**Advent: The Season of Expectation**

***DISCUSSION/DISCOVERY***

A television interviewer was walking the streets of Tokyo at Christmas time. Much as in America, Christmas shopping is a big commercial success in Japan. The interviewer stopped one young woman on the sidewalk, and asked, "What is the meaning of Christmas?"

Laughing, she responded, "I don't know. Is that the day that Jesus died?"

There was some truth in her answer.

Let’s talk about it…

\*What is most meaningful to you about the Christmas season and why?

Are you familiar with the term “advent” or the “season of advent”?

Advent focuses on the coming of Messiah. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word “*adventus*”, which means “coming”.

A synonym can be used for “advent” - “*incarnation*”.

Literally, “in flesh”; theologically, the doctrine that in Jesus of Nazareth, God took on human flesh and became the divine “God-man”. He is both divine and human.

**John 1:14; Philippians 2:7; Colossians 1:15**

\*What do these three verses tell us?

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Matthew 1:18-24 & Luke 2:1-20 give the Biblical narrative regarding Christ’s birth.

(The Gospel of Mark has no account of the incarnation.)

The Gospel of Matthew gives strong emphasis to Jesus’ royal messiahship.

Matthew 1:1-16

The Gospel of Luke emphasizes the divine witness of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 2:11

What we can celebrate during Advent, is the fact that Jesus *did* come in the flesh!

This very fact is expressed in the following excerpt from the Apostle’s Creed:

“I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried…”

Jesus’ coming was **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

The Old Testament is replete with prophecies concerning the coming Messiah. There are **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Messianic prophecies.

The first of these is found in Genesis 3:15.

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and ***her seed***; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

“…*her seed*…” that is, the seed of the woman would crush the head of [Satan].

**Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:18**

\*What does it mean that He would “crush the head of the serpent”?

Let’s look at two specific passages.

Romans 16:20 1 John 3:8

\*What do these passages state?

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The very first Messianic prophecy projected the fact that Messiah would be victorious over His enemy – the devil.

\*When did Jesus crush the head of Satan?

Jesus’ purpose was prophesied.

Not only was Jesus’ purpose prophesied, but through prophecy, His PERSON would be revealed also.

Isaiah 7:14 Isaiah 9:6-7 Micah 5:2

Who is this Messiah?