

2024 Christmas Carol Service

www.victory.net.nz Sunday 22.12.2024
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When we sing Christmas Carols, there is one overriding theme that is repeated over and over again, namely:

- the Advent (arrival, or birth) of Jesus Christ
- “Advent” -Latin: Adventus – **arrival** (of something or someone important)

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for:

- The Celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ - Christmas (past)
- The Return of Jesus Christ at the 2nd Coming of Christ (future)

When we read the Bible concerning Jesus Christ and His arrivals to earth, there are four major focuses going on.

1. Prophecies foretelling the birth of Jesus Christ (Old Testament)
2. The announcement of the birth of Jesus Christ 2000 yrs ago (Gospels–N.T.)
3. Prophecies foretelling the 2nd Coming of Christ (O.T. & N.T.)
4. The actual future 2nd Coming of Christ (N.T. Revelation)

Isaiah 46:9–10 (CSB) *Remember what happened long ago, for **I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and no one is like me. 10 I declare the end from the beginning,** and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: **my plan will take place, and I will do all my will.***

A. Prophecies foretelling the birth of Jesus Christ

Isaiah 9:6–7 (NKJV) *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. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*

- Prophet Isaiah prophesied the birth of Jesus Christ over 700 years before it took place
- God foretold the birth of His Son through His prophets in amazing detail

- God revealed that He would send His Son into the world to eventually become the Supreme Ruler over all of His creation
- God revealed that His Son would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
- God revealed that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
- Each prophecy was fulfilled in precisely the detail it was given

B. The announcement of the birth of Jesus Christ over 2000 yrs ago

Luke 2:8–14 (NLT) *That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. 9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, 10 but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! 12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” 13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”*

Matthew 1:18 (NLT) *This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 2:1-2 (NLT) *Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 2 “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”*

- Once again, everything took place precisely as God had declared

C. Prophecies foretelling the 2nd Coming of Christ

- After His sacrificial death on the Cross, Jesus rose from the dead
- Then, in front of His disciples, He ascended to heaven to be seated at the right-hand of the Father
- Angels came to prophesy Christ’s Return at some time in the future

Acts 1:9–11 (NLT) *After saying this, he (Jesus) was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. 10 As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood*

among them. **11** “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? **Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!**”

Luke 21:25–28 (NLT) *And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides. **26** People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers in the heavens will be shaken. **27 Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. 28** So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!”*

- There are multiple prophecies concerning the 2nd Coming of Christ
- Each prophecy will be fulfilled in precisely the detail it was given, just like the prophecies concerning His 1st Advent

Philippians 2:9–11 (NKJV) *Therefore **God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

D. The actual FUTURE 2nd Coming of Christ

Revelation 19:11–16 (NLT) *Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. **Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. 12** His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. **13** He wore a robe dipped in blood, and **his title was the Word of God. 14** The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. **15** From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. **He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. 16** On his robe at his thigh was written this title: **King of all kings and Lord of all lords.***

- This describes the scene of the future 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ
- What is important to note is that:
 - At His First Advent, Jesus Christ came as the Saviour of the World
 - At His Second Advent He will come as the Judge of the World
- There is only one way to escape God’s future Judgment, namely by:
 - surrendering our life to Jesus Christ

- receive Him as our personal Lord & Saviour

Salvation Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You sent Your Son Jesus Christ into the world to save me. I recognise that I have broken Your commandments, and that I cannot save myself by my own good deeds. Lord Jesus, I thank You that You have taken the punishment for my sins by dying on the cross. I make a decision now to surrender my whole life to You. I receive You as my personal Lord and Saviour. I thank You that I am now forgiven, and that I am now born again. Please lead me and guide me and show me Your plan and purpose for my life. Help me to be strong so that I can live according to Your plan and purpose for my life. I pray this in Jesus' Name, amen.