December 22, 2019,
Sunday 4th in Advent



Preparation: The Lord is Coming

OT Mic.4:1-5 Psalm 126 Epistle 1 John 4:7-21 Gospel John 4:21-37

Righteous and merciful God, we thank you for sending your son to identify Himself with us in our struggles and hopes. We are redeemed by our faith in Him. As He promised to come again to judge the living and the dead, help us to be diligent in our faith and prudent in our actions so that we will be with Him and He will be with us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

In the New Testament, one verse out of every 25 is about Christ's Second Coming. The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ occurs 320 times in the New Testament. **Strong's #3952:** parousia (pronounced par-oo-see'-ah) from the present participle of 3918; a being near, i.e. advent (often, return; specially, of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); (by implication) physically, aspect:--coming, presence. The future visible return from heaven of Jesus, to raise the dead, hold the last judgment, and set up formally and gloriously the kingdom of God.

Classical usage. From the Ptolemaic period to the second century of the common era '**parousia**' was used in the East as a technical expression to denote the arrival or visit of a

king or emperor, and celebrated the glory of the sovereign publicly.

Micah prophesied that in the time of the end, the house of the LORD would be set on the top of the mountains, and it would be lifted high over the hills (Micah 4: 1,2).

Christ's first coming is about redemption and His second coming is about glory. The larger hope of the society is the coming of Christ.

During this Advent season, we meditate on the coming of Jesus Christ. We, the church, through the apostolic doctrine and the doctrine of the epistle, accept that the Lord Jesus Christ will come again.

1. Church: Prepare and Be Prepared for the Lord's Coming (Micah 4: 1-5)

Micah is a sign of the end times for Israel 4: 1-5. There will come a time when all nations and races will trust in God alone. In the New Testament believers are encouraged to prepare and be prepared for the coming of Jesus, because they do not know the day or hour.

2. Church: Declare the Lord's Coming (John 4: 21-37)

The Samaritan woman's thinking about Jesus changed. She understood Jesus in different ways: as a Jew, Master, Prophet, and Messiah. The Samaritan woman finally found the Messiah and told everyone about Him. She said she had

seen (Luke 4: 39-42). The church must speak of the coming Messiah. Christ said that he who reaps receives wages Jn 4. 36, and gathers fruit to eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

3. Church: Feel and Experience the Lord's Presence and await His coming (1 Jn 4: 7-21)

We must prepare for the coming of the Lord by keeping the commandments of the Lord. The greatest commandment is to "love one another." "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen" (1 John 4:20). We have not loved God. God loved us first. Therefore, we too must love one another, obey Christ's command, feel and experience God's Presence and await His coming.

Reflection:

Coming of Christ is plagued by many false teachings. Prediction books have even been written picking the exact day of Jesus' return. These books may sell many copies, but they mislead their readers. There's one guarantee: As soon as someone predicts the day or time of Jesus Christ's second coming, that prediction is wrong. Why? Simply, only God the Father knows when it will be - Jesus doesn't even know. Jesus told His disciples.

We could just shrug our shoulders and casually wait for the Second Coming of Christ. However, Jesus wants us to ***'keep watch.'*** A great way to keep watch is to know what the Bible

reveals about upcoming events and compare those to what we see happening today in socio-political-economic-religious context. The Bible declares that Jesus will be the final judge of the world (John 5:22, Acts 10:42 and 2 Timothy 4:1).

As we get closer and closer to the Second Coming of Christ, there will be increasing and widespread doubt about whether Jesus even existed. People will also start wondering if God really exists and believers will leave the Christian faith (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 1 Timothy 4:1-2, and 2 Peter 2:1-3). Do you think we're already seeing these signs?

One of the foundations of the Christian faith is Jesus' second coming. It is spoken of by Jesus and many others in the Bible. King Jesus will physically come again for all His believers and for His final judgment. Therefore, let us prepare and be prepared.

HAVE A JOYFUL SUNDAY !!