

## THE ADVENT

- The *word* advent simply refers to the expected arrival of someone important. Originally the word was used of anyone, but later came to be used only of Christ.
- The *season* called Advent is an invention of the Catholic church, carried over into Protestantism. It is not a season instructed nor based on Scriptural, but entirely on church tradition.
- Christmas itself is a season of expectation. In days before Christ, the expectation was built on a series of promises, beginning with Genesis 3:15.
- Simeon perfectly displays the expectation of the “before Christ” *advent*— Luke 2:25-32
  - He was **waiting for the consolation of Israel**.
  - In Simeon’s evaluation, He had come—**mine eyes have seen thy salvation**.

## THE PREDICTION | GENESIS 49:10

- In addition to Genesis 3:15, there is a second great Messianic prophecy in Genesis: Genesis 49:10
- This verse promises:
  - The preeminence of the tribe of Judah as the ruler
  - The arrival of the Redeemer during which time Judah was preeminent.
  - The gathering of the nations under this Redeemer.
- Who is **Shiloh**?
  - It could be translated as “the one to whom it belongs.”
  - Compare Ezekiel 21:26-27.

## THE TIMING

- The preeminence of the tribe of Judah: 1010BC
  - Not until Saul was rejected by God and David became King.
- The loss of preeminence: AD70
  - The tribe would have preeminence “until Shiloh come” and beyond.

- The gathering of the nations: this has not yet happened.

## THE IMPLICATIONS

- God would establish Judah as the preeminent tribe through the time of the arrival of the Messiah.
  - After Solomon, the nation was divided, but God never recognized the north as a legitimate entity.
    - The north had dozens of dynasties, the south had one.
    - After the Babylonian captivity, the nation of Judah still had quasi-independence. Their King, Jehoichin, was imprisoned, then led a good life in Babylon. See 2 Kings 25:27-30
    - During the time of the Persians, Greeks, and Romans this quasi-independence continued.
- God most certainly must have sent the Messiah before AD70, or the Torah is inaccurate, because it requires the scepter to go from Judah to Shiloh.
- God must have planned a first and a second coming of the Messiah, or the Torah is inaccurate, because there is to be a **gathering of the peoples** to Shiloh, and this has not happened.
  - These are really our only two choices. The Messiah must have already come and must be coming again, or the accuracy of the Torah is to be questioned.

## THE ADVENT OF SOMETHING NEW

- Foreseeing the rejection of the risen Lord by Israel, God graciously raised up Paul to reveal a new age, previously unforeseen.
  - Unlike the previous age, this is an age of grace, with no revealed timing.
  - This is an age of *grace*, in which salvation is freely given to all who believe.
  - Isn’t it appropriate that more time has passed under grace than any other era of time?
- In this age, we have a different kind of advent: 2 Timothy 4:8