



*"All One In Christ"*

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA**

**SYNOD MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT**

**ADVENT SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE**

**26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2023**

**THEME: UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES AND WHAT TO DO –**

**1CHRONICLES.12:32**

**SUB THEME: BEHOLD HERE COMES THE MESSIAH**

**READINGS: JOHN 1:6-16, LUKE 21:25-36**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Towards the end of every year, the United Church of Zambia and many other main line churches observe the Christian tradition of Advent. The word Advent traces its roots from a Latin word **'Adventus'** which simply means the coming or arrival of someone special. In Christian ecclesiastical Calendar, Advent is a season observed in preparation for Christmas. This season begins four Sundays before Christmas and the season has been observed and has been in existence as far back as AD 581.

## **PURPOSE OF ADVENT**

The season of Advent announces two key things to the whole world:

1. The coming of Jesus Christ into the world as a Messiah through birth (Christmas Day).
2. The **PAROUSIA** – The Second coming of Jesus Christ as a Judge, bearing *eschatological (end times)* information about resurrection of the dead, the last judgement, the concepts of heaven and hell and belief in the Son of God will judge the living and the dead. It also gives emphasis on a person's final destiny after death.

## **MESSAGE OF ADVENT AND SIGNIFICANCE**

Advent is **Christ centred (Christocentric)** and carries **two** Main messages:

Divine benefits of the birth of a Messiah or Saviour of the world to the world

Strong warning messages to the world regarding the End Times (Eschatological messages). This in other words implies that the coming of Jesus Christ into the world through birth brought:

- (i) True Light beneficial to all that have accepted this Light
- (ii) Divine offer of Kingdom citizenship for everyone who believes in Him (John 1:12-13).

The birth of Jesus Christ carries massive benefits for all humans. It is quite a pity that others have chosen to reject Him through various unbelief and sinful acts, but His hands remain open to receive all who come back to him in humility. This is due to the fact that the grace from God given to all humanity is free, our ransom price for our sin was fully paid for and settled by the blood and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

## **POINTS FOR REFLECTION:**

- (i) **Behold He Is Coming As A Messiah**

In the John 1:6-16, a distinction is presented between John and Jesus Christ.

John is presented in human form but sent from God to bear witness of the Light (Jesus Christ), though John himself was not the light. On the other hand, Jesus Christ is presented as the true Light and God incarnate (God Himself revealed through His Son Jesus Christ). The coming of Jesus Christ into the world has redefined our lives because through Him:

- (a) **Life eternal is assured:** Us who were destined for eternal perishing have a sure way of salvation (John 14:6).
  
- (b) **Our guiltiness and birth into sin was replaced by His virgin birth:** The coming of true Light has replaced our darkness for sin. It was by the eternal blood of Jesus who came into the world to take away all our guilty of sin that now we have direct access to forgiveness from God through him. (1John1:9).
  
- (c) **Our Punishment for our sin was borne by Jesus Christ:** It was the Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ who took our place, the people who were guilty and deserved to die. He was punished on our behalf for us to evade (escape/avoid) eternal condemnation.
  
- (d) **Our shame for sin was ashamed by our Saviour:** Jesus took away all our shame for sin and today, we are a people of hope for salvation through Jesus Christ.
  
- (e) **Our history once marred by un-redeemable sin was changed by our Saviour:** Through Jesus Christ, we are redeemed and have access to eternity.
  
- (f) **Our condemnation to sin was condemned by the appearing of a Messiah:** Our condemnation to all kinds of sin was condemned by Jesus Christ. The chains of captivity that tied us to bondage were broken by the birth of Jesus Christ.
  
- (g) **Our curses were cursed by the birth of Jesus Christ:** We are set apart and delivered from all human curses because of the blood of the Saviour.

(h) **Our lost glory and fellowship (through Adam and Eve)** was fully restored by the birth of Jesus: In the garden of Eden, sin made humanity to loose fellowship with God (Genesis 3:23-24), but the birth of Jesus Christ (John 3:16) restored our: peace, love, unity, harmony, fellowship with God and eternal life assured.

By nature, Jesus Christ is the **true being** of the revealed Word (Logos) and this was an active agent used in the divine creation, ordering the times, seasons and salvation of the world.

This is due to the fact that Jesus Christ was that Divine Word who was with God from eternity and from the inception of the world. Therefore, the task that John had was to bear witness to the real Light of the World (Jesus Christ).

(ii) **Behold He Comes Quickly As A Judge**

According to Luke 21:25-36, this scripture gives us a detailed account of the signs of the end of the age. Strange signs will appear in the sky, on the sun, the moon, and the stars and among nations.

After all these things come to pass, then the Son of Man will appear in a cloud with great power and glory.

In His teaching to the disciples regarding the signs of His second coming, Jesus gives an example that when you see fig trees sprout, you know it is summer time. He further adds that all other things will pass away, but His word will remain standing.

The second coming (**PAROUSIA**) of Jesus Christ will be accompanied by a lot of warning signs and events. Therefore, as we endeavour to “UNDERSTAND THE TIMES AND WHAT TO DO,” there is a call for each one of us to take into serious consideration the soon coming of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. The church is called upon to:

(a) **To be a prophetic voice of our time:** we are called upon to be a strong voice of truth, sincerity, honest, love, humility, forgiveness and continue to be the light of the world (Mathew 5:14)

- (b) **To guard against all forms of moral decay:** we live at a challenging time where slowly but sure, moral decay is creeping in our communities and the church is not an exception.
  - (c) **To maintain moral uprightness:** we are living at a time where in the name of upholding human rights, communities are under the siege of un natural practices and life styles such as *Lesbianism, same sex marriages and the challenge of holistic dealing with LGBTs* – issues to do with Lesbianism, Gay rights, bisexual, transgender and more of such.
- (iii) Living and expressing Christianity in such a troubled world, we are called upon to “UNDERSTAND THE TIMES AND KNOW WHAT TO DO” in there are demands on our part that must be fulfilled as we await the coming of the Saviour that:
- (a) **That there must be total Repentance and holiness:** 1 Peter 1:15, we are called upon to struggle for holiness because He who called us is holy.
  - (b) **We must totally submit with Humility to God:** James 4:7, we are called upon to resist the devil, submit to God and our enemy will flee from us.
  - (c) **We must totally Dependence on God:** Proverbs 18:10, in such a troubled world, we are called upon to depend on the name of the Lord our strong tower for victory and safety.
  - (d) **We must live lives that please the Creator God:** Acts 13:36, Ensure to serve the purpose of God for your life while it is day, night time comes when no one can work. David did exactly that in his own time and generation

## CONCLUSION

As we begin Advent period, once more we are reminded: **Behold He comes quickly!** There is need for us to “UNDERSTAND THE TIMES” in this regard and “KNOW WHAT TO DO” in order to adequately prepare for the coming of the Son of God.

Therefore, a call is made for individuals, families, groups, communities, Churches, nations, leadership at all levels and the world at large to live wisely and choose life eternal (Deuteronomy 8:19-20).

What difference are we making for the Lord in such a troubled world? How do we adequately prepare for the second coming of Jesus Christ as redeemer of the righteous and judge of the unrighteous?

**AMEN!**

**THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO  
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SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE.**

For any suggestion and comments please contact

The Secretary  
Mission and Evangelism Department  
P O Box 71276  
NDOLA  
Telex: 611119  
Email address: synoduczmed2018@gmail.com  
Mobile: 0977-753999