

November 29, 2020 - Christmas Hope

'Advent' means 'Coming' or 'Arriving' of Jesus for our salvation.

The ancient Israelites were looking forward, with great anticipation and excitement, to the Advent of their Messiah.

For us, it is the building anticipation and excitement of the celebration of the arrival of Jesus!

And, it is the anticipation of His eventual return for His Church to take us to be with Him in heaven forever!

God **WAS** faithful and **DID** fulfill His promises of the coming of the Messiah, our Savior, and so He will fulfill His promises for the return of Jesus!

Advent wreath - 5 candles: 3 purple for the royalty and majesty of Jesus - 1 for hope or promise, 1 for peace or light, 1 for love; a rose candle for joy; a large center candle for Jesus.

Two Scriptures are used to express the hope of the promise of the coming Messiah and Savior:

Isaiah 7:14

God Himself was going to some day come down from heaven to be *with* them to save them!

Isaiah 9:6-7

V.6 - He will be sovereign, omniscient, all wise, omnipotent, eternal, one with our Father God, and provider of our eternal peace with God.

V.7 - Nothing will ever be able to disrupt the full expanse of His Kingdom and perfect peace.

- His eternal reign will be the ultimate fulfillment of God's covenant promises to Abraham, David and us.

- The irresistible, invincible, passionate love and resolute determination of the Lord of Hosts will make His plan come to be.

God's Advent promises - the fulfillment of His first Advent and the certainty of His second - guarantee our eternal salvation!

Jesus **IS** our hope, peace, joy, love, light, salvation and Christmas hope!

- Luke 2:10-11, 14