

*Come, praise the LORD! Let us rejoice,   
and let us make a joyful noise   
to him, the rock of our salvation.   
Let us before his throne rejoice   
and thank him with our joyful noise,   
our songs of praise and adoration.*

*The Lord our God, whose praise we sing,   
rules as our great and glorious King,   
none equals him, no god is greater.   
The deepest caves are in his hand;   
the mountains, all the seas, the land   
are his, for he is their Creator.*

*Come, let us worship and bow down   
Before this God of great renown.   
Our Maker, Him our thanks we render:   
He led us by His mighty hand   
to pastures in a verdant land.   
He is our shepherd, our defender!*

*Psalm 95:1-3*



**INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME "HE IS COMING":**

Today we have come together to remember and reflect on the event traditionally celebrated at the end of this month, Christmas. We will be doing so with the theme, He is coming!

You might say that there is one theme throughout the whole of the Bible —Jesus is coming! Both the Old and the New Testament bring this message to the readers. Both the people of the Old Testament and today need to work out for themselves this message.

In the Old Testament times people did not say that they were waiting for Jesus. They did not yet know His Name. They were expecting a Saviour whom they called Son of David or Messiah. Or they would simply say that they were waiting for the coming of the Lord. At any rate, they were always looking forward, expecting His coming.

The New Testament brings us Christ and all His benefits. Here we also learn that the complete revelation of God's kingdom involves two comings of Jesus — His coming with grace and His return in glory. Therefore the message has not changed: Jesus is coming!! And the people of the New Testament era, including us today, live just the way the people of the Old Testament times lived — always looking forward, always expecting His coming.

Through this program we hope to show how in both the Old and New   
dispensations there is one message, a message of great comfort and hope, a   
message of wondrous joy and a source of immense thankfulness. We hope   
to focus on three main aspects of this message — the church's need for a   
Saviour, how the church knew that Jesus was/is coming, and how the church   
prepared/prepares itself for this coming.

**THE OLD TESTAMENT CHURCH'S NEED   
FOR HIS COMING**

**The creation of all things including man in the image of God.**

**Psalm 90:1-2**

3

**1** A Prayer of Moses the man of God.

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**2** Before the mountains were brought forth,

Or ever You had formed the earth and the world,

Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

**Sing Psalm 90:1**

*LORD, you have been since you shaped all creation our dwelling place in every generation.*

*Before the mountains were brought forth and grounded, And you the earth and world had formed and founded, from everlasting stands Thy holy throne;*

*to everlasting you are God alone.*

**Genesis 1:26-29**

**26** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

**27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

**29** And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

**Ecclesiastes 7:29a**

**29** Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright,

**Sing Psalm 8:1,4**

0 *LORD, our Lord, yours be all adoration.*

*How glorious is your Name in all creation!*

*You have displayed your majesty on high*

*your glory reaches far above the sky.*

*You little lower than divine have made him*

*and so with glorious honour have arrayed him.*

*All things you gave to him as his domain,*

*that over your creation he might reign.*

**The fall into sin, the break in** **the good relationship between God and man.**

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**Genesis 3:1-7**

**1** Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

**2** And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

**3** but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

**4** Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

**5** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

**7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

**Romans 5:12**

**12** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--

**Romans 3:23**

**23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**Sing Psalm 14:1,2**

*The* *fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their horrid deeds they cherish; Not one of them does* good, while *just men perish. None calls upon the LORD, none sings His laud or fears His rod.*

*The LORD looks down from heaven's holy throne To see if anyone has understanding.*

*Not one seeks God, but wickedness intending,*

*The sons of men, to sin and evil prone,*

*his law disown.*

**God's promise of restoration**

**Genesis 3:15**

**15** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

**Meditation : Genesis 3:15 :**

This very important verse in the Bible gives us the first glimmer of hope in a fallen world. It is often called the "protevangelism" - the first flicker of the gospel. It is only a broad generalization without a lot of detail, but it is the foundation for the many promises of Jesus' coming found in the Old Testament. Our misery started when we broke our covenant with God. Our hope began when God broke our alliance with the devil. God did not allow us to fall under the everlasting dominion of Satan. Immediately he put enmity between him and us. That was God's grace, that is His love.

The unholy alliance between the children of Eve and the brood of the serpent was broken the day it started. Instead of an alliance, God made a battle. And in this battle there was one certain victor. The seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent - a mortal wound, one from which he could not recover. The seed of the woman's heel would be bruised - man would suffer, but it would not be forever, it would not lead to defeat. A deliverer who suffers, but is ultimately victorious is promised here. Jesus is Coming!

*5*

**Sing Psalm 1:1,2,3**

*How blest is he who shuns the path of sin,*

*who spurns the counsel of unrighteous men*

*and will not stand or sit among the scoffers;*

*their company to him no pleasure offers*

*but his delight s in God’s holy law;*

*all day and night he ponders it with awe.*

*Whoever loves God’s law with all his heart*

*and will not from the way of truth depart*

*is like a tree which, planted by a river,*

*stays lush and green with leaves that will not wither*

*and which in season yields abundant fruit.*

*So he will thrive, whatever his pursuit.*

*Not so the wicked! For like chaff are they –*

*mere chaff that gusts of wind will blow away.*

*When judgment comes, they’ll stand condemned and humbled,*

*cast out from where the righteous are assembled.*

*The LORD will guard the pathway of the just;*

*The way of sinners leads to death and dust.*

**THE OLD TESTAMENT CHURCH KNEW   
JESUS WAS COMING**

**Continuation of the line of the coming Messiah**

**Genesis 4:25-26**

**25** And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed."

**26** And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.

**Genesis 12:1-3**

**1** Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

**2** I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

**3** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**Genesis 49:10**

**10** The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

**Isaiah 11:1**

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**1** There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

**Jeremiah 23:5-6**

**5** "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

**6** In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

**Sing Hymn 14:1,2**The Song of Zechariah from Luke 1

*Blest be the God of Israel,*

*for he has come to set us free;*

*In David’s house the Lord has raised*

*salvation’s horn for all to see.*

*He through his prophets long ago*

*said he would save us from our foe,*

*from all who scorn and hate us.*

*He has not put our fathers’ faith to shame*

*but, in his love rememb’ring them,*

*has kept the oath he swore to Abraham.*

*As God has promised, all our sins*

*will be forgiven, swept away.*

*He from on high in tender love*

*will bless us with the glorious day*

*on which before our very eyes*

*the radiant Morning Sun will rise*

*to shine on us forever.*

*From death’s dark shadow he will grant release*

*and, when its tyranny shall cease.*

*will guide our feet into the path of peace*.

**THE OLD TESTAMENT CHURCH LIVED IN THE   
KNOWLEDGE OF HIS COMING**

**Hebrews 11:5-6, 8-10, 24-26**

**5** By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

**6** But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

**8** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

**9** By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

**10** for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

**24** By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

**25** choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

**26** esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

**Hebrews 11:13,14**

7

**13** These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

**14** For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

**Meditation : Faith**

How did the people in the Old Testament prepare for the coming of the Messiah, the Christ? Did they prepare at all? Did they know what to expect, what they were waiting for?

The Old Testament church had a glimpse of the wondrous things to come.

From the beginning of the revelation of Christ with the mother promise until the end of the Old Testament, the church received various pieces of information, some small, others more substantial.

God did not reveal to them the full extent of His promise, He did not give them many details of what to expect. But one thing is certain - He gave them hope, He gave them assurance of redemption from sin.

And He required one thing from the Church in those days - obedience and trust in His promises. He required faith from His children.

And the New Testament sheds light on this walk of faith from various of God's children. Enoch, Abram, Moses, and many others had to take God at His Word, and direct their lives accordingly. All the men and women mentioned in Hebrews 11 rested on the promises of God; they did not have any visible evidence that these promises would ever be fulfilled.

Yet, these promises meant so much to them that they regulated the whole course of their lives in the light of these Words of God.

Things which are future (‘hoped for’) as far as ordinary experience goes are present, are a reality, in the eyes of faith. Faith has its own certainty and its own evidence, for faith takes God's Word seriously.

And so it was in the Old Testament times for the faithful in the church. They lived their lives in hopeful expectation of the coming Jesus. Not knowing what to expect they trusted in the Lord, they believed Him. And this was accounted to them for righteousness.

**Sing Psalm 105:3,4,15**

*He is the LORD, our God unfailing,*

*his judgments everywhere prevailing,*

*He will remember and uphold*

*his cov’nant made in days of old.*

*The steadfast words of His command*

*a thousand generations stand.*

*Firm stands His word to Abra’m spoken,*

*his oath to Isaac, never broken.*

*His everlasting covenant*

*the LORD our God will not recant.*

*He promised Isr’el, "You I’ll give,*

*the land where you as heirs may live.”*

*God led them forth with joy and singing,*

*their voices with His praises ringing;*

*He gave to them the nations' land,*

*filled with their fruit His people's hand,*

*that they might serve Him all their days.*

*O**Isr’el, to the LORD give praise!*

**HE CAME - THE KING IS BORN**

8

**God's Promise is Fulfilled**

**Luke 2:8-148**

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

**9** And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

**10** Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

**11** For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**12** And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

**13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

**14** "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

**Sing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"**

*Hark! The herald angels sing,*

*"Glory to the newborn King;*

*Peace on earth, and mercy mild,*

*God and sinners reconciled!"*

*Joyful, all ye nations, rise,*

*Join the triumph of the skies;*

*With th'angelic host proclaim,*

*"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Hark! The herald angels sing,*

*"Glory to the newborn King."*

*Christ by highest heaven adored Christ the Everlasting Lord!*

*Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail th'lncarnate Deity,*

*Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!*

*Light and life to all He brings,*

*Risen with healing in His wings.*

*Mild He lays His glory by,*

*Born that man no more may die,*

*Born to raise the sons of earth,*

*Born to give them second birth.*

*Hark! The herald angels sing,*

*"Glory to the newborn King."*

**Luke 2:25-32**

**25** And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

**26** And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

**27** So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law,

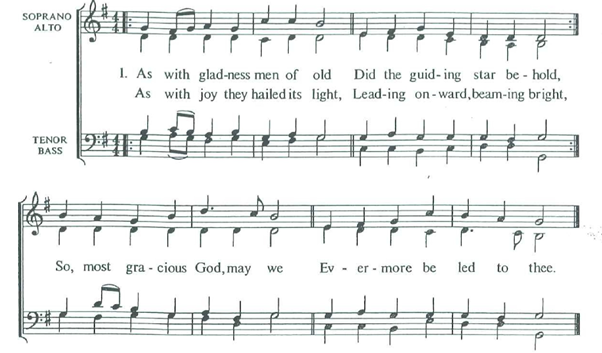
**28** he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

**29** "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;

**30** For my eyes have seen Your salvation

**31** Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

**32** A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."



1. *As with gladness men of old*

*Did the guiding star behold,*

*As with joy they hailed its light,*

*Leading onward, beaming bright,*

*So, most gracious God, may we*

*Evermore be led to thee.*

*2..As with joyful steps they sped,*

*To that lowly manger-bed,*

*There to bend the knee before Him*

*whom heaven and earth adore,*

*So may we with willing feet*

*Ever seek thy mercy-seat.*

3..*As they offered gifts most rare*

*At that manger rude and bare,*

*So may we with holy joy,*

*Pure, and free from sin's alloy,*

*All our costliest treasures bring,*

*Christ, to thee our heavenly King*.

*4..Holy Jesu, every day*

*Keep us in the narrow way;*

9

*And when earthly things are past,*

*Bring our ransomed souls at last*

*Where they need no star to guide,*

*Where no clouds thy glory hide.*

*5..In the heav'nly country bright*

*Need they no created light;*

*Thou its light, its joy, its crown,*

*Thou its sun which goes not down:*

*There for ever may we sing*

*Alleluyas to our King*.

**DISCUSSION**HE IS COMING - THE NEW TESTAMENT ERA

**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH'S NEED FOR CHRIST'S COMING**

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23

1. The Lord Jesus has come and paid for all of His children's sins. We know this and hear it so often that it is easy to take it for granted. What are the characteristics of the person who knows their fallen state and is in awe of God's gift of grace and life for him/her personally?

**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH KNOWS CHRIST IS COMING**

1. What texts point to the fact that Christ is surely coming back to redeem His people?
2. What evidence do we see in and around us that Christ is at work bringing His world to the end? What does the Bible say about Christ's work after His ascension?

**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH LIVES IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST'S COMING**

1. Do we live the same way as the Old Testament church did - always looking forward, always expecting Christ's coming? Or do we sometimes forget about the imminent arrival of Christ and focus more on a life of obedience? (can we actually split the two — looking forward and our fife of obedience?)
2. Are we truly prepared for the return of Christ? How can we be?

**THE LAST DAYS**

1. Rev 20:20 "Surely I am coming quickly." — we must therefore look forward and believe and expect the coming of the Lord. What does the word quickly refer to?

**FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

1. How can we live in the spirit of Christmas all year?
2. How can we spend the coming Christmas with our families and friends focussing on the riches of Christ's first and second coming and not getting caught up in the frenzy of the people around us?

