

# ADVENT HOPE: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

*Behold Him*  
The End Begins Here

SERMON RESOURCE



# Our Liturgy

The Lord is here — His Spirit is with us.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is — there is Freedom!

## CONNECT

— 15 MINUTES

There were 400 silent years between the last messages from the prophets until Jesus was born. Have you ever experienced a “silent” season with God? What helped you hang on to hope?

## REVIEW

— 30 MINUTES

Advent is all about **remembering** that God always keeps His promises even if it feels like we are waiting a long time.

Advent is about **anticipation** that He will keep the promises we are still awaiting.

Advent is about **preparing** our hearts to receive the fullness of His promises.

### **REMEMBER:**

Read —

- Isaiah 7:14
- Luke 1:26b–38
- Revelation 1:8
  - What stands out to you?
  - Notice Mary’s concerns and God’s responses.
  - How does this speak to your waiting places?





## **ANTICIPATION:**

As surely as God kept His promise and sent Jesus the first time, He will keep His promise to come again!

Read—

### Revelation 1:1-3

- “Apocalypse/apokalupsis” means “revealing” not “catastrophic end of the world.” How does that change your feelings about reading the book of Revelation?
- What (who) is being revealed in the book of Revelation?

There are four major interpretive approaches to scholarly study of the book of Revelation:

Futurist: Describing future events.

Historicist: a symbolic timeline of church and world history.

Idealist: Timeless symbols of ongoing spiritual conflict  
between Christ and the powers of evil

Preterist: primarily referring to first century events.

- Which of these lenses have you been primarily exposed to?
- How might looking for the “revealing of Jesus’ replace dread and fuel hope of His coming?
- Why do you think scriptures says that those who read Revelation aloud are “blessed”?
- What blessing might come from reading with anticipation rather than dread?

**“INTERPRETATION IS...CHALLENGING, BECAUSE  
APOCALYPTIC LANGUAGE AND IMAGERY IS  
FOREIGN TO MOST PEOPLE TODAY; THE BOOK IS...FILLED  
WITH DENSE ALLUSIONS TO BIBLICAL TYPES AND  
PROPHECIES, AND UNLESS THE READER FAMILIAR WITH  
THEM THE EXPERIENCE WILL BE LIKE WATCHING THE  
MOVIE SHREK WITHOUT KNOWING THE NURSERY RHYMES  
AND FAIRY TALES THAT IT PARODIES.”**

**NT WRIGHT**





## **PREPARATION:**

Read aloud (slowly, reverently, as worship) —

- Revelation 1:12-20
  - Advent invites us to prepare our hearts. What practices can help you create room for Jesus in your mind and home this season?
  - The Greek word “behold” (eido) means to take notice!
  - How might your spiritual posture shift if you approach this Advent season with a focus on “beholding” rather than analyzing?
  - How might beholding Jesus speak to the fears and uncertainties you are facing right now?
  - John collapses in awe when he sees Jesus. Notice how Jesus responds with gentle touch and reassurance. How does this speak to your situation?

## APPLICATION

— 20 MINUTES

Read Revelation chapters 1-3 out loud at least once this week.

**Ask:** What does this show me about Jesus?

**Pray each day:** Jesus, help me behold You today. Help me not to miss You.

### **Journal Prompts:**

- Where am I waiting?
- What do I believe about God in this waiting?
- Where have I seen His faithfulness in the past?

## GOING DEEPER

— 20 MINUTES

Click the image to watch the book of Revelation by the Bible Project:

