfilled

The hope of life

Applying God's Truth to Our Lives ...

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KIDS NOTES

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The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

- The Old Testament is really a book about:*
 - random historical events.
 - people who were always at war.
 - Jesus.
 - all of the above.

- In Isaiah God promised to send a son who would be::*
 - a king.
 - Almighty God.
 - Prince of peace.
 - all of the above.

- When Jesus said "I am the Good Shepherd" He was:*
 - fulfilling the prophecy of Ezekiel 34.
 - He was joking.
 - He was just acting out a part in a play.
 - all of the above

For Family Discussion: Why did God promise to send a Savior? Why do creation and the souls of mankind need to be "saved?"

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

ADVENT _____	TOTAL: _____
PROMISE _____	_____
HOPE _____	_____
PROPHET _____	_____
RELATIONSHIP _____	_____
SHEPHERD _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

ADVENT CHRISTMAS PROMISE HOPE PROPHET RELATIONSHIP
 SHEPHERD SHEEP KING ISAIAH GENESIS EZEKIEL JESUS CHRIST
 CANDLE GOOD PROBLEMS FULFILLMENT SIN BONDAGE
 DARKNESS LIGHT PRINCE PEACE COUNSELOR WONDERFUL GIFTS

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P J T S I R H C P S P P X G O Z X
X I E W J B D K A C R D S N I V J
B A H Q O O O M T O E I Z I C D V
S D P S O N T N B S S E N K R A D
H V O G N S D L D E E I X P A M T
E E R U I O E E N A S L E E C H N
P N P R H M I E R A G E D C P U E
H T H J S B G T I F H E O N E Q M
E C S T F I G A A S U Y E I A X L
R S I N T L H J M L L L E R C C L
D Q I E Z E K I E L E I D P E J I
M U M M I V P Y N W X R G X O I F
T L Y C O U N S E L O R M H R H L
J E S U S R R L M N Z H E W T S U
W Z Z E K V P H C L S Z X M N A F

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