



Come & See What God Has Done

Intro Week 3

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 theme in Psalms 66:5, Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. In the four weeks of Advent 2023, we will take a journey through the Bible and discover instances where we can see where the Lord has done wonderful things for His people. The first three weeks will explore these instances from the Old Testament. In the devotionals for week three, we will investigate scripture and find the prophecies of the coming Messiah. As far back as Genesis, we can find promises from God our Father of a coming Messiah to rescue His people. We know today that His intent for a Messiah to come to earth has been fulfilled. God incarnate is the focus of Advent, and this is the start of a new relationship between God and man. For you and me, the Messiah is necessary in our relationship as it was with God's chosen people of the Old Testament who looked forward to the coming of the promised Messiah. Yet, when He arrived, many decided not to believe He was among them in the form of Jesus. Just as in Old Testament times, we, too, are in desperate need of a Messiah to save us from our sinful selves. Many will still choose not to believe in the Savior, Jesus, much to their loss. 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 Bible.



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He Shall Bruise Your Head

Dec. 11

Many will find it difficult to believe there was a promise of a Messiah as far back as Genesis. Yet, we find that early promise is made in Genesis 3:14-15. The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” In speaking to the serpent, God clarified some things to Adam, Eve, and Satan. We will investigate the promises fulfilled in the New Testament.

In verse 15, God’s promise of Satan’s head being crushed is fulfilled in the incarnation of His Son, Jesus Christ. The original sin of Adam and Eve was atoned for by Jesus, thus crushing Satan’s head - his hold on humanity through sin.

We find the proof of the Messiah, the Christ, in Jesus as captured in Mark 8:27-30. Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples “Who do people say that I am?” And they told him “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him “You are the Christ” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. The promised “He” from Genesis 3:15 has been fulfilled. In the eyes of those closest to Him, there was no doubt that He was the promised Messiah. The Messiah was to rescue humanity from its sinful ways and the death and separation from God that are the ultimate result of sin. But what of Satan bruising the promised Messiah’s heel?





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We find the heel strikes in the form of betrayal by Judas, and all the other disciples' betrayal is captured in Matthew 26:14-16, Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

The rest of the disciples' promise to die alongside Jesus is found in Matthew 26:31-35 and Matthew 26:56. The prophesied striking of his heel came in the form of Jesus's' most trusted and closest friends, His disciples, abandoning Him in His hour of greatest need.

Today, we see the promise of God fulfilled by Jesus. He indeed crushed Satan's head. We, the recipients of the forgiveness and reconciliation with God by Jesus's sacrifice, have much to be grateful for. We can see and experience what the Lord has done for you and me.

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