

The Second Advent: Power and Glory

Advent is a term that simply means “coming.” During Advent we reflect on the wonder of Jesus Christ laying aside His heavenly privileges and entering into the world the first time as a baby. As well, during Advent we also anticipate the second coming of Christ. The Scriptures promise that one day Jesus will return. This theological truth is one that is integral to our Christian worldview. It should affect how we live in the here and now. Today, we consider the power and glory of Jesus’ second Advent.

Opening Discussion: Can you remember a time when you experienced great anticipation looking forward to someone’s arrival? Explain.

Read Luke 2:1-7

1. How would you describe Jesus’ first coming?

2. Jesus’ earthly ministry did reveal glimpses of his power and glory (i.e. feeding the 5000, healing people, etc.), but in large measure his glory and his power were restrained during his first coming. How so?

Read Matthew 24:27-31

3. How does this passage in Matthew describe Jesus’ second coming?

4. When Matthew writes that Jesus’ coming will be like lightening which flashing from the east to the west, what is the point of that metaphor?

5. How will the glory and power of Jesus be seen in His second advent according to this passage?

Read Revelation 19:11-19

6. How is Jesus depicted here?
7. How is the glory and power of Jesus' second advent seen in what we read here?

Steve said:

The contrast between Jesus' first and second advents couldn't be more stark. When Christ returns, He is not trying to win a bride; He is coming as a conquering King to establish the Kingdom of God by force. The book of Revelation depicts the world as so broken that it cannot be fixed. The enemies of God are in control of all the world's systems and have poured out their wrath upon the church. The world and its systems don't need to be tweaked or reformed; they need to be conquered. The only solution is for Jesus Himself to return, "strike down the nations," and "rule them with a rod of iron." It will be as if the enemies of God are grapes in a "wine press" and God Himself is stomping them with fierce wrath.

8. How does it affect you knowing that Jesus is coming back "as a conquering King to establish the Kingdom of God by force?"
9. How should the truth that Jesus is coming again affect how you live your life? What kinds of things would it affect if you truly lived in light of his coming in power and glory?