

# A Season Filled with Lights

#3268 25 1221A Advent

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**1** December is when our homes and city streets are aglow with lights in windows, candles on tables, trees and houses outlined.

**2** All these lights just point to a much greater **Light**—and Truth that entered our world on that memorable night!

**3** WEY John 1:4 “*In Him was Life, and that Life was the **Light** of men. 5 The **Light** shines in the darkness, and the darkness has **not** overpowered it.*”

**4** The life Jesus gives is the *light* He provides, so we can *walk and talk and treat* people in a way that shines His Truth on them.

**5** Being a *light-bearer* for the Lord is a much-repeated theme and very important command.

**6** WEY John 8:12 “*Once more Jesus addressed them. “I am the **Light** of the world,” He said; “the man who **follows** me shall certainly **not** walk in the dark, but shall **have** the **light** of Life.”*

**7** The prophet told of a **Light** that came to guide us. NIV Isaiah 9:2 “*The people walking in darkness have seen a **great light**; On those living in the land of the shadow of death a **light** has dawned.*”

**8** The questions to ask: Am I *walking and talking* and *acting* in a way that *shines* the *light* Jesus came to give me? Am I *asking* for and *accepting*

the Gift of the Holy Spirit who empowers me to be a *Light* in a very *dark* world today?

**9** Advent is a season of *waiting*; *longing*; and *great expectation*—family meals, close friends, many gifts, and being with those we love. Advent is the time between the *promise* and the *fulfillment*—it is the space between *what is* and *what is to come*.

**10** The promise WEY John 14:3 “*If I go and make ready a place for you, **I will return** and take you to be with me, that where I am you also may be.*” The fulfillment of that promise comes ever closer each day.

**11** God’s people waited for the Messiah for centuries—and thousands of years later, we are still waiting for the fulfillment of that promise—“**I will return and take you to be with me.**”

**12** Old Testament believers carried prophecies in their *hearts*, and now we keep those prophecies in our *phones* as reminders of something we hope for and anticipate.

**13** The first Advent of Jesus was not with pomp and political power, but He arrived quietly and humbly to a manger; born of a virgin; with people under Roman oppression; and to a world that was hoping for and *needing* but very *absent*—**peace and good will** toward all.

**14** Advent reminds us that Jesus was willing to come to a broken world with crowded schedules—He came to our digital world of constant noise; many distractions; and unnecessary comparisons. He came to be **Light** in a world that is Dark!

**15** The birth of the Messiah is proof that God is *not distant* from us but He *draws close* to us in this time of need.

**16** If we will make the *first* move God will make the *second*. AV Hebrews 10:22 “*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.*”

**17** There are *three aspects* of this Advent season—1. The **Darkness** of our world today; 2. The

**Light** that brings *change*; and 3. The **Call** to walk in obedience.

**18** WEY 1 John 2:6 “*The man who professes to be continuing in Him is himself also bound to live as He lived*”—by trusting the Father and being a *light-bearer* through obedience. Jesus came to *forgive us* and *show us* a new and better way to live.

**19** Prior to the birth of Jesus, the prophet said AV Isaiah 9:2 “*The people that walked in darkness have seen a **great light**: They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the **light** shined.*”

**20** Jesus came to show us *love*; He came to bring forgiveness; and He came to tell us that we must extend **both** to others—*love* them and *forgive* them.

**21** The question—Has that **Light** *changed* my *life*? Am I *acting, talking, responding*, and *treating* people as He said to?

**22** The world today commends overtime work; constant productivity; working faster and more efficiently.

**23** The world wants us to **be** everything, **do** everything, and **impress** everyone—but Advent is a time to *slow* the frantic pace and enjoy the quiet moments.

**24** During Advent, the calendar gets *full*; the expectations get *higher*; and the joy of the season gets *thinner*. We should *slow down* and *look up* because the *King is coming*!

**25** The world today is consumed with social media—a world of constant *comparison*; instant *criticism*; and endless *distractions*.

**26** The more we *scroll* the more *time* is wasted and the more *discouraged* we feel. Many measure their worth by *likes, shares, and followers*.

**27** Social media influences many in all the wrong ways. It makes people crave *attention* rather than *connection*. It makes them *react* instead

of *reflect*; It makes us *forget* the *value* of God's presence and the genuine *love* He brings to us.

**28** Today, *comments* travel faster than *compassion*; *Opinions* spread quicker than understanding—but Advent season calls us *away from* the noise and to the stillness of God's presence.

**29** Today, more are connected through technology than any previous generation—yet they feel more isolated and alone.

**30** Surveys reveal rising levels of depression and division. Millions just want to belong; be forgiven; and have a purpose in life.

**31** Into this darkness, God spoke—not with a post or a video, but with a Child called ***Emmanuel—God with us.***

**32** The light came in the form of a Baby. NIV John 1:9 *The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world."*

**33** Jesus *is* that ***light***—and Advent celebrates the moment when eternity stepped into our world.

**34** Jesus could have come in any way He wanted—as a warrior; or as a King with an army, angels and trumpets—but He came as a baby and slept in a manger because there was *no room* at the Inn.

**35** Love cannot be forced, so God came in a *humble* and *gentle* way—and *not* to judge, but to forgive and *show* a better way.

**36** He came to *light* our path—and say: I am *not* far; I am *not* distant; I am *here* with you.

**37** The birth of Jesus shows that God did not wait for humanity to come to *Him*—He came to *us*; He came because He *loves* His creation; He came because we were *lost*; and He came because we so needed His forgiveness.

**38** God proved His love and NKJV Romans 5:8 *"demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

**39** The story of Advent begins the *journey* to the cross. The manger points to the *mission* to *seek* and *save* the lost.

**40** Jesus did not come to be *admired* but to *redeem*. He came to show us love—a love that would give His *best* for those He *loves*. NKJV John 15:13 *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends,"* and we can be His friend by choice.

**41** Social media says love is conditional—based on *appearance*, *performance*, and *popularity*.

**42** But Jesus shows us that true love *reaches* the unloved; *forgives* the unforgiven; *restores* the broken; and *sees* beyond the surface.

**43** Jesus *ate* with sinners; *forgave* the condemned; *restored* the fallen; and *healed* the hurting.

**44** The angel said WEY Matthew 1:21 *"You are to call His name JESUS for He it is who will save His People from their sins."*

**45** The gift of Advent is the gift everyone *needs*, but no one can buy. That gift is something we can *give* to anyone.

**46** Jesus said NLT Matthew 6:14 *"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you."*

**47** Advent calls us to stop *comparing* and start *following* the Savior. In a world obsessed with *comparison*, Jesus offers *identity*; In a world wanting *approval*, Jesus offers *acceptance*—just *believe* Him; *trust* Him; and *do* what He tells you—that makes us *His friend* John 15:14.

**48** Our worth is *not* the sum of our *media posts*; *not* the *amount* of our followers; *not* what we accomplished; but whether we *believe* in the *Name* of Jesus and *walk* in ***His light!***

**49** God loves us so much that He came to earth and gave His life for our life—and to offer the ***Light*** of life.

**50** Advent invites us to *silence* the noise; *reduce* the scrolling, and *rediscover* the presence of God's Spirit.

**51** We try to imagine what it is like without screens; having time to pray; and enjoying moments of silence to think of God's promises.

**52** Advent calls us to *leave* bitterness and *embrace* forgiveness. Jesus came to forgive *us* so we would forgive *others*.

**53** The world changed the moment grace *entered a manger* in the form of a Savior; and grace will change *our world* when we allow it to *enter our heart*.

**54** Advent calls us to be ***light-bearers*** who can remind others of *God's hope* if they feel hopeless; To show them *God's grace* when someone casts judgment; To be *kind* in place of hurt; and, To bring *peace* when strife brings wrath.

**55** ***When Jesus shines through us—people see Him!***



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