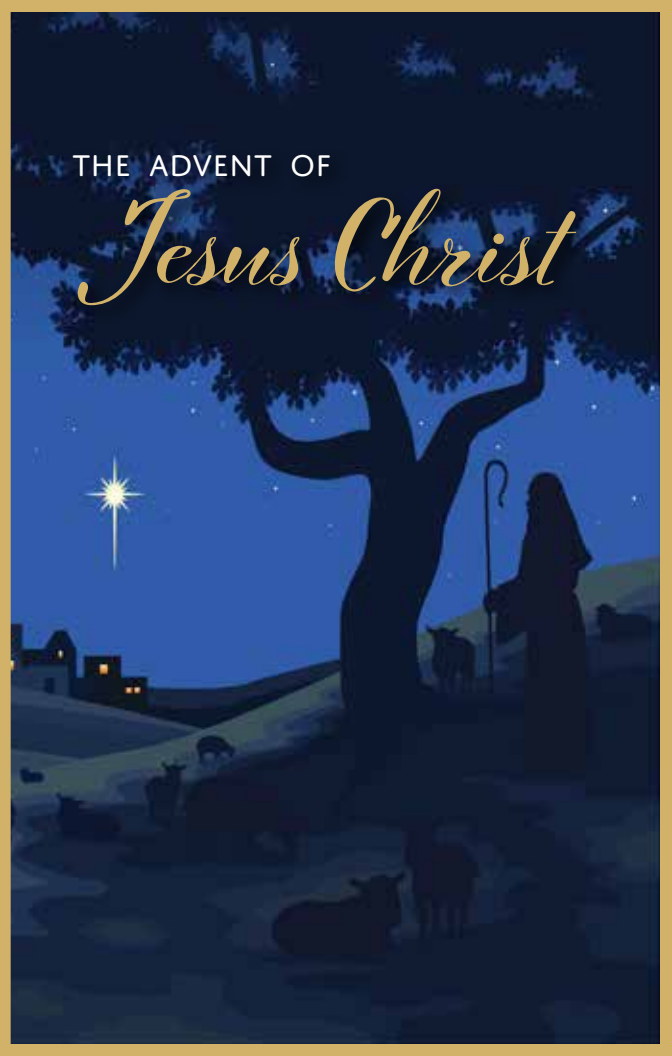
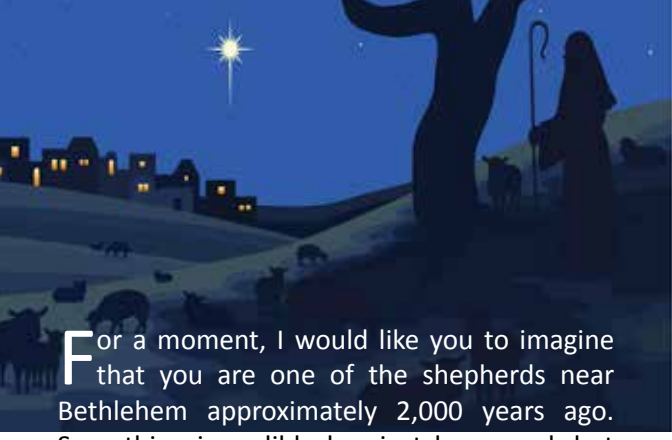

THE ADVENT OF
Jesus Christ



For a moment, I would like you to imagine that you are one of the shepherds near Bethlehem approximately 2,000 years ago. Something incredible has just happened, but you have no knowledge of this wonderful advent. The apostle Paul would later write: ***"Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh"*** (1 TIMOTHY 3:16).

As the shepherds were tending their sheep that night, ***"an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them"*** (LUKE 2:9). Nothing like this had ever happened to them before! God, in His grace, gave them the privilege of hearing this great announcement: ***"Behold, I bring you good tidings [news] of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord"*** (LUKE 2:10-11).

What a privilege to find out about this coming of the Saviour even before the religious leaders! It had been promised since ancient times, as the prophet wrote: ***"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel"*** (ISAIAH 7:14). There are many other prophecies that speak of the Saviour's first coming.

The word they heard, ***"Saviour,"*** is extremely beautiful and important. It is important because it speaks to us of our need as sinners for salvation. It is beautiful because it speaks to us of the hope we have in the Lord Jesus; that there is salvation. Let me ask you: **DO YOU KNOW THIS SAVIOUR?** There is no other person who can save you.

The angel who gave them the good news was accompanied by many others who said, ***"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*** (LUKE 2:14). The only person who could bring peace to this world was the long awaited Messiah. And now He had arrived as a child, was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger.

Notice how the shepherds accepted this news: ***"Let us now go... and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us"*** (LUKE 2:15). They responded with faith when they heard the message. They knew that, although it had been an angel who had delivered the message, it was truly a divine message.

You and I have the same message today. We have the complete Word of God that explains even more than the shepherds knew. Will you see your need as a sinner and turn to the Lord Jesus? His first advent was for the purpose of giving His life on a cross some 33 years later, when He took the burden of our sins. Now, God offers eternal life as the greatest gift there is—if you accept it today. If you receive His gift, you will do what the shepherds did: ***"The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God"*** (LUKE 2:20).

by Marcus Cain

All Bible quotations are from the New King James Version.

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