

“Behold, I am Making All Things New”

Revelation 21-1-7

This Advent Season, we are focusing on the theme “We Begin with the End.” Advent is the beginning of the church year. It is the beginning of an entire new season of hope and watching and waiting. But you hear the Advent hymns “O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide.” We are ending tonight with “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding.” These are certainly hymns that clue us in to the watchful preparation for Christ to come as the child in Bethlehem and take His place as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, but these hymns have much more focus on Christ coming a second time – on the Last Day.

We begin with the end. We hear the words of John’s Revelation. “I am the Alpha and the Omega.” Christ is the Beginning and He is the End. We begin with a new church year, but the themes of this time of year get a little blurry. There is no clear line in the sand separating our conversation of the End Times and our conversation of all things Advent. Preparing for Christ to come is the theme of the journey to Bethlehem and preparing for Christ to come is the theme for our journey toward the Last Day.

In John’s Revelation, seated on the throne, we hear the Lord say, “Behold, I am making all things new.” John’s vision takes him past the End. There is “a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.” John gets to see what the beginning looks like after the End has come. Jesus says He is making all things new. God and man will dwell together – just like in the Garden of Eden. The voice from the throne says, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God.”

In the End, God will manifest Himself and be present and dwell on the new earth, just as He walked in the Garden and spoke face to face with Adam. This is what we are longing for. This is what we are waiting and watching for in hopeful anticipation. Advent is a season of hope and anticipation. We long for Christ to come and bring this world to an End.

This season, we also watch for and anticipate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. He came to make all things new. He came so that God and man would dwell together. He came as the Second Adam. He is the Word made flesh who made His dwelling among us.

We begin with the end. When Jesus comes and enters the world as the child of Mary, there is a beginning and an end. The first season of Advent began with the promise made to Adam. For century upon century, the children of Adam watched for and waited for the Son of God to be born of a woman as He promised, for God to come and make His dwelling among man once again, for God to come and crush the head of Satan – as our Lord told Adam and Eve as He comforted them with the Gospel after their Fall into sin.

That time of waiting for God to fulfill the promise made to Adam is over with the coming of the Christ child. And when that child became a man and offered Himself as the final Lamb of sacrifice upon the altar of the cross and defeated death on Easter morning, we see how He has already made all things new.

Christ entering this world as the child of Mary ushered in a glimpse of what is to come in the End because of His death and resurrection. Jesus is the first to rise from the dead and never die again. The beginning that Christ brings, as He is born into this world, is the joy and hope of the resurrection. The beginning is all about the End.

Jesus says, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Amen.