

A.D.V.E.N.T

The Latin *adventus* (“coming”) is a translation of the Greek word *parousia* (“appearing”). For Christians, the season of Advent serves as both a time of celebration of the First Advent of Jesus, as well as the anticipation of Christ's return, or Second Advent. The first time Jesus came, it was to be born humbly in a stable and ultimately suffer and die for our sins. The second time...it will be to reign as the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords! So, what is so special about Jesus' advent/birth (first coming)? There are obviously many reasons, but let's look at six characteristics of Jesus' birth.

A – **Announced**/prophesied (Isaiah 9:6; Luke 1:29-33; Luke 2:8-14)

The birth of Jesus was one of the most prophesied and announced occurrences in the Bible (second only to His second coming/second advent). Prophets and angels all participated in the privilege of predicting and announcing this amazing event.

D – **Disruptive** (Matthew 2:1-4, 12-13; Matthew 9:1-3; Matthew 26:62-66)

The coming of Christ completely disrupted not only the Jewish faith and the Law, it also disrupted the entire Roman Empire. It both abolished and fulfilled the Law, it transformed lives and lifted the burden of sin and the Law and offered the restoration of the relationship with the Heavenly Father and a certainty of eternity. It even established the basis for the calendar date setting system (BC/AD) for all of history for the entire world.

V – **Virgin birth** (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-27, 34; Matthew 1:18)

This is a critical and non-negotiable aspect of Jesus' birth. Mary had to be a virgin. By being divinely conceived, Jesus retained His sinless nature. Only through the divine virgin birth, could Jesus be the perfect, sinless sacrifice for our sins.

E – **Extraordinary**/miraculous (John 1: 1-2, 14; Isaiah 9:6; Colossians 2:9-10, Philippians 2:5-11)

The conception and incarnation of the second person of the Godhead/Trinity into a seamless union of God and man, was extraordinary. Jesus was God, Jesus was man. But in his humanity, his divinity was never diminished. The miracle of the incarnation is the foundation of Jesus' first advent.

N – **Necessary**/needed (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:12; John 3:16; Romans 5:12,17-19)

Ever since the fall in the Garden of Eden, humanity has been in need of salvation and the restoration of a relationship with the Almighty God and Creator. The Law provided a temporary but ineffective solution. The sacrificial system and the role of the High Priest was not enough. A true, perfect, permanent solution (sacrifice) was necessary. Jesus' first coming provided all of the necessary, critical elements for humanity's salvation.

T – **Timed** (Galatians 4:4)

The advent of Christ was not only prophesied and announced (who, where, what, how), it was fulfilled at just the right moment in time (when). The first century Roman Empire provided the perfect setting to advance the Gospel – Pax Romana, extensive road system, common language, disgruntlement among the people with the Roman gods and/or the Jewish Law. They were looking for something more. (Another example - the timing of Caesar Augustus decreeing a census that brought Mary and Joseph all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem for Christ's birth...timing and prophecy fulfilled)