

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

Part 1 of ADVENT 2025. Matthew 1:1-17.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. November 30, 2025.

INTRODUCTION

Human promises often fail, like a guaranteed overnight delivery that never arrives, leaving disappointment and cynicism.

Jesus promised clearly and repeatedly that he would return in glory.

Matthew 16:27 (CSB) For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father...

Matthew 24:30 (CSB) ... they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Matthew 24:44 (CSB) This is why you are also to be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 25:31 (CSB) When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

Which raises the question, “Will this ever actually happen?” (2 Peter 3-4).

- Matthew 1:1-17 shows that God already kept staggering long-range promises in Christ’s first coming, so waiting for Christ’s return is never waiting for nothing.
- He orchestrated generations of people and events to bring about the birth of Jesus, and he will just as surely bring about the return of Jesus.
- Therefore, look back at Jesus’ first coming this Advent to strengthen your confidence as you look forward to his second coming.

God’s faithfulness is illustrated in three ways in the genealogy.

ILLUSTRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

1. The birth of Jesus illustrates God's faithfulness.

Matthew 1:1 (CSB) An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham..."

- Matthew provides Jesus' Messianic credentials in verse 1.
- "Son of Abraham" connects Jesus to the promise that Abraham's offspring would bring blessing to all nations (Genesis 12:1-3).
- "Son of David" marks him as the royal heir whose kingdom would last forever (2 Samuel 7).
- The genealogy shows God quietly working behind the scenes. He didn't forget his promise even when the timeline was far longer than people expected.

2. The history of Israel illustrates God's faithfulness.

- Matthew divided the genealogy into three stages representing Israel's history:
 - Stage one: Abraham to King David represents the rise of the nation.
 - Stage two: King David to the exile represents the nation's decline.
 - Stage three: The exile to the birth of Jesus Christ represents the restoration of the nation and the world.
- It tells us that God is faithful. It did not matter what happened - good or bad - God directed the family line of the Messiah, the Christ, and didn't allow it to die out or disappear.
- God always guides people and events according to his plan and purpose:

Genesis 50:20 (CSB) You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result ...

Job 42:2 (CSB) I know that you can do anything and no plan of yours can be thwarted.

Psalms 33:11 (CSB) The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart from generation to generation.

Ephesians 1:11 (CSB) God “works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will...”

3: Individual Stories Illustrate God’s Faithfulness

- In a world where genealogies mentioned only men, Matthew deliberately included Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, “the wife of Uriah” (Bathsheba), and Mary.
- These women were connected to scandal, suffering, or social marginalization.
- Their stories remind us that God’s purposes stand even in the twists and turns of life. God wove their lives directly into the line of the Messiah.

GOD IS FAITHFUL, JESUS IS COMING

Waiting for Jesus to return is not like waiting for “Godot.”

- The God who worked all things together to bring about the birth of Christ is doing whatever it takes to bring about the return of Christ.
- This Advent season, as we look back at his birth and look forward to his return:
 - Be confident and stand firm ...
 - Stoke your hope and be prepared ...
 - Your King is coming. In glory.
 - To take his throne on earth.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's November 30th teaching and study guide. For more resources, visit www.famousgod.com/small-groups.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?

Discuss

- When you think about the second coming of Christ, are you more skeptical, fearful, indifferent, or hopeful? If someone asked, could you boldly affirm that Jesus is coming again? What's shaped that posture for you over the years?
- How does seeing centuries of names in one short paragraph in Jesus's family tree change the way you think about God's apparently "slow" pace or timetable in keeping his promise of Christ's return?
- How does knowing that "no plan of God can be thwarted" affect the way you read the news, face cultural uncertainty, think about the future of the church, view your life's circumstances, or wait for Christ to return?
- Jesus warns that the Son of Man is coming "at an hour you do not expect." What does a healthy, watchful readiness look like in the ordinary routines of your week (work, family, technology, money, rest)?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for more grace to be confident, to stand firm, to never lose hope, and to be prepared for our returning, glorious King as he takes his throne on earth.
- Pray: "Come quickly, Lord Jesus."