

Why do we do advent

What is it

What does it mean – candle this morning = peace – we are going to deal with biblical peace....

As we focus our attention on the appearing of Jesus we remember that this season of Christmas is all about celebrating his appearing

Everything we do in this season is in celebration of his appearing

The decorations – are meant to be different, decorations symbolize that something special is going on

When you enter in worship each week, we want you to know that these 4 weeks are special – and they are special not because of the décor, but because of who we celebrate this time of year....

So lets start this morning 4000 years before the advent...

We go back to the earliest moments of creation.....light dark day 1, sky day 2, dry land day 3, stars moon sun day 4, sea life day 5,

And on day 6 we arrive at the crowning moment in creation of the universe is the creation of mankind.....**Genesis 1:26**

(1 cor 11:7 glory and image of God, psalm 139:14 – I am fearfully and wonderfully made)

The creation of man is without a doubt the greatest of all God's creation – why.....because of our uniqueness...

We are the only part of creation that was created in God's image....

This means we are created with self consciousness – the ability to understand that we exist, we are created with the ability to think, we can love, have compassion, express emotion....and we are complex

When you think about our biology.....you begin to see the complexity of our design....German engineer Werner Gitt says it about as well as anyone...

*'Without a doubt, the most complex information-processing system in existence is the human body. If we take all human information processes together i.e. conscious ones (language) and unconscious ones (information-controlled functions of the organs), this involves the processing of  $10^{24}$  bits daily. This astronomically high figure is higher by a factor of 1,000,000 [i.e., is a million times greater] than the total human knowledge of  $10^{18}$  bits stored in all the world's libraries.*

And it all started with God's words.....let US make man in OUR image – instantly we should recognize the plurality of God.....his spirit hovered, God the father imagined, the son and the great consultation occurs in the creation of man...

It was God himself who got down in the dirt, formed man out of the dirt.....and then declared it all good....absent of all evil, absent of sickness, disease, cancer, and most importantly....death....

But something tragic happened.....and its something that we need to make clear....because Gen. 3 is one of those passages that nobody can fully comprehend...

You can tell me, I get it....i fully understand it.....and I promise you....we don't.....it is the most tragic event to ever happen to mankind

Lets read together.....**Genesis 3:1-7**

Go v. by v. – v. 1 – who is the serpent, (crafty....clever, willing to do whatever needed to achieve desire)

Did God actually say.....questioning God's word, and he was crafty in doing so.....look what he asks – you shall not eat of any tree?

v.2-3 Eve was wise to the question, and her answer back was what God did instruct.....you shall not eat or touch....lest you die....

We don't really know much about how Eve thought the tree might kill them....but we get a glimpse in Satans answer..

v.4 You will not surely die...

whenever Satan lies to us.....he never tells a complete lie, nor does he ever tell the whole truth....here is a great ex.

He knows that Eve is thinking physical death....but he knows God is talking spiritual....(how does he know, he himself just fell when he rebelled)

We know eve is thinking physical b/c of what is said next...

v.6 – when it was good for food.....the opposite of being good for food is....bad for food, poisonous....

Satan convinces her that she won't surely die physically.....but he doesn't tell her....you will die spiritually by being cut off from your father, and eventually die physically

It is at this point Eve eats of the fruit, gives it also to Adam....who was WITH her....(crazy...he wasn't off doing man things and her doing girl things)....they were together

Adam was watching.....and sees that eve didn't die (its not poison)...(GET AN APPLE)

What was adam thinking.....hey, I didn't die, man this is good, hot wife standing there all naked....she should really put some clothes on.....that serpent was right, I didn't die.....i am sooo smart....i don't need God....

and now mankind has a serious problem, they are going to die physically and are dead spiritually....

The world is introduced to hunger, pain, death, and havoc reigns on earth.....

But instantly.....we see that God has a plan....

1. He will redeem us (v.15) – this is the first instance of God revealing his plan...

At some point in the future, the womans offspring (a messiah) will crush the head of the serpent, but not before he strikes the heel of the messiah (HOW – beaten, bruised, hung on a cross)

And here we have it, 4000 years before the messiah appears....God promises us he will redeem

This is such a fantastic event in history that Peter tells us that the angels are perplexed and bewildered....

They watched it all.....and when God went to adam and eve they were anticipating them being destroyed...

The sin of adam brought havoc to the world...& wrecked it

But the advent of Jesus brought shalom – peace (Isaiah 9:6-7) – what kind peace? Jesus brought peace btw God/man

