

## Advent 401

### The Advent of Jesus (A Timeline)

In just a few hours now we will celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, His humble birth in a manger in Bethlehem. We will recall with wonder the story of the Angels appearing to the shepherds nearby and try to imagine the awe and even fear they must have felt as they were given the news and told where they could go to find the baby.

This amazing and wonderful story gets repeated every year in churches all over the world. It is the greatest story ever told.

We conclude our look at advent and it's meaning, I felt led to take us back into the Bible and look at the prophecies that foretold this event we are preparing to celebrate. There are several in fact over 300 references to the coming Messiah. Don't worry; I'm not going to read them all.

1. Genesis 3:15 <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Gen 3:15 NIV)

Genesis 12:3 <sup>2</sup> "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Gen 12:2-3 NIV)

2. Numbers 24:17 <sup>17</sup> "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth. (Num 24:17 NIV)
3. Deut. 18:15 <sup>15</sup> The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. (Deu 18:15 NIV)
4. Psalms 16: 9-10 <sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, <sup>10</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. (Psa 16:9-10 NIV)
6. Psalm 22 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? (Psa 22:1 NIV)
7. Isaiah 7: 14 <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isa 7:14 NIV)
8. Isaiah 9: 6 <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this (Isa 9:6-7 NIV)

9. Jeremiah 23: 5 <sup>5</sup> "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. <sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior. (Jer 23:5-6 NIV)

10. Jeremiah 33: 14-15

11. Ezekiel 34:23

12. Ezekiel 37:25

13. Micah 7:20

14. Malachi 3:1

15. Malachi 4:2

Now look at the order in which God accomplishes this in Matthew 1: 17. God said it was going to happen and in His own time it did happen. This is the reason we celebrate the Advent season and its double meaning; that first arrival and look forward to His second coming. I know sometimes it feels like God has just left us here to work things out for ourselves but I assure you

that God knows what He's doing. Thank God for the faith of Joseph and Mary, and for the gift of His Son our Savior, Jesus Christ.