

“The Advent of the Son of Man”

Advent teaches the Church to look forward as much as to remember the past. Advent means “coming”. Advent is the season in which Christians remember the coming of the eternally begotten Son of God as he took on flesh and tabernacled among us (John 1). It is good for the church to look back and give thanks for the gift of Christ for us and for our salvation.

But the season of Advent is also about looking forward to his return, or second advent. This is one of the works of the “Son of Man”. Jesus claimed the title “Son of Man” on many occasions. The “Son of Man” was an Old Testament title of a king sitting at the right hand of God (Dan. 7:13). The dying martyr Stephen gazes into heaven, sees Jesus at the right hand of God, and quotes the same passage from Daniel (Acts 7:55-56). Stephen plainly knows Jesus is the king, the “Son of Man”, sitting on a throne.

While the work of the “Son of Man” includes his atoning death (Mark 10:45), he also sits on the judgment seat of God, as the Judge and Ruler of all the world. Have you considered that a man who lived in the first century Palestine was convinced that he will also sit on the judgment seat of God. “For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38). While many admire Jesus for his worthy example, how will they also take this claim from the lips of the same man?

Furthermore, Jesus claimed such exclusive knowledge between the Father and the Son that it implies the great doctrine of his eternal deity. He claimed that “no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son” (Matt. 11:27). A man, Jesus of Nazareth, walked upon this earth and claims such rich knowledge to no one but himself. Yet, there is a greater claim: “No one knows the Son except the Father”. Again, only the Father knows the depths of the Son. The man history knows as Jesus of Nazareth also claimed to be the infinite and eternal, unchangeable Son of God.

These are sweet words, Christian, for only the eternally begotten Son of God can promise, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” This was his invitation when he first came. The same invitation is offered by the Son of Man who sits on the judgment seat of God and will return to judge the living and the dead. Will you accept it?

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