

THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS

PT.4

Christ Came To Prepare His Return

Hebrews 9:28

Welcome back to Vida Online.

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

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

We have taken a break from Romans for a few weeks and will resume with Romans in 2026.

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

**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.

Advent means: "Coming."

Christ came once and is coming again.

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

We are between two advents: Christ's first coming and his second coming.

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 PURPOSE WAS NOT A TOPIC, SUBJECT, OR CHARACTER WE MIGHT THINK OF AS PART OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY.

THE FIRST PURPOSE 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.

THE SECOND OF FOUR PURPOSES FOR WHICH CHRIST CAME WAS

To Take Away Our Sin

1 John 3:5 (NASB)

5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

THE THIRD OF FOUR PURPOSES FOR WHICH CHRIST CAME WAS:

To Reveal the Father

John 14:9 (ESV)

9 ...Whoever has seen me has seen the Father...

AND TODAY, AND LASTLY, WE ARRIVE AT THE FOURTH PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS:

CHRIST CAME TO PREPARE FOR HIS RETURN

So on this Advent journey, we have found that Christ came to destroy Satan's works.

We know that He came to take sins.

We understand how he came to reveal the FATHER to the world.

It is evident that as we look into history and into our news feeds, what Christ came to do is not yet complete.

The works of the devil are not yet entirely destroyed.

Sin is not entirely eradicated.

Many have yet to see the Father in Christ Jesus.

Any Christian knows that every Christmas, as much as the story of Christmas fills us with hope, it leaves a note of longing for something more.

There's a sense that something more is needed.

Hebrews 9:28 (ESV)

28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Some doubt Christ will come again.

Some say Christ will not come again.

Many talk deeply and scripturally about when Christ will return and how he will return.

Some say it's pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, or post-tribulation.

I'm not here to discuss any of those things except to announce what the Bible and its writers have declared.

Christ is returning a second time.

All of the New Testament [Matthew - Revelation] declares that Christ is coming a second time.

After Christ's resurrection and ascension, angels announced:

Acts 1:11 (ESV)

11...This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Paul the Apostle wrote to Christians:

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (ESV)

16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

James the Apostle wrote:

James 5:8 (ESV)

8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

John wrote:

1 John 3:2 (NLT)

2 Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.

Jude writes in the second-to-last book of the Bible:

Jude 1:20-21 (NASB)

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

Jude 1:20-21 (NASB)

21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

The early church was strong in adversity, even in the threat of death, because Christ's return was fresh and fervent with faith in Christ's promise.

Of course, it would be since the men who witnessed Christ ascend and who heard the angels speak of his return were the same men who taught them.

We don't have Peter, James, John, and Jude, but we do have the Scriptures to remind us and refocus us in this modern age.

Today's passage reminds us this Christmas that there is a second advent on the horizon:

Hebrews 9:28 (ESV)

28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

What can this verse teach us about our Lord's second advent?

1. CHRIST WILL APPEAR A SECOND TIME, NOT TO DEAL WITH SIN.

Why won't he come to deal with sin on his second coming?

Because he dealt with sin on his first coming.

His first advent led to being “offered once to bear the sins of many...”

What Christ came to do in his first advent was needed for his second advent.

When Christ first came, the depth and darkness of mankind’s Sin was revealed.

On his arrival, sin stirred and was exposed on another level.

On his arrival, baby boys, aged two and under, were slaughtered.

Near Christ's exit, the cross was not only an expression of God's love for man, but man's hatred of God.

Christ, the perfect and sinless Son of God, the embodiment and revelation of the Father's love for his enemies, was crucified by jealous men.

Deep, dark sin was exposed.

When Christ first came, he not only revealed sin, but took it on himself.

That's what today's passage states:

Hebrews 9:28 (ESV)

28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time...

God offered His son to bear our sins.

He was the Lamb of God who took the sins of the world.

O Holy Night rightly states:

“Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.”

The word PINING means mental suffering from a broken heart...but Christ's first advent reveals that our

souls are valuable to God, our creator.

All the world's sin was placed on him.

When Christ first came, he lived in the results of sin: poverty, sorrow, and loneliness.

•POVERTY is the result of sin: sin robs a man of advancement, or sin is committed against men that keeps them in a state of poverty.

Sinful vices chip away at a man's productivity, or sin leads him to squander his money.

Sin in our world leads to men robbing others as well, perpetuating poverty.

The third verse of the hymn, O HOLY NIGHT, states:

“Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother and in his name all oppression shall cease.”

There is no poverty in heaven, because there is no sin in heaven.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NASB)

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He

became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

Christ lived in the poverty of our world in his first advent.

- Christ experienced SORROW, and that is an outcome of sin.**

The bible says that Christ was “a man of many sorrows and acquainted with grief.”

- Christ experienced loneliness.**

On the Cross, when the sins of all mankind were placed on him, Christ experienced the ultimate loneliness:

**“MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE
YOU FORSAKEN ME?”**

**There is no loneliness in heaven,
because there is no sin in heaven.**

**But Christ came to deal with sin the
first time he came.**

**He came to live in our world,
dominated by sin and overflowing
with sin's results, to deal with it by
overcoming sin on the Cross for us.**

That was his first advent:

Hebrews 9:28 (ESV)

28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many...

Coming for the first time to deal with sin and destroy the authority of sin, Christ prepared the way for His second coming.

His second coming is one of conquest.

He will come again, but not in poverty, but in wealth.

He will come again, not in sorrow, but in joyful strength.

He will come again, not in loneliness, but to take those who have been waiting and trusting Him.

The first time he came was to pay for our sins as a foundation, but the second time he comes, he will establish his reign on that foundation.

The one who came is coming one more time!

I want you to see those contrasts of his first and second coming.

The most significant contrast at Christ's return will be between those whom Christ has saved and those who are not saved.

Hebrews 9:27-28 (ESV)

27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

Death and judgment are man's divine appointment...but that leads us into our verse which points us to a huge contrast:

Hebrews 9:27-28 (ESV)

28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

See the contrast between the two groups of people when Christ returns?

Death and judgment for one and salvation from death and judgment for the other.

Though all of mankind, because of sin, are appointed to die and face judgment, Christ, who was offered to deal with sin, will return to save those whose sins he's taken.

**Science can tell us HOW men die,
but science doesn't tell us WHY
men die.**

**Christ, our creator and savior, tells
us why we die: Sin.**

**The good news is that Christ
already came to deal with sin by
taking our sin upon himself!**

**Not only did Christ take our sins
upon himself, but he also took our
judgment for those who place their
trust in Him.**

Being “Saved” doesn’t mean that all your problems go away.

Being “Saved” doesn’t mean that we don’t deal with the effects of sin in our world.

Being “Saved” means that God’s righteous judgment has been placed on Jesus Christ his Son.

Christ took our sin, and with our sin, our judgment, leaving only salvation, not damnation.

Leaving only salvation, resulting in eternal life to come.

When Christ saved you, you were justified.

As Christ changes you, you're being sanctified.

When Christ returns, you will be redeemed, spirit, mind, and body.

In other words, Jesus saved you, Jesus keeps saving you, and will ultimately and completely save you when he returns.

**1 Corinthians 1:30 (NASB)
30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to**

us...righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

We believed and were saved.

We believe and are being saved.

We will believe, and we will be saved.

Hebrews 9:28 (ESV)

28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Christ is returning to gather those who have believed God's message.

Christ is returning to establish his rule and reign.

That too brings a great contrast:

For those who are eagerly awaiting the return of Christ, it will be a moment of great joy, but for those who are not saved, it will be a moment of terror.

GOSPEL

Christ is returning.

Yes, Christ, who was God the Father's word of salvation to mankind, made flesh.

What was the message of God to mankind?

That message was good news.

Another word for Good News is GOSPEL.

The Gospel can be said in three simple statements:

Mankind is born into sin.

Mankind cannot save itself.

God's grace can save mankind through faith in Christ, His Son.

There is no other way...there is only one way to the Father, and his name is Jesus.

**Repent and believe the Gospel of
God.**

Admit you are a born sinner and that you cannot save yourself. Believe that salvation comes by faith in Christ alone. Confess Christ as Lord and Savior.

As I said at the beginning of today's message, we are between two advents.

Will you be ready when Christ returns?

Will you find yourself under his salvation or under his judgment?

Jesus said, “Unless you are born again, you will not see the kingdom of God.”

Why do we need to be born again?

Because our first birth brought us into the world under Adam’s original sin and condemnation.

But our second birth, Born Again, means that we are now under Christ’s righteousness and salvation.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing’s third verse points to this spiritual reality by stating:

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of
Peace!**

**Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.**

**Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark the Herald Angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn 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**