

Isa 64:1-9 (NIV) Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! {2} As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! {3} For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. {4} Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. {5} You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? {6} All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. {7} No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. {8} Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. {9} Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

23-64-01-SENT--The Coming LORD

Advent, Second Coming, Incarnation, revelation, restoration

Isaiah 64:1-9

Jesus was SENT to claim His crown as King.

INTRODUCTION: (Mark 13:24-37 as Scripture Reading)

–*Our Scripture reading* (Mark 13:24-37) was Christ’s own words about His 2nd Coming. *His Return* is the 1st theme of Advent season. It ends a Christian year, just as it will end world history. But His *1st Coming* is the 2nd theme of Advent. It begins a new Christian year, just as it began the Gospel story. But *OT prophets* foresaw both themes together. In the same way *we* anticipate Christ’s Return, they longed for His Coming.

–Our **text, Isa 64:1-9**, exemplifies that longing– v.1, “*Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!*”

Isaiah’s hope literally materialized in the Incarnation. Today we echo that prophetic hope in our expectation of the 2nd Advent. But often, as we wait, we reflect the same Advent attitude expressed by Isaiah.

–**Have you ever asked God to come down** to make your *mountains* of trial tremble before Him? **Have you ever wished God would break into this broken world**, putting it back together, healing its wounds, and righting its wrongs? **Have you ever said the Bible’s last prayer**: “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”—asking Him to come down as “*King of kings and Lord of lords*” —to bring the *chaos of our turbulent times* under *His reign of peace*?

–Advent proclaims that Jesus was SENT to claim His crown as King.

Have you ever prayed: “*Come set it right, Lord. Come help me with this mess.*”? Advent says: Jesus was SENT to answer that prayer.

I. In SENDING Jesus, God Comes Down– v.1-3, *Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.*

A. Advent season is a time of prayerful focus:

1. A time to reflect on humanity’s longing for a Savior who could deliver us from the sins that separated us from our Creator.
2. A time to meditate on every heart’s longing for healing.
3. A time to recall Israel’s longing for God to be their true King–

Psa 24:7-10, Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

4. Advent season calls us to marvel at God's mysterious answer to these longings: He opened heaven to come down to us Himself!
5. In the Incarnation, God stepped into fallen creation, into our pain and brokenness, fulfilling the prophecy about the Messiah in Isa 61:1-2. The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn....
6. This is the thrill of Advent: in SENDING Jesus, God came down to us; in taking on our human flesh, God became one of us!

TRANS: Why did God come down in Jesus? What were His motives? Some think God's out to get us. Well, **He is!** He set out from heaven to get us out of sin and into the joy of His heavenly kingdom. He wants to restore lost creation and retrieve the wandering lost sheep of humanity.

II. In SENDING Jesus, God Reveals Himself— v.4, *Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.*

- A. All religions teach that people can learn the divine will (This is a true teaching, even if what people learn isn't always truly divine.)
- B. The God of the Bible has revealed not only His divine will but also His holy character and His loving heart. *He shows us these:
 1. *through natural revelation (the beauty of creation)
 2. *through special revelation (His covenants and the Law)
 3. *through symbolic revelation (the Tabernacle and Temple)
 4. *through interventional revelation (miracles and acts of power)
 5. *through verbal revelation (the powerful words of prophets)
- C. But in Advent, God does the unimaginable: He reveals Himself!
 1. Do you want to know what God is like? Look at Jesus.
 2. Do you want to know how God acts? Look at Jesus.
 3. Do you want to know how He loves? Look at Jesus.
 4. Do you want to know the full revelation of God's character, will,

and heart. Look at Jesus, the God-Man, God in the flesh.

TRANS: Jesus said in **Luke 19:10** that He “came to seek and to save what was lost.” If Jesus fully reveals God, then we know God's attitude toward lost sinners and wayward saints. In Christ, God has come down to bring us all home to Himself. And that's the last point in this passage:

III. In SENDING Jesus, God Restores Us— v.5-9, *You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.*

- A. Advent reminds us why God had to come down in the first place—
 1. This passage clearly describes us as condemned, cursed by our own disobedience, slaves to sin, persistently failing God.
 2. If we reject this dismal description, Isaiah already answer to our self-righteous resistance: “all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.”
- B. But this is Isaiah's prayer: (v.9) “Do not be angry beyond measure, O Lord; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.” (Jesus is God's answer to Isaiah's prayer and to ours: He comes down to us, He reveals Himself, He restores us!)
- C. This is **Advent!** This is **why** we celebrate it with grateful hearts! (Into our sin-broken, often chaotic world, Jesus was SENT to claim His crown as King—to bring us divine healing and peace.)

CONCLUSION:

—Advent is God's answer to our heart's deepest longings. It reminds us that God hears our cry for His intervention, for His revelation, for His restoration of what sin has damaged. Even before His Return, Advent proclaims, “Jesus is Lord!” Advent draws us to the newborn Savior's manger, inviting us to personally crown Him as King of our lives.
—And with Jesus on the throne of our hearts, Advent urges us to invite others to the manger bed of God's Son, that they may also crown Him as their King and find His revealed presence and healing power.