

eXplain it
(Advent 3)

Isaiah 40:1–11 (Comfort, Comfort, My People)
Psalm 85 (Restore Us Again)
1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (Servants of Christ)
Matthew 11:2-11 (Jesus and John the Baptist)

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Three Advents “comings”

1st Advent: “fulfilled”
(remember and rejoice)

2nd Advent: “promised”
(repent, watch and be ready)

On Going Advent
(receive, receive, receive)

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Repent
Receive
Rejoice

(repeat)

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Revelation 22:20: He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (NIV)

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Matthew 11:2-ff: When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him,

"Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" (NIV)

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Who is the question for?

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John ...
leaps in the womb (Luke 1)
“behold the Lamb of God” (John 1)
baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3)
“he must increase, I must decrease” (John 3)

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Isaiah 40:1-11: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord 's hand double for all her sins.

3A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord ; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. (NIV)

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John the Baptist...
(Matthew 11:7-10)

... in the desert, not a reed swayed by the wind, not in fine clothes, not in a palace, a prophet, a messenger sent ahead of you to prepare the way of the Lord

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John's Message ...

Repent.
Behold the Lamb of God.
Produce Fruit.

Miracles: Messiah in their Midst
Luke 4 and 7

temptation in the wilderness
in the synagogue in Nazareth
message with authority
casting out of demons
Simon's mother-in-law
centurion's servant
widow at Nain

The Miracles of Jesus show:

- he is God, in the flesh, among his people**
- the Messianic Age has dawned**
- he has come to destroy the work of the Devil and restore creation**

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10 (NIV)

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the Devil’s work.” 1 John 3:8 (NIV)

a Scripture saturated culture

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

“We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” John 1:45 (NIV)

“He (Jesus) said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” Luke 24:25-27 (NIV)

Signs of the Messianic Age

**Isaiah 61:1-3
Isaiah 35:3-7**

Isaiah 61

**“good news to the poor”
“bind up the brokenhearted”
“freedom for the captives”
“release from darkness for the prisoners”
“the year of the Lord’s favor”
“the day of vengeance of our God”
“comfort all who mourn”
“provide for those who grieve”
“crown of beauty instead of ashes”
“oil of gladness instead of mourning”
“garment of praise instead of spirit of despair”**

Isaiah 35
vs. 4: "your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you. Then will the ..."

"eyes of the blind be opened"
"ears of the deaf unstopped"
"lame will leap like a deer"
"mute tongue shout for joy" (NIV)

Jesus references Isaiah 61

Luke 4:21: "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (NIV)

**An Incredible Moment in Nazareth
(and a not so incredible moment with
John the Baptist)**

Luke 4 and Luke 7

Luke 7:22: "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard ..." (NIV)

Isaiah 61
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~~"freedom for the captives"~~
~~"release from darkness for the prisoners"~~
~~"the year of the Lord's favor"~~
~~"the day of vengeance of our God"~~

For John the Baptist ...

**Jesus could have.
But He didn't.**

the Humiliation and Exaltation

**Jesus could have.
But He didn't.**

Matthew 11:2-ff: "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" (NIV)

Who's the question for?

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