



Come, Thou long-expected Jesus

Day 1: Stanza 1

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Scripture Reference

'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'

– *Haggai 2:5*



'Tis the Season. The Advent Season that is. Advent is defined as “the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.” For Christians, Advent is a time to reflect on the coming arrival of Jesus Christ, born as a baby but also a king. However, in the busyness of life and holiday festivities, we all are guilty of shifting our focus away from the coming of Jesus and towards the hustle of life’s daily demands.

What does Advent mean to you? What is your focus this time of year? Take a moment to reflect on former Advent seasons and define your focus for this Advent season.

Our song this week, “Come, Thou long-expected Jesus”, was written by Charles Wesley after reflecting on Haggai 2. Thus, this week we’ll center our scripture references around Haggai 2:1-9 as we delve into this Christmas hymn. In Haggai 2, the Israelites are in the process of rebuilding a holy temple, albeit a less glorious temple than the temple built by Solomon. It is meant to be an encouragement to the Israelites. This passage points us to Jesus’ coming, but it also can point us towards His second coming.

Take a few minutes to read Haggai 2:1-9. What portions feel encouraging to you? Which portions resonate with your current circumstances? What questions remain for you as you reflect on this passage? What points you towards Advent and the Messiah? What points to you His second coming?



As our song indicates, Jesus sets us free from our fears and sins. In Haggai 2:5, we see God reminding his people of His faithfulness bringing them out of slavery in Egypt. While they wandered in the wilderness, fearful for food, water, and security, God was always with them. In fact, Haggai 2:5 reminds us of Joshua 1:9 where God is reassuring Joshua as the Israelites are about to enter the Promised Land. God was always with the Israelites, and He is always with us.

What fears are you experiencing as you enter the Advent season? Have you talked to your perfect Savior about those fears? Take a few minutes to speak to Jesus about your fears. Listen to His loving reassurance that He is always with you. He came for you, and He will not leave you.

During Advent, as Christians who know Jesus, we often spend time looking back – looking back on the year, looking back on the birth of Jesus, remembering. As New Testament believers, we have a proof that Old Testament believers could only look on in hope. What a gift we've been given! The God that was present for the Israelites entering the Promised Land is the same God in your presence today. This song reminds us to look back, just as God invites us to remember all His faithfulness in our lives. But, as we'll see in the coming days, we too, like the Old Testament believers, have a hope to look towards.

List some of the challenges Jesus has helped you through in your life. Recount His faithfulness. God invites you to remember all that He has done and to take courage. God is the God "who was" in all of your life's circumstances. (Revelations 1:8)
