



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion
03 – The Second Advent

Announcements:

12/14 @7:00 -

Prayer

12/18 @8:30 -

Sunday School

12/24 @11:00

*Lessons and
Carols*

12/25 @10:00

*Communion
Service*

ICE BREAKER: What is your favorite part of the Christmas season?

Advent is a wonderful time of the year. It is a time that we set aside to reflect on and remember what we call the incarnation. We celebrate the angels coming to Mary and Joseph; we read and reread the visit of the magi, or the triumphant proclamation given to the shepherds that was “Good news of great joy”; we set up nativity scenes to remember the humble state that our savior was born into (though in truth we often over-romanticize it... but I digress). These are all good things, but sometimes the grinch in me wonders if this is all too much and that we have missed one of the most important thoughts of the advent, which is that the first advent serves to prepare the way for the second one. So today I would like to reflect on and remember this precious truth: Jesus is coming back!

READ: Daniel 7:1-14

On Sunday we looked in detail at the name that Jesus most often called himself, “The Son of Man”. One of the things we noted is that this name serves to communicate that he will make all things right. We noted the here would be “judgment” as the “books [are] opened” (verse 10). We saw that he was given “dominion” which is not fleeting or temporary, but rather is an “everlasting dominion” where he rules and reigns perfectly. But one thing that we didn’t dive into (partly because of time, and partly because we just looked at Revelation last week and I can only take so much!) was the apocryphal nature of this whole section. In other words, the dominion that is spoken of here is pointing us to the “last days” or the second coming. The easiest way to see this is to imagine that you don’t know exactly where this passage comes from. If you were to just read this passage without verses 1 and 2 and the references to Daniel you would probably think that you are reading the book of Revelation. There are beasts and symbols, like, really crazy ones like four beasts, all bizarre, but worth noting is that the last one in particular is: “terrifying and dreadful”; a horn with eyes and a mouth; there is a scene in heaven where God receives worship, a fiery judgment and more. It turns out that when Daniel was seeing this vision of the Son of Man he was seeing first something John would see much later.

READ: Revelation 19:11-21

This is, in my opinion, the beginning of the payoff of the whole book of Revelation. The trials and tribulation all fade, the bowls and seals and trumpets are no longer the focus, instead here it is the glorious return of Jesus, here called Faithful and True. In Revelation he “treads out the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty” whereas in Daniel as we noted he sits in the courts of judgment as the books are opened, but the end result is the same: he will judge all peoples. In Daniel we read that He was given dominion and all peoples shall serve him, in Revelation we read that he will rule the nations with a rod of iron, again worded maybe a little differently but both showing his triumphal reign over all people, and there are more. But here is the point: The innocent child born some 200 years ago is coming again, and when he does it will not be to humble means or as the suffering servant, when he returns he will rule and reign as King, this is our great hope!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it so important to understand how Daniel and Revelation fit together?
2. How can you begin to see and understand these connections?
3. How can you make a remembrance of the second advent a part of your celebrations of the first one?