

Reflections for Advent

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... good tidings of great joy ... ?

SCRIPTURE VERSES

[Genesis 16:11](#) **Ishmael**

¹¹And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.

[Genesis 18:10](#) **Issac**

¹⁰And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him.

[Judges 13:3](#) **Samson**

³And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

[1 Samuel 1:11,17](#) **Samuel**

¹¹And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

¹⁷Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

[1 Kings 13:2](#) **Josiah**

²And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

[2 Kings 4:16](#) **The Shunammite's Son**

¹⁶And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.

[Luke 1:13](#) **John the Baptist**

¹³But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

[Luke 1:31](#) **Jesus**

³¹And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

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DISCUSSION THOUGHTS:

In previous years our reflections for advent have looked at:

- The church's focus during the advent season
- Christ the King
- Joy; the message of "great joy" announced to the shepherds

The word "advent" is derived from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival."

The birth of John the Baptist and Jesus are foretold and names given. This has occurred on only a few previous occasions, recorded for us in the Old Testament, and we look at some of those instances.

- In each instance
 - What was the occasion that prompted the announcement ?
 - What is revealed in the name given ?
 - What attribute does this event reveal about God ?

Jesus' arrival was announced as "... good tidings of great joy ... **to** all people..."

- [Isaiah 11:1-9](#)
- [Revelation 11:15](#)

Is this good tidings and great joy **for** all people ? If not who is it for ?

- For reflection: What is the book of life ? Are our names written in it ?



And finally an Advent quiz handout !!!

