

GOD INCARNATE



A D V E N T 2 0 1 9

JOHN 1:1-18

—

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning with God.

God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.

The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

...

JOHN 1:1-18

—

God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

...

JOHN 1:1-18

—

John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'" From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God's unending love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

JOHN 1:4-5

—

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...

ISAIAH 9:1-7

—

Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.

The people who walk in darkness
will see a great light.

For those who live in a land of deep darkness,
a light will shine.

You will enlarge the nation of Israel,
and its people will rejoice.

They will rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest
and like warriors dividing the plunder.

...

ISAIAH 9:1-7

—

For you will break the yoke of their slavery
and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders.
You will break the oppressor's rod,
just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian.
The boots of the warrior
and the uniforms bloodstained by war
will all be burned.
They will be fuel for the fire.

For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called:

...

ISAIAH 9:1-7

—

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His government and its peace
will never end.

He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his
ancestor David
for all eternity.

The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies
will make this happen!

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**BAIT-AND-SWITCH
OR
CONGRUENT INTEGRITY?**

**THIS IS THE COMBINED PROMISE OF
THE ONE WHO IS TO COME AND DO THESE THINGS**

HOPE
EXPECTATION/PEACE
JOY
LOVE

**EXPECTATION AND PEACE
CLOSELY RELATE**

A CORRELATION OF EXPECTATION AND PEACE

—

Conflict as unmet expectations

Think of your relational conflicts this year:

"I expected more of you" / "You had the wrong expectations of me.."

Think of the systems that aggravate us:

"This system should be doing better.." / "We don't do that here.."

Peace as met expectations

Think of your relational harmony this year:

"You exceeded my expectations" / "Glad I could do as you asked.."

Think of the systems that worked around us:

"This system has totally delivered.." / "Glad we could do that!"

**THE MEETING OF EXPECTATIONS HAS A SOUND:
DISCHORD OR HARMONY**

(Dissonance)

(Congruence)

**ISRAEL WERE A PEOPLE IN RELATIONAL DISCHORD
- WITH GOD, EACH OTHER AND THEIR WORLD -
AND THEY WERE HOPING FOR HARMONY:
FOR THINGS TO BE RIGHT AGAIN***

***THEY ARE AWAITING SHALOM**

(Presence of peace)

**YOUR LIFE IS NOT MEANT TO BE FULL OF DISSONANCE,
IT'S MEANT TO BE PRESENT WITH SHALOM**

THE ENJOYMENT OF SHALOM IS AKA:

REST

GOD OF PEACEFUL REST

—

Gen 1 / He made it good (shalom), so He rested (the activity of being in shalom)

John 14:27 "Peace (shalom) I leave with you. My peace (shalom) I give to you..."

Matthew 11:28-12:14 "Come to me all who are weary... I will give you rest for your souls"

**IT TURNS OUT,
HE WANTS TO GIVE US WHAT WE NEED**

An aerial night view of a city, likely Los Angeles, showing a complex multi-level highway interchange with light trails from traffic. The surrounding urban landscape is filled with illuminated buildings, including a prominent one with 'NAYLOR LOVE' signage. The scene is bathed in a cool blue light from the city's lights.

**OUR EXPECTATION PROBLEM:
WE ARE A CITY OF HEDONISTS,
EXPECTING A GOOD LIFE
OF PLEASURE + EXPERIENCES**

RONALD ROLHEISER

—

“Today, a number of historical circumstances are blindly flowing together and accidentally conspiring to produce a climate within which it is difficult not just to think about God or to pray, but simply to have any interior depth whatsoever. We, for every kind of reason, good and bad, are distracting ourselves into spiritual oblivion.

It is not that we have anything against God, depth and spirit, we would like these, it is just that we are habitually too preoccupied to have any of these show up on our radar screens. We are more busy than bad, more distracted than nonspiritual, and more interested in the movie theater, the sports stadium and the shopping mall and the fantasy life they produce in us than we are in the church. Pathological busyness, distraction, and restlessness are major blocks today within our spiritual lives.”

**ADVENT CONFRONTS
OUR RESTLESSNESS
AND BECKONS US
TO ANOTHER LIGHT:**



**“AND HE WILL BE CALLED:
... PRINCE OF PEACE.”**