

About Advent

There were 7 feasts in the Law God gave to Moses. Each of them was prophetic of events in the life of Jesus Christ. Israel was required to observe the feasts, and given very specific ways to do it.

We are no longer under the Law. Christ died, was buried, and rose again to fulfill the Law for us. Now, all we have to do is accept His forgiveness and we are saved. We are able to celebrate any day as we see fit.

Romans 14:5-6

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. **Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it.** He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

The church, however, has made it quite common to set dates for events in the Bible for believers to observe. Most, if not all of these dates are arbitrarily set by men, and we need to remember that. These are “commandments and doctrines of men,” and have a “show” of worship.

Colossians 2:20-23

Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, **why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,** (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) **after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility,** and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

So, once you know that you have the option to celebrate or not, as you see fit, it's good to take a look at what you are celebrating.

Advent

Advent, in the Christian church calendar, is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas, and also of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ.

Advent starts 4 Sundays before Christmas. To make it easier, some people observe Advent from December 1st to Christmas Eve.

The Christian date for celebrating Jesus' birth, December 25, was set by man. It is 9 months after the date set for the Annunciation—the

announcement by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive a son by the power of the Holy Spirit to be called Jesus—which is March 25th.

How was March 25 set for the Annunciation? It is the date that marked the middle of the interval between the winter and summer solstices. Because of its astronomical significance, Christian antiquity recognized the 25th of March as the date of Jesus' conception, and the actual day of Our Lord's death. (They also marked the 25th of March for the creation of Adam, the fall of Lucifer, and the passing of Israel through the Red Sea!) According to the Julian calendar, in the middle ages, March 25 was also New Year's Day!

We can determine that Jesus' true birth year at 6 B.C. Herod died in 4 B.C. and Jesus was born 2 years prior to that.

The Feast of Trumpets, prophetic of Jesus' birth and His second coming, was on September 13 in the year 6 B.C. If true, Jesus' true date of birth would be September 13.

Leviticus 23:23-25

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, **In the seventh**

month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Jesus would have been 33 in 27 A.D. Thursday, April 10, 27 was the 14th of Nissan, and the first day of Passover. This is most likely the day Jesus was crucified.

https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-date-of-Nisan-14-in-Jerusalem-AD-26-36_tbl1_265114769

Leviticus 23:5-6

In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

January 6 was the date set for 2 occasions in the life of Jesus. Epiphany (meaning revelation) commemorates the first two occasions on which Jesus' divinity was manifested: when the three wise men visited Jesus in Bethlehem...

Matthew 2:1-2

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold,

there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, **Where is he that is born King of the Jews?** for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

...and when John the Baptist baptized him in the River Jordan.

Matthew 3:16-17

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and **he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

January 6, 12 days after Christmas, is symbolic of the amount of time it took the three wise men to travel to Bethlehem to recognize Jesus as the son of God. But it appears that Jesus was as old as 2 when the wise men came. Herod had quizzed them about the time line for Jesus' birth. After finding out that the wise men were not going to come back with information as Herod had told them to, Herod had all the baby boys, up to 2 years old killed.

Matthew 2:16

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and **slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.**

One problem with observing Advent for the Church, the Body of Christ, is that we are waiting for the Adoption, the redemption of our bodies as we meet the Lord in the clouds, we are not waiting for Christ's second coming.

The Differences Between the Rapture and the Second Coming.

The Bible tells us that, at the end, Christ is involved in two separate gathering events, one for each of God's peculiar peoples. Many churches combine these 2 events into one, and further confuse the issue.

The two groups of God's peculiar people are Israel,

Deuteronomy 14:2

For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and **the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself**, above all the nations that are upon the earth.
and the Church, the Body of Christ (us.)

Titus 2:13-14

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; **Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people**, zealous of good works.

The Church is the first group to be gathered is the Church, the Body of Christ. The event, known as the Rapture, is described by Paul.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout,**

with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The word "rapture" does not appear in the Bible. It is referred to as "the adoption."

Romans 8:23

And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for **the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.**

Paul also calls it a mystery. He explains that the "redemption of our bodies" means that our bodies will be changed from corruptible to incorruption and mortal to immortality.

1 Corinthians 15:50-54

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. **Behold, I shew you a mystery;** We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the

trumpet shall sound, and the **dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Ever since Paul first told the Thessalonians about the Rapture, it was always understood that they (and we) should expect it at any time. In his second letter, Paul showed that the Thessalonians were concerned that they had missed Christ's coming for them. Paul assured them that they hadn't, and reminded them of the things that will happen on earth after the Rapture. The man of sin will be revealed and declare himself to be God. Since that hadn't happened, he said, Christ had not yet come.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That **ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.** Let no man deceive you by any means: for **that day shall not come, except**

there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

In his second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul repeated that it isn't until the Church has been "taken out of the way," that the "Wicked" (antichrist) will be revealed.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, **until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

The antichrist is the one who starts the count for Israel's gathering event. Daniel calls this event, where antichrist presents himself as God, the abomination of desolation. (Daniel knew nothing about the Rapture.)

Daniel 12:11

And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that

maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

The second coming of Christ, unlike the Rapture, has a very specific timeline. One thousand, two hundred and ninety days after the abomination of desolation, Christ will return to set up His Kingdom.

Jesus tells His followers that when they see the abomination of desolation, they should flee into the mountains.

Matthew 24:15-18

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

John, in the book of Revelation, says that after they have fled into the mountains, believing Jews in Israel will be fed by God for 3 ½ years, 1260 days.

In the verses below, Israel is "the woman." The man child Israel brought forth is the Lord Jesus Christ who will rule all nations with a rod of iron. "She" (Israel) has a place prepared in the wilderness where God will feed her for 3 ½ years.

Revelation 12:5-6

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And **the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**

The reason that the abomination of desolation is the signal for the Jews to head to the mountains, is because at the same time, Satan and his angels are thrown out of heaven, into the earth.

Revelation 12:7-9

And there was war in heaven: **Michael and his angels fought against the dragon;** and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. **And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

Satan, now trapped on the earth, will take his great wrath out on Israel, "the woman." This is why God has to feed and protect Israel from Satan for 3 ½ years.

Revelation 12:12-13

Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! **For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.**

Satan's last chance is to prevent Israel from calling for the return of their King, the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan will try to kill all of Israel.

Christ has told Israel that He will not return to earth to set up His kingdom until they acknowledge their sins and seek His face.

Hosea 5:15

I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be that of a conquering hero.

Revelation 19:11,14-15,19-20

¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

¹⁴And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

¹⁹And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

After the beast and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire, the 3rd part of the unholy trinity, Satan, is bound in a bottomless pit for the entire duration of Christ's kingdom, 1000 years.

That is a big part of why it is the kingdom of heaven on earth!

Revelation 20:1-3

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, **till the thousand years should be fulfilled:** and after that he must be loosed a little season.

If you notice, God is going to protect Israel for 1260 days before Christ's return in victory, but Daniel's timeline adds 30 days after that.

Daniel12:11

And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

In the next verse, he adds another 45 days. He says that people will have to wait another 45 days, total 1335 days, for the Kingdom to be set up.

Daniel 12:12

Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

Although the Bible doesn't explain why, the timeline differences can be explained by 2 of the events described by Christ when sets up His kingdom.

One of the events is the judgement of the nations. The nations that helped Israel during the terrible persecution of Satan are the sheep nations, and the nations that did not help Israel are the goat nations.

Matthew 25:31-33

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, **then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations:** and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: **And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.**

Here is what Jesus says to the sheep nations on His right hand:

Matthew 25:34

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Here is what Jesus says to the goat nations on His left hand.

Matthew 25:41

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Another task that will be done is a "clean up" of unbelievers who cannot enter Christ's kingdom. To set up His kingdom, Christ will send His angels to gather up all things that offend—a "clean-up" of sorts. Unbelievers will be sent to hell's fire.

Matthew 13:41-43

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom

of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

The "clean up" at the second coming of Christ is described in Matthew. Unlike the Rapture, It is not good to be the one taken away when Christ comes to set up His kingdom.

Matthew 24:40-41

Then shall two be in the field; **the one shall be taken, and the other left.** Two women shall be grinding at the mill; **the one shall be taken, and the other left.**

Luke 17:35-36

Two women shall be grinding together; **the one shall be taken, and the other left.** Two men shall be in the field; **the one shall be taken, and the other left.**

Matthew 7:21-23

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. **Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

Paul talks of the day of the Lord as sudden destruction! The unbelievers who will be gathered and burned up will think they are safe- they have survived the Tribulation and the battle between Jesus Christ and the antichrist-but travail and sudden destruction, Christ's "clean up" comes upon them and they cannot escape.

1Thessalonians 5:1-4

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know **perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night**. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; **then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape**. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Jesus' angels will also gather His elect from everywhere to enter into His kingdom. Notice in the verses below, "immediately after the tribulation," which would place these events in the extra 30+45 days that Daniel mentions.

Matthew 24:29-31

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall

not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. **And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

God will then "clean up" the gathered people of Israel and give them new hearts. They now will get the Holy Ghost in their hearts and will follow God's law.

Ezekiel 36:24-28

For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. **A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.** And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave

to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The millennia! kingdom will be "heaven on earth." No one will hurt nor destroy, and they will all know the Lord.

Isaiah 11:5-9

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. **They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.**

They will live in the land that God gave Abraham and God will, once again, live among them in His temple, like He did in David's time.

Ezekiel 43 :7

And he said unto me, Son of man, **the place of**

my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.

Chart of Differences	
Rapture	Second Coming
Next event on God's calendar--imminent	Comes at least 7 years after the Rapture
Involves all members of the Church, the Body of Christ	Involves everyone on earth--the Jews will get their kingdom
Believers are taken to heaven Unbelievers are left on earth	Believers are left on the earth Unbelievers are taken to hell
Christ meets believers in the clouds of heaven so we will forever be with Him in heaven	Christ comes to earth as King to defeat antichrist and all his armies on earth, and set up His kingdom
Happens before the Tribulation	Happens after the Tribulation
Those taken are judged at the Judgement Seat of Christ and given rewards	Those taken are sent to hell to await God's judgement at the Great White Throne, after Christ's 1,000 year kingdom.