

Refrigerator Notes 29 November 2015

'Is Hell About to Break Open' (Part I)

Luke 21:25-36

1. Text that we are given for the first Sunday in Advent is Apocalyptic (describing or prophesying the complete destruction of the world)
2. Strange scripture would you not say for Advent that announces the coming of the Lord
3. Since our Lord is a God of the past, present and future, many scholars of the OT believe that Advent season presents the coming of our Lord in the same fashion
4. The first coming was the child in the manger in Bethlehem
5. The second coming of Jesus allows his brothers and sisters to experience the joy of HIM coming into our lives now
6. The third coming of Jesus, foretold when Jesus will come back to the world as the King and Judge of all people and nations
7. First, I did not dwell on the Christmas story, but I spent a few minutes talking about how Jesus could be received in our present day lives and situations, by surrendering your heart to our Lord and Savior
8. The point of the second coming was about 'Salvation' and how it is about trusting in Jesus as your Savior, receiving the forgiveness He offers, by grace through faith and repentance daily.
9. Salvation is about being made new through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).
10. Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in its 'last days' — the future if you will (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2) As God's people await the return of Christ' glory to consummate His eternal kingdom
11. The redemption that is ours, in Jesus Christ, will not be some sort of luxury for those who will witness or experience His return
12. The day of our Lord's return comes with some degree of foreboding or dark side that could very well represent the breaking loose of hell
13. Jesus uses the language of metaphor and poetry to connect with the indefinable parts of our lives, those tough places and difficult times that defy the best of articulation.
14. The problem during this season is that we have become accustomed to the commercial aspects of the season of advent and we have lost the true meaning of the season
15. Advent calls us to receive the promise that God promised to His children in the same fashion He promised it to the Israelites
16. The time of Jesus future return is not known, but the text gives us hints that there will be signs and wonders that will be witnessed first
17. What Jesus is accentuating is a truthful assessment of reality, as we know it, a reality that stands in stark contrast to the Kingdom of God, that is here in part, but coming in fullness. Our human frailty, our human sin, our world's birth pangs reflect the signs of how badly we need "thy Kingdom to come."
18. As we approach Christmas, let us consider this. Our Lord has taken upon Himself our sin, our suffering, and our sorrows. This does not negate our feelings and pains, but it validates them. But more importantly, this season of Advent points the way to the very One who can help us press onward through these present times, while we are confronted with hell's doors.