

The Second Sunday in Advent  
*God's Purposes in History: He will do it through the Messiah*

**I. A BRIEF MOMENT OF INSIGHT**

**II. HOW WILL HUMANITY ACHIEVE ITS FULL POTENTIAL?**

A. We Idolize Humanity

Rock stars are \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Sports \_\_\_\_\_

Scientists and doctors seem to us to be \_\_\_\_\_

Religious leaders as if more than mere \_\_\_\_\_

B. The same problems plague us over the centuries!

**III. THE LIMITED NATURE OF HUMAN SOLUTIONS**

A. Human Solutions Have Their Limits

**Psalm 90:3** You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" (Psalm 90:3)

<sup>15</sup> As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; <sup>16</sup> for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. (Psalm 103)

<sup>3</sup> Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." (Genesis 6)

B. Here's a "Safe Bet"

<sup>4</sup> A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. <sup>5</sup> The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. <sup>6</sup> The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.... What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. <sup>10</sup> Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us. (Ecclesiastes 1)

**IV. GOD HAS AN ANSWER**

A. We Were Half-Right

<sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. (1 Timothy 2)

B. The Whole of Scripture Looks for the Messiah

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD... <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips

he shall kill the wicked....<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them....<sup>10</sup> In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples-- of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. (Isaiah 11)

#### C. Every Human Leader is only a Small Picture of **Him**

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! <sup>2</sup> May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice! <sup>3</sup> Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! <sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! (Psalm 72)

#### D. **He** Is the Solution to Every Nation's Need

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy...." <sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." (Romans 15)

#### E. **He** Comes with the "Final Resolution"

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came .... (Matthew 3)

### IV. OUR RESPONSE

#### A. Stop Idolizing People - Don't Be Deceived!

They cannot \_\_\_\_\_

You will be \_\_\_\_\_

It will hinder the \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Just Because We Can't Do Everything Is Not an Excuse to Do Nothing

#### C. Don't be Insular:

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. <sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5)

#### D. Be Hopeful!

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15)