



Christmas Unwrapped!

An Advent Worship and Preaching Series

November 29, 2009

Week 1: Luke 21:25-36

Unwrapping God's Purpose

For most people, the season of advent, if observed at all, is a season to anticipate Christmas and the coming of the Christ child. That certainly is its meaning, but did you know there is a second and equally important meaning to the season? That's right. The season of Advent also points us to the Second Coming of Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords and the advent of the last judgment. The first advent points us to the second advent; the second advent affirms the first. That's why the lectionary readings begin the season of Advent with the ending! Got it? Let's unwrap the ending this morning and discover in God's gift, His purpose for the beginning!

Textual Notes for Luke 21

There are two words in this text which carry importance: **know** and **watch**. For in knowing, as the budding trees indicate that summer is near, so the occurring signs indicate that Christ's return is near (Luke 12:54-57). The important thing is that the believer knows that God is keeping His promises and that His Word will not fail (Joshua 23:14).

As far as watching goes, it does not mean to stand around looking for signs—the ultimate being the resurrection. Instead, it means “Be awake! Be alert! Don't get caught unprepared!” There is admonition for us today not to get weighted down with the cares of this life and the temptations of the world and the flesh (Luke 12:35-48). We can give up and live like the rest of the world, or we can live as He calls us to—as a witness to the hope that we have.

Questions for Reflection and Growth

In what way(s) do you **KNOW** God keeps His promises? Point to something specific in Scripture or in your life that is a visible reminder to you. In what way(s) are you **WATCHING** for His second advent? What is the one “watchful” example that Jesus shares with us?