

# THE ANTICIPATED CHRIST

A Journey Through  
Advent & Christmas



Grantham  
Church  
BRETHREN IN CHRIST

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**ADVENT 2022**  
**SERMON SERIES**

# THE ANTICIPATED CHRIST

A Journey Through  
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**Week Two:**

Your God Will Come

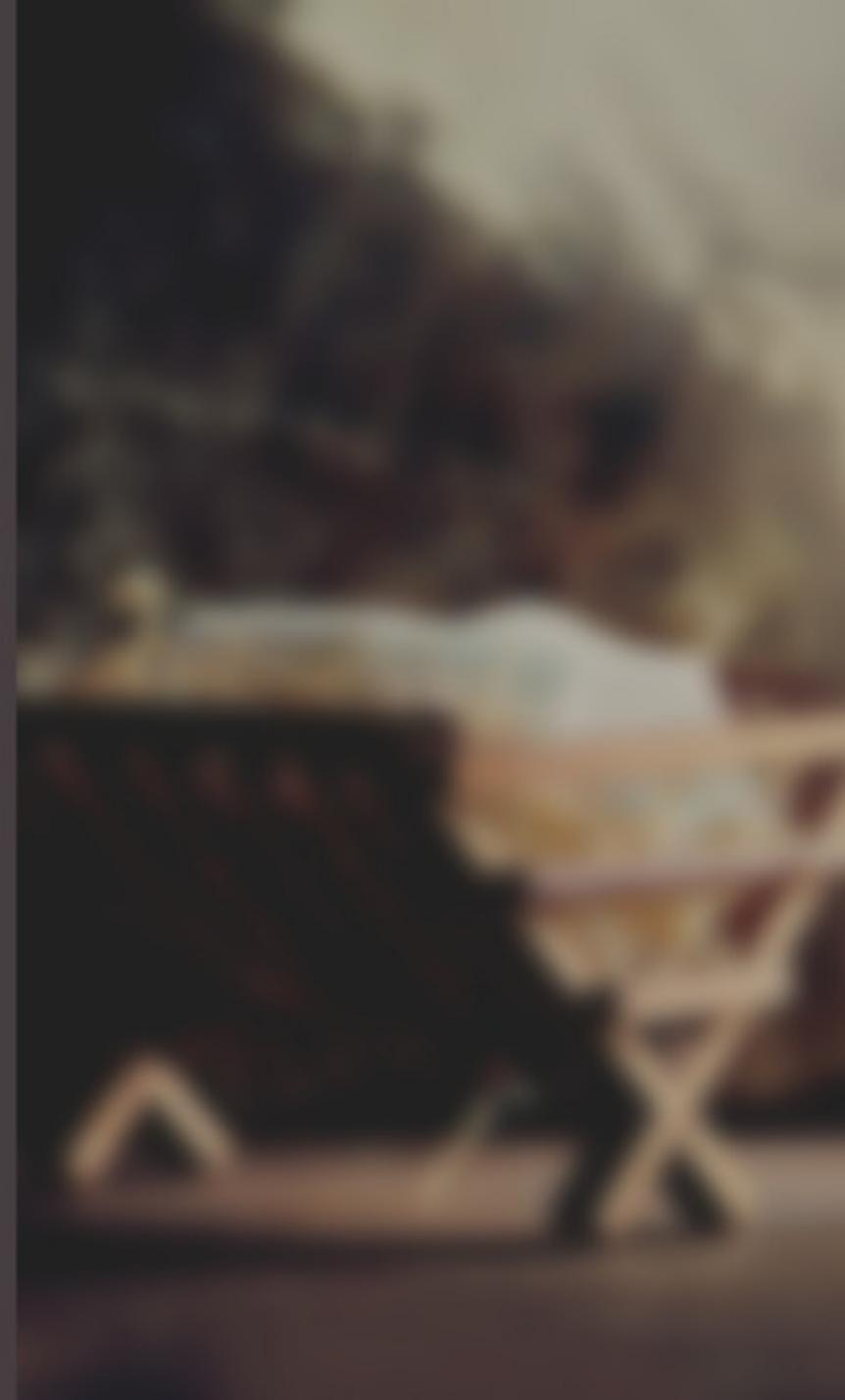
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Scripture Reading:  
**ISAIAH 35:1-10**



## Isaiah 35:4

**NIV:** “your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution”

**NRSV:** “Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense”

**ESV:** “Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God”

**NLT:** “for your God is coming to destroy your enemies”



## Isaiah 1–39

WALTER BRUEGGEMANN



“The term “vengeance” includes a quite negative connotation that we readily assign to it. But it also includes the positive dimension that God will come to right wrong, to order chaos, to heal sickness, to restore life to its rightful order.”

**Walter Brueggemann**





Scripture Reading:  
**LUKE 4:14-21**

## Luke 7:18-23 NIV – Jesus & John the Baptist

<sup>18</sup> John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, <sup>19</sup> he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" <sup>20</sup> When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

<sup>21</sup> At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. <sup>22</sup> So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: *The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.* <sup>23</sup> **Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.**”

v. 23 - **VOICE:** “Whoever is not offended by Me is blessed indeed.”

# The Anticipated (But *Unexpected*) Christ

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*The coming of Jesus as Messiah was unexpected and remains a stumbling block to many people for various reasons:*

- Jesus was born of a virgin to a poor family in a small village
- He claimed to be the Messiah and God in the flesh
- He calls us to repent of our sins and our own way of living
- He demands total surrender and allegiance to his Kingdom
- He won by dying on a cross, and says we should follow him
- He calls us to trust in Calvary-love over human vengeance

## Paul, Romans 12:12, 14, 17-19 NIV

<sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but **leave room for God's wrath**, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

v. 19 - **KJV**: "vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

## Paul, Romans 1:18, 24, 26, 28 NIV

<sup>18</sup> **The wrath of God is being revealed** from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness...

<sup>24</sup> Therefore **God gave them over** in the sinful desires of their hearts... <sup>26</sup> ...**God gave them over** to shameful lusts. <sup>28</sup> ...so **God gave them over** to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.

## Paul, Galatians 6:7-10 NLT

<sup>7</sup> Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. **You will always harvest what you plant.** <sup>8</sup> Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup> **So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.** <sup>10</sup> Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, **we should do good to everyone**—especially to those in the family of faith.

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Questions for reflection and response:



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2. Will you trust in God's wisdom and his ability to make things right?



# YOUR GOD WILL COME

Questions for reflection and response:

1. What evil or injustice (past or present) is troubling you? What is wrong that needs God's attention?
2. Will you trust in God's wisdom and his ability to make things right?
3. Instead of carrying it around or being vengeful, will you give it to God so you can walk in love and freedom as you wait on him?



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