

SERMON NOTES
Journey to the Manger
An Advent Sermon Series
"Joy Has Dawned"
Luke 1: 5-25; 57-80

Advent is the time when we celebrate the first coming of Jesus over two-thousand years ago. It is a season of expectation, soul searching, and _____.

_____ is about the joy of realizing that we needed desperately for God to do something that we could not do.

Advent is about the wonder of realizing that you don't have to carry around the weight, guilt, shame, and burden of your _____.

It had been _____ years since God had uttered words to His people from the last prophet of the Old Testament, Malachi.

_____ opening words to us, "In the days of Herod", are meant to capture the reader with the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadow that hung high over the people and this time.

King _____ was a master of architectural design. This skill was only surpassed by his cruel, brutal, and merciless rule over the people.

Zechariah and Elizabeth, despite their outward circumstances and reality of their lives, were _____.

Our _____ have as someone has said "a way of producing terrible theology and denials of God's goodness."

Luke is careful in these two verses (6-7) to let us know that there is no parallel or link between the reality of Zechariah's and Elizabeth's suffering and their faithfulness to _____.

To be _____ to burn incense was the most incredible thing that had happened to Zechariah in his long life...yet.

In God's _____ and mercy, He is pleased to answer both requests for Zechariah and Elizabeth and indeed for all Israel.

This child will _____ the way for the promised messiah to come.

From his mother's womb, this baby will be filled with the very _____ of God.

_____, the miracle son of that faithful elderly couple, came as the first act of God in His earthly advent in order to run before the savior so that he might prepare the way and give knowledge of this salvation to the people.

Joy has dawned and the days of Herod will no longer hold grip over God's people. A barren womb will rejoice. The sun is rising, the dark of winter is over and _____ is coming.

Blanks: preparation; Advent; sin; 400; Luke's; Herod; righteous; disappointments; God; chosen; grace; prepare; Spirit; John; Christmas