

# The Hope of Heaven

## THE HOPE OF HEAVEN: "THE HOPE OF TOMORROW"

Welcome back to our Christmas Advent series entitled The Hope of Heaven. And each week in this four week series, we're preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus. And that's what advent means, the COMING or the ARRIVAL, the showing up of an especially important person. And that's who . . . Jesus.

<sup>3</sup> "Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?"<sup>4</sup> Jesus told them, "Don't let anyone mislead you, <sup>5</sup>for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many. <sup>6</sup>And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. <sup>7</sup>Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. <sup>8</sup>But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come," (Matthew 24:3-7).

You may be thinking, "Eh, week three is not a traditional advent scripture reading for Christmas." And you're right. These words of Jesus are at the end of his time on earth spoken to his 12 close followers, his disciples, at the Mount of Olives. Jesus enters Jerusalem on a Donkey on Palm Sunday, clears the temple on a Monday, and this is Tuesday, where he speaks on the other mount of Olives overseeing Jerusalem and speaks about this future event of how the end will come when he comes back again, this time not as a baby, but as our King!

Read the rest of Matthew 24 to hear what Jesus has to say about his 2nd coming. Let me pick up what Jesus says at the end of his long teaching in v. 30 when he says this.

<sup>30</sup> "And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup>And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven," (Matthew 24:30-31).

Jesus will come back again! Do you believe that? Well, if Jesus came the first time after 700 years after the prophet Isaiah foretold his first coming, it's been 2000 plus years since these words of Jesus were spoken. Let me read again, v. 7

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Over the course of history, had plenny wars, famines, and earthquakes. We even had a volcanic eruption on Mauna Loa! And Jesus says all these are birth pains, labor pains, and when these events happen, then he'll come back again.