

# The Arrival || Advent 2018

## The Coming of a Savior

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**Sermon Synopsis:** The arrival of the One Who saves us from our sins  
**Themes:** salvation, sin, savior

### Matthew 1:18-21 (ESV)

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."**

Intro: Tree is crooked. Me: How do we fix it? Jude: I dunno....scissors?

Experience tells me that handing Jude a pair of scissors is rarely the solution for anything.

"He will save..." From what? We need the right diagnosis. "he will save his people from their sins."

### **The Bible offers a deeply comprehensive diagnosis of the human condition**

- Iniquity
- Transgression
- Sin (is the most common, so we'll look more at that)
  1. **Chata** (archery and slinging)<sup>1</sup>      **API!**

#### Judges 20:16 (ESV)

Among all these were 700 chosen men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair and not miss (chata) → Chata: To miss the mark

2. **Hamartia:** A departure from either a human or divine goal

### **What's the divine goal?<sup>2</sup>**

Image of God → love God + love others

10 Commandments

### **Sin, then, is...      **API!****

1. A failure to be truly and fully human
2. Being deceived about what's right and wrong<sup>3</sup>
3. The supernatural battle with evil raging against us

### Genesis 4:7 (NIV)

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin (*chata*) is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.

And dwells in us! (Romans 7:17)

So that Paul could say that we are “captive to sin” (Romans 7:23) to such a degree that we “do not do what [we] want, but [we] do the very thing [we] hate” (Romans 7:15)

So why is sin so bad? It is that thing that is produced by our own rebellion, invades our lives like a monster, and subjects us to slavery, perpetually thinking, acting, and behaving in ways that make us less human every day.

### **That’s why this story is so much more than a cute nativity scene**

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21, ESV)

**This is more than merely the removal of our guilty feelings**

He is saving us *from* our sin. To “save” us from our sin (to make whole)

That means, he has come to make us *fully human* again—to restore the breaches

### **How does he save us from our sin?<sup>4</sup> AP!**

1. **Identification** - he becomes human, yet without sin<sup>5</sup>
2. **Substitution** - he takes our sin upon his body and nails it to the cross<sup>6</sup>
3. **Incorporation** - he brings us into the family of God<sup>7</sup>

### Romans 8:1-4 (MSG)

With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ’s being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death. God went for the jugular when he sent his own Son. He didn’t deal with the problem as something remote and unimportant. In his Son, Jesus, he personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right once and for all. The law code, weakened as it always was by fractured human nature, could never have done that. The law always ended up being used as a Band-Aid on sin instead of a deep healing of it. And now what the law code asked for but we couldn’t deliver is accomplished as we, instead of redoubling our own efforts, simply embrace what the Spirit is doing in us.

**Jude - when he’s sick, all I want to do is take it from him...but I can’t.** God can take our sin!

Some of you are filled with shame, despair, a feeling of being stuck. Law? Weak.

Christ paid it all. Bring your shame, bring your sin, bring your shortcomings—be saved

<sup>1</sup> Stories of slinging from Malcom Gladwell. *David and Goliath*. 9

<sup>2</sup> This whole section came from The Bible Project. *Word Study: Khata - "Sin"* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNOZ7ocLD74>

<sup>3</sup> Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things (Romans 8:5, NLT)

<sup>4</sup> Scot McKnight. *The King Jesus Gospel: The Original Good News Revisited*. (Zondervan, 2011). 51

<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

<sup>6</sup> 1 Peter 2:24 "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed." See also Romans 8:3 "For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh"

<sup>7</sup> Ephesians 2:18-19 "For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God"