



# Come & See What God Has Done

*Advent 2023, Week 1*

Welcome to the Advent Devotionals for 2023. This year, we use the theme "Come and see what God has done." We find the scriptural basis for this in Psalms 66:5, "Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man" (ESV).

In the four weeks of Advent 2023, we will journey through the Bible and discover instances where we can see the Lord doing beautiful things for His people. The first three weeks will explore these instances from the Old Testament.

In week 1, our devotionals will be from the Book of Genesis. This book is rich in the history of God's love for humanity and is entirely on display. Also, at times, we will see examples of His frustration with humanity.

I pray that in this season of Advent, you will be blessed in studying God's word.

Leaning on Jesus  
Forest Holmes

Note: All scriptural references are from the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible.



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The Majesty of God's Creation – Day 1

Nov. 27

Have you ever considered what creation was like when God finished his work? The earth and the heavens? How many places do you know where man has not influenced the landscape since creation? We might call these areas pristine. Some areas that come to mind are the places in Idaho and other sites designated as wilderness. Untouched by man and not allowed to change in many cases, the beauty of these areas is incredible and touches the human heart.

To a lesser extent, our national parks have sought to preserve the raw beauty within their boundaries. Yet, these are altered to allow us to travel within and enjoy and marvel at their beauty. Roads and structures have been built to allow access. We could call this a compromise in seeing some unique aspects of creation.

Or think of the night-time sky. Our view has changed significantly since the time of creation. We now have satellites and space debris that sail across the heavens, reflecting the sun's light. The lights of civilization, called light pollution by some, also detract from our ability to see the magnificence of the cosmos. I can remember the awe I experienced when I first saw the skies away from the lights of civilization. My family and friends were snowmobiling in Michigan deep in the Huron National Forest late at night. It was stunning and profoundly humbling. I urge you to find a dark outdoor space at night and try it sometime.

In pristine or altered form, creation is a sight to behold. We find the creation story in Genesis 1:3, "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." All too often, we take creation for granted. We can read stories of how creation appeared to early explorers, but we can only imagine that. The beginning of 1 Corinthians 13:12 bible verse states, "For now we see in a mirror dimly." Through our human eyes, we can't fully grasp the glory and magnitude of what our God called "very good." We can look upon creation and embrace the wonder that holds what our loving God intended for us to see. We can contemplate the magnitude of the mountains, the desolation of the deserts, or the vast expanse and depth of the seas. In all cases, creation cries out, telling us to come and see what the Lord has done for us.

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Grace Lutheran Church  
Advent Devotions 2023