

Jordan Ministry Team
New Vision Article - December

Advent: A Short Season For Taking The Long View
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If Christmas is the bright dawn of God's love made incarnate in Jesus, then Advent is the dark night which precedes and anticipates it. But the quiet evening of Advent is not the darkness of evil, the blindness of sin, or the emptiness of despair. No, this is a holy season inviting us to deeper faith, clearer sight, and more profound hope. We are asked to take the long view.

We say that we can see better during the daytime, but that's only partly true. In fact, it is only after the sun has set that the awesome mysteries of the universe become visible to us. And having pondered the distant stars and planets, when the new day begins, we come to see our own sun and earth in a whole new light.

This is true in our own lives, as well. In faith, as in education, being satisfied with what we already know is a deceptive kind of blindness. Its temptation is a confidence rooted in having the answers—a very attractive kind of confidence, indeed. The deception is in blinding us to the possibility of even greater understanding and wisdom. When we accept and admit how very much we don't know, we open our eyes to new possibilities and our hearts to true dialogue. Even those things we thought we already knew can be appreciated in greater detail and depth.

Maybe that's why Advent begins by looking, not to the birth of Jesus, but to the end times, the fullness of time. Do we dare step back from the immediate demands of Christmas preparations to open our eyes and hearts to the great mystery—always beyond our full comprehension—of eternal salvation? In these few short weeks of Advent, let us stop and take the long view.