



Come, Thou long-expected Jesus

Day 4: Stanza 3

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Scripture Reference

'The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty.'

– *Haggai 2:9*



Yesterday, we focused on the birth of Jesus, our Messiah. We focused on His coming into our world to save us from our sins. Yet, as our song puts it, He was born to reign in us forever. He's given us the Holy Spirit, but Jesus will be returning. We've seen Jesus as the one who is and the one who was. But His first coming was only a glimpse of something greater to come. Now we see Him as the one "who is to come" (Revelation 1:8).

Is it easiest for you to see Jesus as the one who was, who is, or who is to come? Why do you think that is? Which is hardest for you to understand or accept?

Jesus himself, when speaking to Pilate before His crucifixion, said "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). Yes, Jesus was very much God on earth with the full authority of God. However, the big God plan never stopped at Jesus coming into the world. His plan was so much greater, a forever kingdom. Jesus will come again. As New Testament believers, we have the blessing of living in that truth each and every day. His eternal kingdom will be so much better than what we experience here on earth. As the Lord Himself puts it in Haggai 2:9, "the glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house." Jesus' coming will be filled with a glory only imagined at this time.

What does it mean to you that Jesus' kingdom is not of this world? How are you living out that truth in your life, especially during this Advent season? As you enter the new year, how can you more fully live out that truth?



What will that future kingdom look like? Well, we have such precious insight into that answer in Revelation 21:3-4 – “...God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Is there anything better than that? A physical temple will no longer be needed. We will be in the presence of God at all times, with no death, mourning, or pain. This is the hope and promise we have in Jesus.

*What excites you about the description of the new heaven and new earth in Revelation 21:3-4?
What questions are you left with?*

As New Testament believers, Advent is filled with the eager expectation of Jesus’ return. But, just like the Old Testament believers, we’re left waiting for that day to come. In fact, God himself in Haggai 2 references “in a little while...” (Haggai 2:6), making a two-fold promise to the Israelites: 1. The Messiah’s coming was guaranteed. Nothing could change that. 2. However, His arrival would not be immediate. The Israelites would need to be patient. In short, the Messiah’s coming was imminent, not immediate. That promise is still applicable to us today. King Jesus will come again. It’s guaranteed, but the timing is not for us to know. We must wait. We must trust. We must walk by faith.

What does walking by faith mean for you this Advent season? What areas do you need to wait on God or trust Him more?
