

First Wednesday in Advent – 2023

Wednesday, 12/6 at 11 am & 7 pm

## Your **Best Ever** Advent and **Christmas**

Get a Booklet  
Use It Every Day  
Bring It Each Week

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### Part 1

Creation  
Temptation  
Fall  
Promise



Text: NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: During this Season of Advent, let's learn how to easily benefit from the Bible through ★ reading (God's word), ★ thinking (about the reading), ★ answering (the questions), and ★ praying (for application).

Today's Bible readings focus on some **basic teachings** of the Bible; then, *in the weeks ahead*, we will get into:

- **OT passages** about the coming Messiah.
- **Gospel passages** about Jesus' identity and birth.
- **Epistle passages** about the eternal benefits that belong to us through ♦sorrow for sin and ♦trust in Jesus.

This sermon will expand on the information in the Advent – Christmas booklet. Please use the booklet every day and bring it with you every time you attend.<sup>1</sup>

### Day 1 – Sunday, 12/3 – Creation

**Read and Think** (4000 BC): **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.... **Genesis 1:26** Then God

<sup>1</sup> To open and print the Advent – Christmas info: [click here](#)

said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...” **Genesis 1:31** God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**Answer and Pray:**

- Who created all things and all people? The simple answer is “God.” The Hebrew word is *Elohim*, which is a plural noun – *pointing to the Holy Trinity*. *Elohim* appears in Genesis chapter 1 a total of 32 times! The present and common teaching that all things evolved by random chance from a big bang about 13 billion years ago *has NO CONNECTION to God’s Holy Word*.
- How were the people like God? They were made in God’s **image** and **likeness**.
  - Image: As God has dominion over all, so *God gave the people dominion over the living creatures He made*.
  - Likeness: As God is holy, can reason, and can exercise free will, so *God made holy people who could reason and exercise free will*.<sup>2</sup>
- Over what period of time did God create? Over six days – *since He completed His work on the sixth day*. Even though many reject a six-day creation, *the Bible is clear*.
- How does today’s content apply to you? Let us believe the Bible – *knowing God created and evolution is false*.

**Day 2 – Monday, 12/4 – Warning, Temptation, Fall**

**Read and Think** (4000 BC): **Genesis 2:16-17** The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of

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<sup>2</sup> <https://biblehub.com/genesis/1-26.htm>: Ellicott’s Commentary for English Readers.

good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.” ... Genesis 3:1 ...[the serpent] said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?” ... **Genesis 3:6** When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

### **Answer** and **Pray**:

- The LORD gave a clear command and definite consequence. Adam and Eve were alive physically and spiritually. When they sinned, they *immediately* died spiritually and *eventually* died physically.
- Did the serpent tempt the woman to doubt God’s word? Yes! “Indeed, has God said...?” Satan is still doing the same today – *tempting people to doubt God’s word*.
- What are some reasons why the woman ate the forbidden fruit? She put her human reason over the word of God! Her emotions told her: It looks good, I desire it, and it will make me wise – *so she ate!*
- How does today’s content apply to you? God has established many boundaries for us. Within the boundaries we have freedom, *but outside the boundaries are consequences*. The Holy Spirit is calling us to believe God’s word and honor Him with our lives.

### **Day 3 – Tuesday, 12/5 – Curse, Promise, Victory**

**Read** and **Think** (4000 BC): **Genesis 3:14-15** The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; And [to the devil, the LORD said:] I will put

enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.” ... **1 John 3:8** ...The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

**Answer and Pray:**

- The serpent permitted Satan to possess him, so the LORD said how the serpent would be cursed, “**On your belly you will go...**” Then the LORD spoke to Satan about a ***particular future descendant*** of the woman.
- Who is the future descendant? Jesus, the Son of God in human flesh, who became *the Messiah, the Christ!*
- When they fought on Good Friday, who won? Good Friday pitted Satan against Jesus – *not a smackdown event, but the Ultimate Battle to Death!* Since Jesus was nailed to a cross and in excruciating pain, *He appeared to be losing*. Then, when Jesus died, *Satan appeared to be the winner*. BUT Jesus – *through His living, suffering, and dying* – destroyed “**the works of the devil.**”
- How does today’s content apply to you? Keep going in your booklet to better understand ▶our HUGE problem of sin, ▶the GREATNESS of Jesus’ victory over Satan, and ▶how we receive the benefits of Jesus’ saving work!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Father, like Adam and Eve, we have ▶been deceived, ▶doubted Your word, and ▶fallen into sin countless times. Therefore, **keep** showing us our great need for Jesus and **help** us in the days and weeks ahead to grow in our understanding of and trust in Jesus, the Christ of Christmas!

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