Advent and the Lamb of God

Rev. 5:9

The Advent of Jesus is about God's divine intervention into the affairs of humanity. It is a moment when the horizontal is intersected by the vertical, humanity meets the divine, the creature meets the Creator, and the impotent encounters Omnipotence. Advent is when humanity is introduced to God, and humanity is spiritually undone.

Life does not begin until a man or woman has an encounter with God. The living of life requires a meeting with the divine. The Jewish philosopher Martin Buber said, "Real living is Meeting." When we can see people, look at them, and see God's potential in them, we are placing ourselves in a position to be used by God.

Advent is God introducing the world to a love we have never known before Jesus. Have we ever stopped to think how superficial our lives are? For the most part, we go through the motions, pretending that we are interested in the lives of others. When we are not. The Advent season serves as an example of the kind of love God expects of and from us. God did not intend for men and women to be distant from Him. God intended a personal relationship with men and women. The Book of Revelations tells us of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God.

Advent and the Lamb of God speak to the hope and promise that Jesus brings to a lost world. Jesus inspires us to live with gratitude and anticipation that God will do what He promised and come to our rescue. We often want to say that the sacrifice of Jesus was a selfless act. I want to suggest that it was an act full of self. A divine self. A self that sees the fullness of God in everyone. A self that sees the best and the most in everyone. A self that Jesus wanted to live in of us. This spiritual self comes within our spiritual reach when we allow the Holy Spirit to live through us and influence our behavior.

Advent introduces God's initial act of spiritual and physical redemption. Redemption means to buy back someone who was in bondage or captivity. Redemption is the liberation of humanity from the power of sin. Sin is placing "ourselves" first, placing "ourselves" before, in front of God. Sin is making our desires more important than God. The "coming" of Jesus is what the word "advent" infers; "the coming of an important person" is what the word "redemption means. Redemption becomes reality on the cross when Jesus dies, and we are restored to a right relationship with God. Advent should remind us that Jesus came to die on Calvary's cross for our spiritual and physical salvation.

The Advent season points back to the Passover lamb in the Old Testament. Just as the blood of the Passover lamb protected the Israelites from the judgment of God, so Jesus' blood protects believers from the consequences of sin. The blood of Jesus saves us from the powers that seek to destroy us in this world. Jesus' blood sacrifice brings liberation and deliverance from the power of sin, death, and illness. This is not to suggest we cannot and do not become ill. I am suggesting it was not God's original plan, and the ministry of Jesus showed us this very truth.

It is Jesus who is our substitute. Jesus becomes our scapegoat. Jesus takes our place, willingly bearing the penalty, a punishment that is rightfully ours to bear. Jesus' death on the cross satisfies God's demand for justice, which allows the believer to be reconciled and reconnected to God like we were in the Garden of Eden.

Rev. 5:9 conveys two messages. 1) The lamb's response affirms Jesus' kingship and authority. The lamb's ability to open the scrolls speaks to His power to fulfill God's plan for redemption. 2) This scripture demonstrates the worship and praise due to the "Lamb/Jesus." Our worship and praise are because of the sacrifice for our salvation and deliverance. This is a model for us to always worship and honor Jesus/Lamb.

The Advent is a source of hope that should be embraced. It reflects the love that God has for us. **Exodus 3:7-8a "Then the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians.**

Finally, Advent is a time that reinforces God's love, borne out of hope, for those who live in fear and doubt that God is concerned about them. Advent addresses that concern directly. God sent His "Son Jesus" to deliver us, to rescue us, to love us, to encourage us. So, we will not be like those who lose hope in the power of God's salvation. But will trust in the redemptive power of the Lamb of God. It is the power of the "Blood of the Lamb" that reduces the powers of this world and those of the enemy to nothing. To God be the glory.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool