



ANTICIPATE CHRISTMAS
A Four Message Series

Anticipate the Prophecy

I Peter 1:1-12

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:1-6

I Peter 1:13 – 15

Revelation 21:1-4; 22:12-17

An Advent Experience

I Peter 1:1-12Msg

- **While they were there, the time came for her (Mary) to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She laid him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.**
 - Lk.2:6-7 Msg
- **Was *this* truly the day?**

An Advent Experience

Zephaniah 3:14-20

- **While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she (Mary) gave birth to her firstborn, a son, She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for him in the inn.**
 - Lk.2: 6-7
- **Was this *truly* the day?**

An Advent Experience

Isaiah 12:1-6

- **So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she (Mary) brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.**

- **Lk 2:6-7 NKJV**

- **Was this truly the *day*?**

An Advent Experience

Three Ways of Viewing Christmas

- **Harry Reasoner**
- **I Peter 1: 13 -15 Msg**
- **And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She (Mary) gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.**
 - **Lk.2:6-7 NLT**

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The basis for the tremendous annual burst of gift buying and parties and near hysteria is a quiet event that Christians believe actually happened a long time ago. You can say that in all societies there has always been a midwinter festival and that many of the trappings of our Christmas are almost violently pagan. But you come back to the central fact of the day and the quietness of Christmas morning-the birth of God on earth.

It leaves you only three ways of accepting Christmas. One is cynically, as a time to make money or endorse the making of it. One is graciously, the appropriate attitude for non-Christians, who wish their fellow citizens all the joy to which their beliefs entitle them. And the third, of course, is reverently. If this is the anniversary of the appearance of the Lord of the universe in the form of a helpless babe, it is a very important day. It's a startling idea, of course.

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My guess is that the whole story that a virgin was selected by God to bear His Son as a way of showing His love and concern for man is not an idea that has been popular with theologians.

It's a somewhat illogical idea, and theologians like logic almost as much as they like God. It's so revolutionary a thought that it probably could only come from a God that is beyond logic, and beyond theology. It has a magnificent appeal. Almost nobody has seen God, and almost nobody has any real idea of what He is like. And the truth is that among men the idea of seeing God suddenly and standing in a very bright light is not necessarily a completely comforting and appealing idea. But everyone has seen babies, and people like them. If God wanted to be loved as well as feared he moved correctly here. If He wanted to know His people as well as rule them, He moved correctly here, for a baby growing up learns all about people. If God wanted to be intimately part of man, He moved correctly, for the experiences of birth and familyhood are our

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are our most intimate and precious experiences.

So it comes beyond logic. It is either all falsehood or it is the truest thing in the world. It's the story of the great innocence of God the baby-God in the form of man-and has such a dramatic shock toward the heart that if it is not true, for Christians, nothing is true.

So, if a Christian is touched only once a year, the touching is still worth it, and maybe on some given Christmas, some final quiet morning, the touch will take.

TV News Commentator Harry Reasoner.

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Prophetic Christmas Benediction

Revelation 21:1-4; 22:12-17

**The Spirit and the bride say,
“Come.” And let him who hears
say, “Come.” Whoever is thirsty,
let him come; and whoever
wishes, let him take of the free gift
of the water of life.**

**This IS your Day to prepare for the
final Day!**

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