

Sermon Notes – December 15, 2019

Advent 2019

During Advent, we focus on God’s masterpiece – His great story of redemption! “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 human history. At Sunset Bible Church we follow an original, seven-year Advent teaching plan:

- “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)

Review: Thinking Correctly About Seasons of Darkness

II Chronicles 36:15-21 & II Corinthians 7:5-13

- ⇒ We saw last week that not all seasons of darkness are _____. We often suffer from the foolish or sinful choices of others, or simply from living in a _____ world (Romans 8!).
- ⇒ The darkness in today’s text, however, was the fault of God’s people who had persistently rejected God’s truth. God’s answer to _____ is _____ (godly sorrow).

Darkness: What Did Jeremiah See & Know?

- ⇒ Jeremiah saw first-hand the result of a nation that rebelled against God, and he communicated on God’s behalf a passionate call to “_____” (Jeremiah 2-3).
- ⇒ Jeremiah wept as he saw the consequences in the form of a brutal, foreign army (8:20-9:1; Lamentations).

Hear the Voices of Hope!
Jeremiah 23:1-8 & Selected Scripture

Pastor Jay Mosser

- ⇒ Jeremiah gave God’s announcement that the captivity would be _____ years long (25:12; II Chronicles 36:21).

Comfort: How Does God Deal With Us “In the Darkness”?

In a season of national darkness, not everyone is faithless. Often during seasons of judgment & struggle, righteous people suffer along with the guilty. Hear God’s amazing words of comfort in Jeremiah 23, truly “A Light in the Darkness.”

- ⇒ A promise of true _____ (23:2).
- ⇒ A promise of future _____ (23:3-4).
- ⇒ A promise of a great _____ (23:5-6).
- ⇒ A promise of future _____ (23:7-8).

Listen! Hear the Voices of Hope Speaking in the Darkness

- ⇒ Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
- ⇒ Ezekiel 34:22-24
- ⇒ Luke 1:26-33

Responding to God

- ⇒ LISTEN: At this Christmas time, what voices are YOU listening to? Are they voices of hope...or doubt, cynicism, or rebellion against God?
- ⇒ HOPE: Are you in a personal season of darkness? It may be grief, loss, depression, sadness, lostness of your soul, struggle – it comes in all kinds of ways. Hold onto hope! Just like seasons in nature, so seasons of life do not last forever.
- ⇒ REJOICE: God does not abandon His children in seasons of darkness, even when the darkness IS our fault!

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 22, 2019

“Joy to the World; The LORD is Come!”