

Advent: Hope

Isaiah 1:2, 4: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. **4** Woe to the sinful nation, a people whose guilt is great, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the LORD; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him."

Isaiah 1:18: "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

Isaiah 2:2-3: In the last days the mountain of the LORD'S temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. **3** Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7: Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—**2** The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. **6** 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. **7** 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.

Luke 1:31-33: "You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Matthew 1:20-23: "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what the

Lord had said through the prophet: **23** “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Matthew 4:13-16: Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—**14** to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: **15** “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—**16** the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

Notes:

Transformed by the Truth

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. What Advent traditions have you participated in? Do you think there is value in these traditions? Why or why not?

2. Read Isaiah 1:2-5 and Isaiah 1:11-17. What kinds of sins were the people of Judah guilty of? Is there any impurity or injustice in your life that might be causing God to withhold His blessings?

3. Read Isaiah 1:18 and Isaiah 52:13—53:12. What do these prophecies reveal about the ministry of Jesus? Do you believe you have received the forgiveness He offers? Why or why not?

4. Read Isaiah 2:2-4 and Isaiah 9:1-7. What do these prophecies reveal about the ministry of Jesus? Do you believe they have been fulfilled yet? Why or why not?

5. Read 2 Peter 3:3-10 and Revelation 11:15. Why has there been such a long delay in the fulfillment of some messianic prophecies? What promises of God are you still waiting to be fulfilled in your life?

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