

# Sermon Notes – December 1, 2019

## Welcome to Advent 2019

During this season of Advent we will once again shine a spotlight on God’s masterpiece – His great story of redemption! What we call “The Christmas Story” is not simply *one* of the stories in the Bible; it is part of one *truly glorious* BIG story that God is writing through all of human history. Here at Sunset Bible Church we follow an original, seven-year Advent teaching plan that looks like this:

- “The Promise” – The Gospel in the Abrahamic Covenant (2016)
- “Under His Wings” – Jesus as our Kinsman Redeemer (2017)
- “Shepherd Warrior King” – Jesus, the Greater Son of David (2018)
- “A Light in the Darkness” – God speaks through His prophets in Israel’s darkest hours (2019)
- “The Dayspring from On High” – The Christmas story from Luke’s gospel (2020)
- “Joy to the WORLD” – God’s Mission to the ends of the earth (2021)
- “From Heaven’s Portal” – Christmas from Heaven’s perspective (2022)

## God of the Day: Believing His Promises in the Light

- ⇒ The Promise-Plan of God was not an \_\_\_\_\_: A visit with Abraham & Sarah (Genesis 12:1-3 & Galatians 3:8).
- ⇒ God protected the Promise, sovereignly guiding even the \_\_\_\_\_ of His people so that His plan was fulfilled: A visit with Grandma Naomi (Ruth 2:3; 3:9-13; 4:14-17).
- ⇒ God made amazing, gracious Promises to the Shepherd Warrior King David concerning his greater Son (II Sam. 7:12-16).
- ⇒ God guarded His Promise-Plan down through the ages. It was not de-railed by human \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, nor was it lost in the sands of time. God makes Promises, & He keeps them all.

## God of the Night: Knowing His Presence in the Dark

- ⇒ Then came the day when “the lights went out” (II Chronicles 36:15-21); yet even in a darkness of their own making, God did not abandon His people, nor did He abandon His Promise-Plan.

God of the Day, God of the Night  
II Corinthians 1:3-11  
Pastor Jay Mosser

- ⇒ God does not abandon us, His people, during our seasons of night. We are “the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand” (Psalm 95:7).
- ⇒ The Apostle Paul describes a season of darkness: II Corinthians 1:3-11
  - In our journey of faith, we face both \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_, sometimes at precisely the same time. In the body of Christ, we share such times *together*. (3-7)
  - Sometimes “the darkness” feels overwhelming, even to the “strongest” of God’s people. (8-9a)
  - God’s power and promises and presence are not \_\_\_\_\_ by the darkness (9b-10; see also John 1:5)
  - God’s people \_\_\_\_\_ by praying! Paul says, “You also **must** help us by prayer...” (ESV) Similarly, Paul asks the believers in Rome to “strive together with me in your prayers,” and to the church at Thessalonica he says simply, “Pray for us.”

## Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ God still keeps His promises. Don’t doubt it for a minute!
  - “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)
  - “There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 8:1)
  - “The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18)
  - “According to His promise, we are waiting for new heavens & a new earth in which righteousness dwells...” (II Peter 3:13)
- ⇒ God inhabits *our* seasons of darkness as well. His power & promises & presence are not overcome by the darkness! It has been well said, “Never doubt in the darkness what you believed in the light.”
- ⇒ Communion text: Romans 8:31-39

Second Sunday of Advent: December 8, 2019

“When the Darkness is Our Fault”

(II Chronicles 36, Daniel 9, II Corinthians 7:5-13)

Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: • after-thought • daily choices • sin • lack of faith • suffering • comfort • overcome • help one another

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