

# ADVENT–JOY

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—December 17th, 2023

Isaiah 9:3

(ESV)

*[3] You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.*

## WHAT IS ADVENT?

- ‘advent’ = coming or arrival
- Advent is a season of waiting.
- As we remember the first coming of Christ, we remember he is coming again.
- Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ
- Today we turn to the word JOY.

## INTRODUCTION

The story of moving from darkness to light is the story of the gospel; it’s the story of Christmas; it’s the story of the Book of Isaiah.

*Isaiah 7:23–25–[23] In that day every place where there used to be a thousand vines, worth a thousand shekels of silver, will become briers and thorns. [24] With bow and arrows a man will come there, for all the land will be briers and thorns. [25] And as for all the hills that used to be hoed with a hoe, you will not come there for fear of briers and thorns, but they will become a place where cattle are let loose and where sheep tread.*

*Isaiah 9:1–2–[1] But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.*

*[2] The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.*

**Psalm 30:5**

*[5] For his anger is but for a moment,  
and his favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may tarry for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.*

## GROWTH

God’s purpose for the salvation of humanity begins with Adam.

**Genesis 1:28–[28]** *And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply...”*

**Genesis 9:1–**“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”

**Genesis 17:15–16–[15]** *And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. [16] I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”*

## Isaiah 1:9

*[9] If the LORD of hosts  
had not left us a few survivors,  
we should have been like Sodom,  
and become like Gomorrah.*

**Romans 7:18**–[18] *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.*

**John 1:4–5**–[4] *In him was life, and the life was the light of men. [5] The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

When Isaiah said that God would multiply the national, he was talking about gentile believers.

## Isaiah 54:1–3

*[1] “Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;  
break forth into singing and cry aloud,  
you who have not been in labor!  
For the children of the desolate one will be more  
than the children of her who is married,” says the LORD.*  
*[2] “Enlarge the place of your tent,  
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;  
do not hold back; lengthen your cords  
and strengthen your stakes.*  
*[3] For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left,  
and your offspring will possess the nations  
and will people the desolate cities.*

**Romans 5:15**–[15] *But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.*

**John 10:16**–[16] *And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.*

## PROSPERITY

True joy happens in the presence of God.

*coram deo* = in the presence of God.

“To live in the presence of God is to understand that whatever we are doing and wherever we are doing it, we are acting under the gaze of God.” –**R.C. Sproul**

## Psalm 16:11

*[11] You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

If your life is void of joy, it is probably because you are living your life as though God is not near.

**Philippians 4:4–5**–[4] *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. [5] Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand...*

God prospers his people regardless of the circumstances that surround them.

**Isaiah 7:14**–[14] *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*