Advent Study

At Home with God

(Part 2 of 2)

Advent is a time when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, God incarnate, born into the world to save His people from their sins. And, when we look forward and prepare for Jesus's return in glory when we shall enjoy the fullness of God's presence, at home with Him, forevermore.

In the first of our **two-part** Advent study, we reminded ourselves of God's faithfulness to make us His own. The faithful God who drew near to redeem us, who were alienated from Him, so we could know, glorify, and enjoy Him. In this the final study we turn our attention now to the glorious inheritance that awaits us at Christ's return, and how we are to live as those who eagerly await that day.

Glorious inheritance

Let's look at some verses that unpack what our inheritance is in more detail:

OBSERVE

READ 1 Peter 1:3-5:

- underline every reference to *inheritance*.

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has
caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the
dead, [4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for
you, [5] who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed
in the last time.

V3 – What have we, the children of God, been born again to? How?

V4a – What is that living hope? How is it described?

V4b-5 – How can we be sure we will receive our inheritance?

OBSERVE

READ Romans 8:19-21:

- underline every reference to *creation (including pronouns)*.

[19] For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. [20] For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope [21] that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

DISCUSS

V19 – What does creation eagerly long for?

V21 – What will happen to creation when we are?

OBSERVE

READ 1 Corinthians 15:50-53:

- underline every reference to *inherit*.
- circle every reference to *imperishable*.

[50] I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [51] Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. [53] For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

DISCUSS

V50 – What cannot inherit the imperishable?

V51-53 – How will God transform our bodies to suit our future life with Him?

OBSERVE

READ Romans 8:28-30:

[28] And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. [29] For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. [30] And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

GLORIFIED – fully conformed to the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

DISCUSS

V30 – What will we one day be?

OBSERVE

READ Revelation 22:3-5:

[3] No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. [4] They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. [5] And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

GOD'S FACE – "The face expresses who a person is. To see God's face will be to know who God is in his personal being. This will be the heart of humanity's eternal joy in their eternal worship of God" – Richard Bauckham

GOD'S NAME – "To say that the overcomers in the New Jerusalem bear the name of Christ in their forehead is to say they reflect the glory of Christ, which is to say that they bear the image of the glorified Christ." – Meredith Kline

DISCUSS

V3-5 – What will life be like in the holy city?

So what?

So, we've seen what a glorious inheritance awaits us at the return of Christ. When we will be glorified, fully bearing the image of Christ, and with glorified bodies on a renewed creation will perfectly know, glorify, and enjoy God, forever.

However, setting on our hope fully on the grace of God to be given to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13-16) is not escapism, but rather a powerful motivation to be and live like Christ now, as those whose desire is to be increasingly conformed into His image. Let's look at some verses that explore this further:

OBSERVE

READ 2 Corinthians 3:17-18:

[17] Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. [18] And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

BEHOLDING – when we as believers are enabled by the Spirit to behold the glory of Christ primarily revealed to us in God's Word. Our spiritual senses enlivened to taste and see that the Lord is good. To behold our God who abounds in steadfast love and faithfulness, majestic in holiness, and who alone deserves our worship for the great salvation we have in Him.

DISCUSS

V18 – What happens as we behold the glory of the Lord? Who enables us to do so?

How does this change how you approach and the time you devote to the study of God's Word – both individually and corporately?

OBSERVE

READ 1 John 3:1-3:

[1] See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and
so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. [2] Beloved,
we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when
he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. [3] And everyone who thus
hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

DISCUSS

V1 – How has the Father loved us?

V2 – What will happen when Christ appears? How?

V3 – How do those who have this hope in God live? Why?

Will I make it?

So, we've seen the glorious inheritance that awaits us and how we, who eagerly await that day, should now live. But maybe one nagging question remains – will I make it? Will I enjoy this future life with God, at home with Him, forever? Let's look at some verses that assure us we will:

OBSERVE

READ Ephesians 1:13-14:

[13] In him [Christ] you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and
believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is the guarantee of
our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

SEALED - STRONGS 4972 (sphragizo) – to stamp with private mark for preservation, to confirm or attest a thing.

GUARANTEE – STRONGS 728 (arrabon) – a downpayment, i.e., part of the purchase-money or property given in advance as security for the rest.

DISCUSS

V13 – Who are those sealed with the Spirit?

V14a – How is the Spirit described?

V14b – Why does God do all this for us?

So, we are not left alone. Rather, as those sealed with the Spirit, we are those who belong to Christ and the Spirit's presence and power at work in us is the guarantee that God will one day glorify us and we will enjoy the fullness of our inheritance, at home with Him, forever. The pinnacle of which to behold God face-to-face and an enjoyment of Him for all eternity that will never spoil, diminish, or fade away. All to the praise of His glory.

May this truth encourage our hearts today and to live as those who eagerly await His return and to share with those around us the Good News of God's grace to us through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Enjoyed the Study? Why Stop there?

Precept.org.nz/shop has a wide range of Inductive study resources to help you to Know God Deeply and Live Differently as a result. With **FREE** Lightning & Discovery studies (like this one!) to download, along with devotional (Lord Series), 40 Minute, Precept Upon Precept and much more, there's a study for everyone! So, no matter whether you're new to Bible study or an experienced theologian, you can discover the truth of God's word today. Or better yet, join an online study group at Precept.org.nz/studies/online studies.