

THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS: WEEK 1

Christ the Destroyer

Welcome back to Vida Online.

Welcome to those who may be watching today for the first time,

My name is J.C. Mejia, and J.C. stands for James Christian, but my friends and family call me J.C., and I'm the Lead Pastor here at Vida Church in Delano, CA.

We will be taking a break from Romans for a few weeks and will resume with Romans in 2026.

Today, is the first Sunday of Advent or the Christmas season.

Over the next four Sundays, I will be sharing on the FOUR PURPOSES OF CHRISTMAS.

These are the four purposes:

TO DESTROY SATAN'S WORK

TO TAKE AWAY OUR SIN

TO REVEAL THE FATHER

TO PREPARE FOR HIS RETURN

SO CHRISTMAS FOR CHRISTIANS IS NOT THE SAME SHALLOW, COMMERCIALIZED, SUGAR-FILLED CHRISTMAS FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD.

Nothing wrong with Christmas traditions, but if that's all that there is to it for you, then there is something definitely missing from under your tree...

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT CHRIST AND THE GOSPEL.

The Gospel, God's method of saving humankind from sin, has ADVENT at its core.

All of the Old Testament prophets and psalmists declared with faith and certainty of Christ's advent.

All four Gospels are about Christ's coming, missions, and message.

The last book of the Bible, "Revelation," which could also be titled "The unveiling of Christ," is about the final results of Christ's first and second advent.

That's what Advent means: "Coming."

Christ came once and is coming again.

**His first coming is a reminder that
Christ is coming a second time.**

**When Christ came, he came for four
things:**

To Destroy Satan's Work

To Take Away Our Sin

To Reveal the Father

To Prepare for His Return

The first is not a topic, subject, or character we might think of as part of the Christmas story.

Satan.

Yes, The Devil.

THE FIRST PURPOSE [OUT OF FOUR] FOR WHICH CHRIST CAME WAS TO DESTROY SATAN'S WORK.

Why would this be first?

Because of the chronology of man's history.

It was satan who deceived Adam and Eve, and through their sin, death entered mankind.

The culprit was Adam; the instigator was Satan.

1 John 3:8 (NASB)

8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

The primary phrase that defines John's reason for advent is in the second half of the verse:

1 John 3:8 (NASB)

8 ...The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

We are going to break down this verse...

1. THE SON OF GOD

John says the Son of God...we know who that is because we know who John has always written about.

John declared Christ's advent in another one of his writings, the Gospel of John:

John 1:1,14 (ESV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

John 1:1,14 (ESV)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The word of God, God's message to us through God the Son, became flesh.

So John makes it extremely clear that Jesus was entirely God and fully human.

1 John 1:1 (ESV)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

Based on the context of this same chapter, John is writing about the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

But notice how John addresses Jesus.

“THAT which was from the beginning.”

**John doesn't say He...John says,
"THAT..."**

**"That" adds an intimacy to John's
relationship with Jesus.**

**When you know someone, and
someone else comes along and tries
to alter their history, you might step in
and passionately say,**

**"THAT'S NOT HOW IT WAS. I WAS
THERE WHEN THAT HAPPENED! IF
YOU WERE THERE, THEN YOU
WOULD SEE THAT THAT WAS NO
HOW IT WAS."**

**This is the type of passionate
infighting that can happen among**

family members when they plan a loved one's funeral.

Typically, the one closest to the person who has passed will be the one to say,

“THAT’S HOW THAT WAS, OR THAT’S NOT HOW IT WAS. THIS IS WHAT DAD WANTED AND HE ALWAYS MADE THAT CLEAR TO ME AGAIN AND AGAIN.”

“THAT” expresses that a certain child was there to see or witness all that their now deceased father said and did.

1 John 1:3 (ESV)

**3 that which we have seen and heard
we proclaim also to you...**

So was the case with John.

**As you read John, you will see John
often use the word “THAT”.**

**It just means John watched and knew
based on conversations and
observations of Jesus.**

**John knows what he’s talking about
when it comes to Jesus and the
purposes of His advent.**

John had a friendship with Jesus that was close enough to hear Christ's heartbeat, far enough to see the Messiah do miracles, and near enough to hang on every word that came from the Messiah.

We can trust John's testimony.

We can rely on John's account.

John knew Jesus' personality.

John's words bleed with friendship and closeness.

There was something about John that suggests that he was aware of Jesus' humanity while fully knowing that Christ was God.

1 John 1:1 (ESV)

1 That... we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

Heard, Seen, Touch.

Concerning Life.

Life itself...

John could ask any of us, “Have you heard, seen, and touched life itself?”

You may touch things with life in them, but I’m asking about life itself.

**Have you touched the source of life,
the source of our existence?**

**I have heard, seen, and touched life
itself.**

**John is totally syncing Christ's
humanity and divinity as one who has
experienced life itself.**

**No wonder John writes what he heard
Jesus say:**

John 14:6 (ESV)

**6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and
the truth, and the life. No one comes to
the Father except through me.**

**That stood out to John and now you
know why!**

And you know how I know that John 14:6 stood out to John?

Because the other gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, and Luke never quoted this one of Christ's sayings.

But John, who always had an open ear to what Christ was saying, heard Jesus say that and it stuck...

Jesus said, "I am the life, not a life, or with life, but the life."

John 1:4 (NASB)

4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

Jesus was life, the same life that created and sustains the entire universe.

Colossians 1:16-17 (NASB)

16 For by Him [Christ] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Hebrews 1:3 (NASB)

3 And He...upholds all things by the word of His power...

John 11:25 (NASB)

25 Jesus said to her [Martha], “I am the resurrection and the life...”

John was aware and knew he had seen, heard, and even touched life itself.

So John when John says:

1 John 3:8 (NASB)

8 ...The Son of God appeared for this purpose...

It's time to perk up your ears, because you're about to get a first-hand account of Christ's purpose.

So next, John says, “The Son of God appeared for this purpose...”

The next key word is:

2. APPEARED

The word appeared means to make visible or make clear.

So the Son of God was made visible and clear.

John implies that Jesus already existed but now appeared to the world.

For Jesus to be made visible or made clear doesn't mean to be made near, because he was "Emmanuel: God with Us" all along.

God has always been near to humanity, but most of humanity did not know it.

Now, from the moment of Christ's birth, God was incarnate, God the Son appeared.

But why did the Son of God appear?

What was the first purpose of Christ?

3. TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

1 John 3:8 (NASB)

8 ...The Son of God appeared for this purpose: to destroy the works of the devil.

Isn't that something?

The creator was born a tiny baby to Mary.

Yet the child was born a warrior, and the devil knew it.

The enemy knew it.

John knew Jesus, and through Jesus, John learned and wrote about the devil, too.

What did Jesus say about the Devil, whose works he came to destroy?

John 8:44 (NASB)

44 ...He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Satan is a murderer...just know that five chapters later, the Devil put it into Judas to betray Him.

John 13:2 (NASB)

2 During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him...

On what Grounds did Judas betray Jesus, and on what grounds was Jesus arrested?

On Lies and Satan is the father of lies.

Satan is not just our archvillain, he's the archsinner!

No one can outsin Satan!

Satan is a murderer; there is no truth in Him. It is his nature to lie, and Satan is the father of lies!

This was the purpose of Christ's appearing: to destroy the works of the devil, which are murder and lies.

a. The Devil is the ultimate man-slayer [murderer].

Satan is a destroyer of life on two levels: Physical death and spiritual death.

Obviously, when Satan introduced sin, death came with it.

Our bodies will die because of sin, and that was Satan's work, his work of death and lies on Adam and Eve.

What makes Satan the ultimate man-slayer is more than our physical death, the spiritual death he has brought mankind into.

Spiritual death, the second death, Hell, is much worse than physically dying.

It's eternal separation from God for timeless eternity.

Satan, the man-slayer, works in many strategies, schemes, and systems to kill men and women physically and, worse, slay them spiritually for all eternity.

It is satan that hinders and blinds people from knowing Christ, the light of the world, the life of men.

How does he work out his man-slaying scheme?

How does he keep men and women away from God?

How does he promote physical and spiritual death?

b. The Devil is the ultimate liar and father of lies.

When you see men and women living ignorantly and aimlessly through life, its because they have had their eyes covered in darkness.

This strategy is accomplished through Satan's lies.

Jesus knew it well. Jesus knew that the purpose of his advent was to destroy the work of the devil.

Recall that Jesus said that Satan was a murderer and a liar by nature and the father of lies.

Jesus was not ignorant at all.

Jesus was perfect, and in his perfect sinlessness, he easily could see Satan's entirely corrupt nature and his work on the earth.

Jesus was not ignorant.

There was nothing ignorant about Christ, the perfect man.

There was no SIN in Christ, making Christ free of ignorance. Ignorance is based on Satan's lies and dark veil.

There was no DARKNESS in Christ, for he was the light.

Darkness is the extinguishing of truth, which the Devil does through lies.

There were no LIMITATIONS to Christ, for He is life.

Limitations exist due to sin and death, both of which Christ overcame.

Jesus clearly saw and knew his mission and purpose for which He came: To destroy the works of the Devil.

And John knew it, so John wrote it for us to know today.

Why would John write it?

So that we would not believe Satan's lies.

Satan's works are all spread throughout history.

His lies leave many in darkness, ignorance, wandering farther and farther from Christ, who is the light and life of mankind.

This leaves men and women to only destroy themselves and their eternity in sin.

Who presents sin and makes it available?

c. Satan is the supreme sinner.

Sin is lawlessness, so sin is breaking God's righteous law.

So

ALL WRONG DONE TO GOD, DONE FROM ONE MAN TO ANOTHER AND TO HIMSELF, ARE THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL.

While Satan is the man-slayer, Christ is the sin-destroyer.

1 John 3:8 (NASB)

8 ...The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

The word “destroy” means to *loose, release, or dissolve.*

The same word destroy was used in acts when Paul’s ship was destroyed at sea.

That means that the vessel was broken up into pieces.

What was a solid, working ocean vessel could no longer do what it was meant to do.

Now imagine Jesus coming into the world to break Satan's work down to splinters and planks floating in the ocean!

You've never thought about "Jesus the Destroyer," have you?!

We need more Christmas songs about Christ, the Destroyer of Satan's works!

Christ's love destroys Satan's work of hate.

Satan brought with his lies jealousy, selfishness... and they are destroyed by the force of God's agape Love.

In Christ, the work hate is reversed, by God's Spirit in people who will to love

their neighbor and seek the other's highest good.

Satan's work of lawlessness is destroyed with the gift of God's law.

Jesus came to save us from under the law, to fill us with the Holy Spirit.

It's by the Spirit in our hearts and God's word in our minds that we are able to do what we could not do before: Keep God's Law.

Christ takes lawless rebels and makes them royal, lawful subjects of His Crown.

The light of God's word comes alive by the Holy Spirit to bear fruit of love, joy,

peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self control!

This is the will of God, of us to be like Christ, the destroyer of Satan's work!

Satan's work of lies and darkness is destroyed with the gift of light and truth.

Light means knowledge by the word of God.

Light means hope through God's promises.

Light means guidance from the Spirit of God.

Satan's work of death is destroyed with the gift of life in Christ Jesus.

The gift of Christ's own life by his advent and appearing.

The gift of Christ's own life through his sinless life that fulfilled God's law for us.

The gift of Christ's own life through his sacrifice on the cross.

The gift of Christ's own life through his resurrection.

Christ destroyed sin, hell, and the grave with his own life!

Satan could not and never will be able to stop Jesus, the Destroyer!

You and I can still see the works of Satan near and far in our world.

But you and I can see the heroic acts of Christ the Destroyer in our lives!

Christ the King has loosened and dissolved the works of Satan in Christians.

Yes, there's a splinter here and a plank floating there, but Christ is winning and you in Christ as winning too against Satan's works.

You're seeing the glory of Christ in your life, little by little, and more and more.

Nothing can stop Christ, the Destroyer of Satan's systems.

Christ came and loosed the chains, tore down the walls, rescued you, and finally took the blind fold off you that you previously had when you were held hostage by sin, satan, and death.

All who are in Christ become a singular glorious victory of Christ the Conquering King.

That victory is a preview of the great and final victory: Christ's second advent.

The second advent of Christ will be the final battle, and the final battle will be the final victory.

Revelation 19:11-16 (NASB)

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

Revelation 19:11-16 (NASB)

12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.

Revelation 19:11-16 (NASB)

13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 19:11-16 (NASB)

14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

Revelation 19:11-16 (NASB)

15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

Revelation 19:11-16 (NASB)

**16 And on His robe and on His thigh
He has a name written, "KING OF
KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."**

**I herald to you that Christ is coming
back and nothing will stop Him.**

I herald Christ, your beginning.

I herald Christ, your end.

I herald, Christ your king!

**"Hark, the herald angels sing, GLORY
TO THE NEW BORN KING...GOD AND
SINNERS RECONCILED."**

What will you do when Christ comes again?

Are you saved from being a hostage to satan, sin, and death?

I herald to you the GOSPEL!

The Gospel is the power of God for all who believe.

What is the Gospel?

ALL WERE BORN INTO SIN.

NO ONE CAN SAVE THEMSELVES.

**ONLY CHRIST CAN SAVE YOU, SO
BOW TO CHRIST THE LORD.**

Repent and believe the Gospel.

Admit you're a sinner and that you can't save yourself.

Believe Jesus Christ died in your place and is alive today.

Confess the fact that Christ is Lord and King.

LORD JESUS

**I BELIEVE YOU ARE THE SON OF
GOD**

**I BELIEVE THAT ON THE CROSS,
YOU TOOK MY SIN, MY SHAME, AND
MY GUILT;**

AND YOU DIED FOR IT.

**I BELIEVE YOU FACED HELL FOR ME;
SO THAT I WOULD NOT HAVE TO GO;
AND YOU ROSE FROM THE DEAD,
TO GIVE ME A PLACE IN HEAVEN,
A PURPOSE ON EARTH,
AND A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR
FATHER.**

**TODAY LORD JESUS,
I TURN FROM MY SIN
TO BE BORN AGAIN.**

**GOD IS MY FATHER,
JESUS IS MY SAVIOR,
THE HOLY SPIRIT IS MY HELPER,
THE BIBLE'S MY GUIDE
AND HEAVEN IS MY HOME...**

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,
THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT,
AMEN.**

BLESSING:

NUMBERS 6:24-26 (ESV)

**THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP
YOU;**

**THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE
UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO
YOU; THE LORD LIFT UP HIS
COUNTENANCE UPON YOU AND GIVE
YOU PEACE.**

**Hope to see you here again or in
person.**

**GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU FROM
GOD OUR FATHER AND THE LORD
JESUS CHRIST**