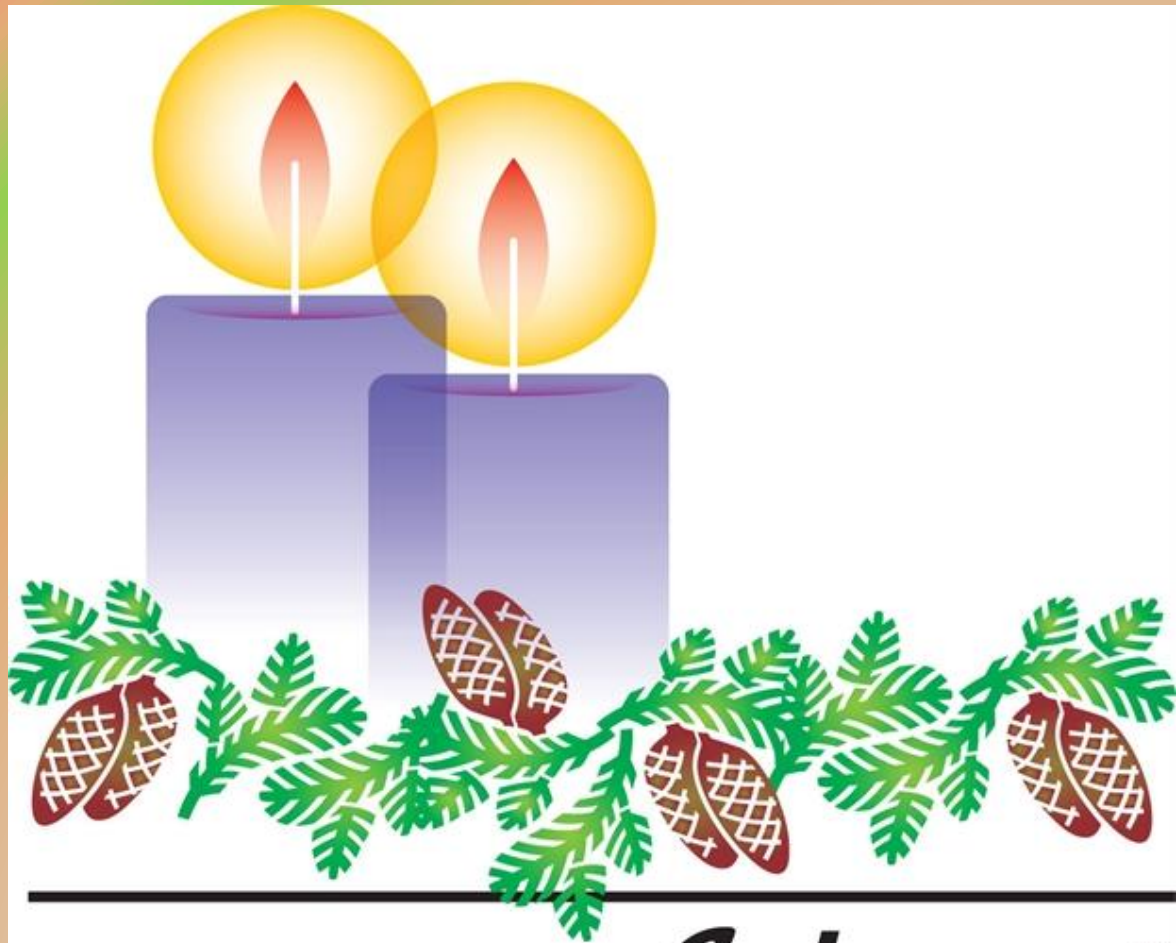


Advent Theme: A Saviour Who Christ The Lord

Luke 2:11

The message of the angels to the shepherds was that the Messiah had been born. But as Paul in Galatians [4:4] indicates there was a special moment in history when this was possible.

Character: Joseph
Theme: Character



SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*



“The End of Reproach”

*Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23;
Psalm 81:1-9*

Joseph being sold
to Potiphar, by
James Tissot, 1902

This 2nd Sunday of Advent generally focuses on the character of Christ in us. The Biblical character most closely associated with this is Joseph of Nazareth. We will look at what builds character in our lives this Sunday.

Genesis 30:22-24 [ESV]

22 Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.

23 She conceived and bore a son and said, "**God has taken away my reproach.**"

24 And she called his name Joseph, saying, "**May the LORD add to me another son!**"

“The End of Reproach”

Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23; Psalm 81:1-9

I like this painting by James Tissot of Joseph. In Matthew 1 we read the genealogy of Joseph. Joseph was a direct descendent of David through Solomon. It is strange that the house of David had fallen on such hard times. Even during the Exile Solomon's descendants enjoyed prestige. This prestige seemed to continue through the 1st 200 years after the Exile. But what changed? How did David's descendants go from being A-list celebrities to obscure laborers?



Joseph of Nazareth

Joseph Of Nazareth by James Tissot



Joseph of Nazareth

“The End of Reproach”

Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23; Psalm 81:1-9

What deeply influenced the the fortunes of the house of David and impacted the development of the Jewish people began 170 years before the birth of Jesus.

Antiochus IV [175-164 BC] the Hellenistic ruler of Syria and much of Asia Minor determined to Hellenize the Jewish people. He captured the Temple and attempted turn it into a temple of Zeus. In 167, Mattathias and elder Levite led a rebellion with 5 of his sons, this began a 26 year rebellion.

Joseph Of Nazareth by James Tissot



Joseph of Nazareth

“The End of Reproach”

Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23; Psalm 81:1-9

That 26 year rebellion would have dramatic impact on the development of Judaism. During this war the various sects of Judaism developed - the Sadducees and the Pharisees. Judas the 1st son appointed his brother Jonathan the High Priest. Eventually the final brother Simon not only held the High Priesthood but claimed the title of King in 141. In reality Judea had become an independent nation. Because the Hasmonean family was neither Aaronic nor Davidic

Joseph Of Nazareth by James Tissot



Joseph of Nazareth

“The End of Reproach”

Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23; Psalm 81:1-9

Because the Hasmonean family was neither Aaronic nor Davidic the Pharisees who were concerned about spiritual matters and the law viewed them as illegitimate on both counts. This would in the time of Jesus spawn 3 major religious and political movements: the Essenes, the Zealots and the Sicarii.

Joseph Of Nazareth by James Tissot

Garrison Church of God

Dec. 4, 2022



Joseph of Nazareth

“The End of Reproach”

Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23; Psalm 81:1-9

The Essenes were deeply committed to temple purity, and looked for a “teacher of Righteousness who descended from Aaron. The Zealots were anxiously looking for a descendent of David to lead a Messianic revolution. The Sicarii who developed out of the frustrations with finding a Messiah, adopted an anarchist view of the world and believed that chaos and violence was the only way to produce a Jewish state.

Joseph Of Nazareth by James Tissot

Psalms 81:1-9 [ESV]

5 He made it a decree in Joseph when he went out over the land of Egypt. I hear a language I had not known:

6 "I relieved your shoulder of the burden; your hands were freed from the basket.

7 In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah

8 Hear, O my people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

9 There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god.



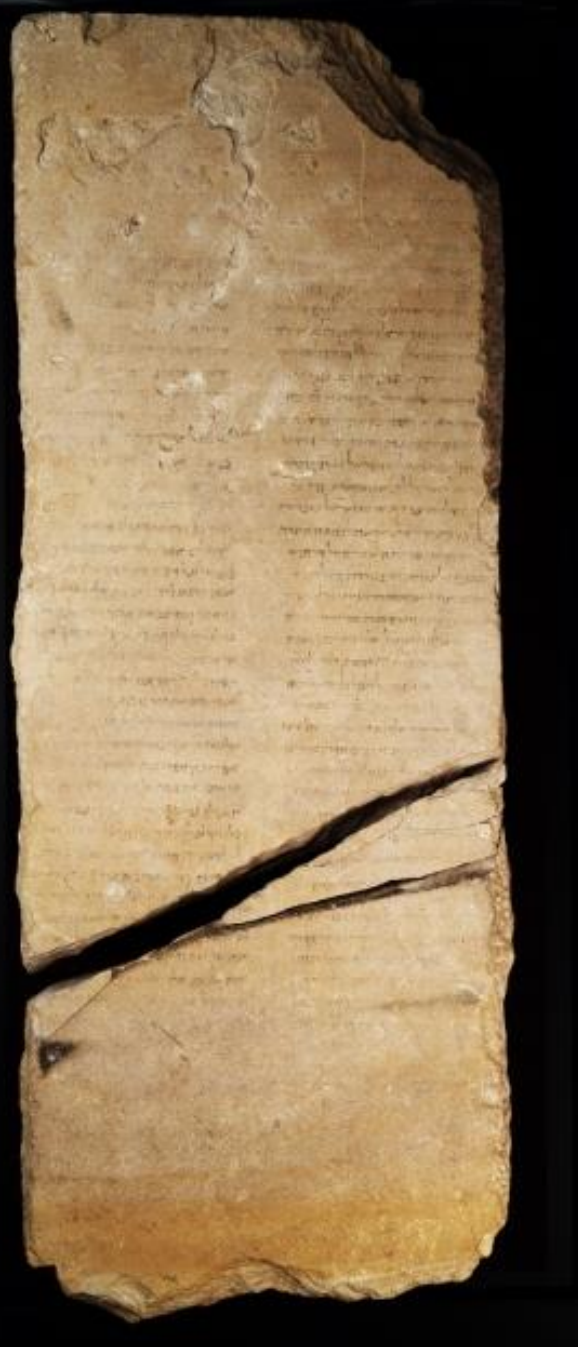
Joseph of Nazareth

“The End of Reproach”

Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23; Psalm 81:1-9

The Zealot movement was born in AD 6 when Archelaus the son of Herod was deposed by the Romans and Judea incorporated into the Province of Syria. The Romans began to tax the Jewish people directly rather than through the Sanhedrin. Judas of Samaria led a rebellion and proclaimed himself a descendent of David implying he was the long awaited Messiah. Judas is mentioned in the Book of Acts. This was the beginning of the Zealots.

Joseph Of Nazareth by James Tissot

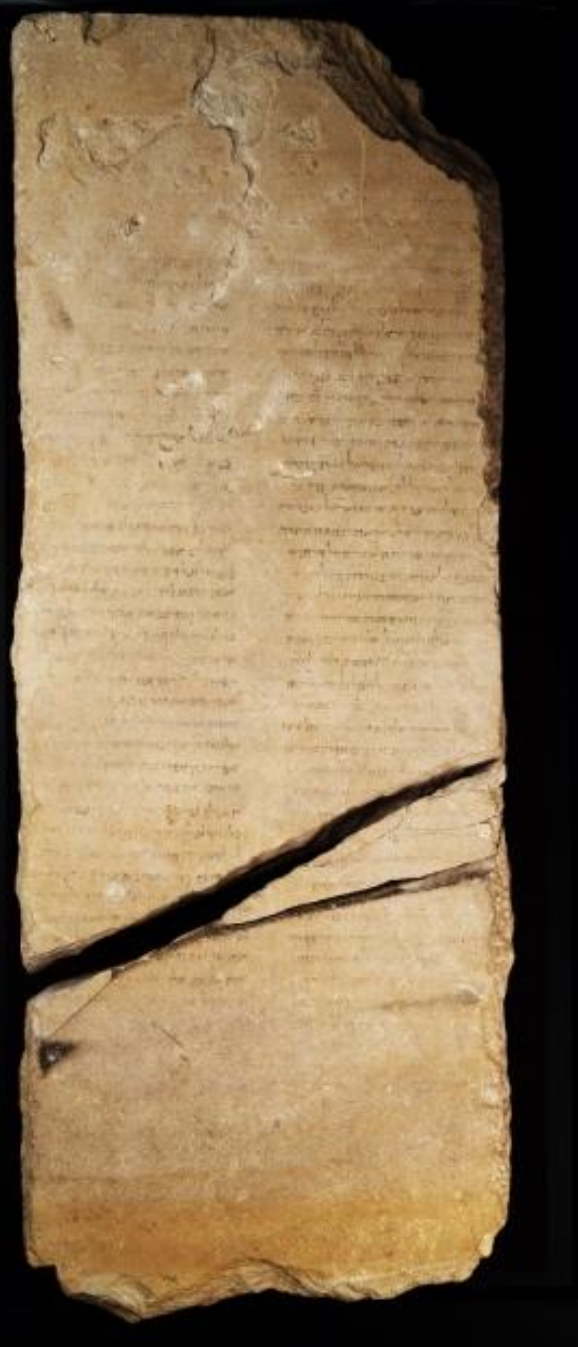


“The End of Reproach”

Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23; Psalm 81:1-9

Around the year 2000 Bedouins living on the eastern side of the Dead Sea discovered what is now called the Gabriel Revelation stone. It contains 87 lines of which over ½ are undecipherable. But the lines that have been read have challenged our understanding of Messianic views of the Jewish people during the period leading up to Jesus’ ministry.

The Gabriel Revelation stone. It is believed to date from around 5 BC to 10 AD. Its most likely date is around 6 AD and is probably associated with Judas of Samaria.



“The End of Reproach”

Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23; Psalm 81:1-9

It mentions that the Messiah was expected to raise from the dead. It makes clear that the Messiah was expected to come from the line of David.

When Judas of Samaria was killed by the Romans his followers awaited his resurrection. This became the Zealot movement.

The Gabriel Revelation stone. It is believed to date from around 5 BC to 10 AD. Its most likely date is around 6 AD and is probably associated with Judas of Samaria.



“The End of Reproach”

Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23; Psalm 81:1-9

The writings in the Dead Sea scrolls of the Essenes indicate a strong belief in a Messiah who would bring spiritual renewal and cleanse the Temple. By the time Jesus began his ministry there were 3 general expectations concerning the Messiah: 1. He would be a descendent of David. 2. He would establish an earthly kingdom of righteousness. 3. He would be preceded and aided by a Teacher of Righteousness from the line of Aaron.

The Gabriel Revelation stone.

Genesis 3:22-24 [ESV]

22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in **knowing good and evil.**

Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever — "

23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way **to guard the way to the tree of life.**



Joseph of Nazareth

“The End of Reproach”

Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23; Psalm 81:1-9

The danger of sin is grasping at immortality yet holding on to our sin. Mattathias' descendants grasped at power and glory. And soon they could not tolerate any potential rivals to their spiritual authority or their political authority. In 37 BC Herod the Great Deposed the last Hasmonean king and with Roman assistance declared himself King and held the power to appoint the High Priest. In this world to be identified as a descendent of David or Aaron was

Joseph Of Nazareth by James Tissot



Joseph of Nazareth

“The End of Reproach”

Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23; Psalm 81:1-9

In this world to be identified as a descendent of David or Aaron was to make yourself the center of conspiracies, intrigue and a target for assassination. Is it any wonder that David's descendants sought obscurity and a simple life. Yet in this simplicity God formed Joseph's character to be the man God needed to raise and protect Jesus the true Messiah. Christianity from its early years was committed to simplicity, hard work and quiet firm faith. Such a man was Joseph.

Joseph Of Nazareth by James Tissot



Joseph of Nazareth

“The End of Reproach”

Genesis 30:22-24 & 3:21-23; Psalm 81:1-9

I am fascinated when I read the book of James in the New Testament. So many of the phrases and illustrations are similar to those used by Jesus in the Gospels. Clearly this man grew up in the same home as Jesus. Surprisingly, according to early Christian historians, Joseph's descendants survived into the 2nd Century and appeared on Roman tax rolls as simple skilled laborers. Character learned from a remarkable man.

Joseph Of Nazareth by James Tissot

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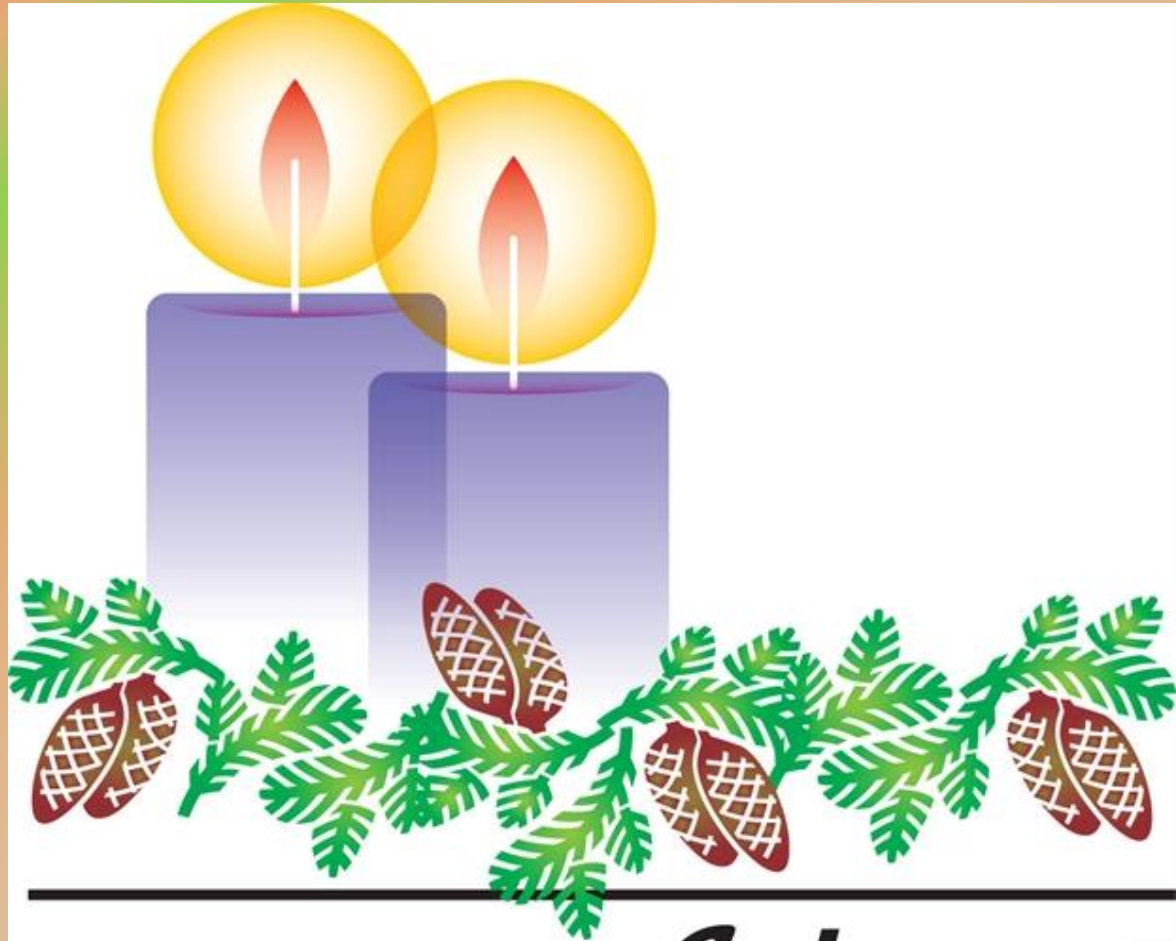
Colossians 1:21-24 [ESV]

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 **he has now reconciled** in his body of flesh by his death, in order **to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him**, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. 24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,...

Advent Theme: A Saviour Who Christ The Lord
Luke 2:11

The character
of a Christian
is formed in
the midst of
the struggles
of faith.

Character: Joseph
Theme: Character



SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*
