

THE DAWN IS BREAKING WEEK 1

“Awake to the Light”

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

INTRODUCTION: WHEN MORNING FEELS FAR AWAY

- Advent begins in the dark, with the promise that **dawn is coming**.
- Like waking early on Christmas morning, Advent teaches us to look toward what's coming even before it arrives.
- Advent hope: **The first light of God's future has already begun to break into the present.**

I. ISAIAH'S VISION OF DAWN “Walk in the Light of the LORD”

Text: Isaiah 2:1-5

A. The World Isaiah Saw

- A world filled with darkness, fear, and conflict.
- God gives Isaiah a vision of the future:
 - God's mountain lifted high.
 - Nations streaming to learn His ways.
 - Enemies becoming friends.
 - Weapons turned into tools for peace.

B. Light as God's Guidance

- Walking in the dark leads to stumbling, Isaiah calls us to walk in God's light.
- In the light, we can see:
 - where to go,
 - who we are,
 - how God made us to live.

C. Advent Hope

- **God's future is brighter than our present.**

- The night will not last forever.
- **The dawn is breaking, live like people who see the morning coming.**

II. PAUL'S ALARM CLOCK "Wake Up!"

Text: Romans 13:11-14

A. Knowing What Time It Is

- "The hour has come for you to wake from sleep."
- "The night is nearly over; the day is almost here."

B. Theological Insight

- N.T. Wright: *"The future has broken into the present."*
- God's coming kingdom is already shining because Christ has come.

C. Putting Off and Putting On

- Take off the "works of darkness" like night clothes.
- Put on the "armor of light", put on Christ.
- Hope isn't passive; it's a **way of living**.

D. Participation in Christ

- Advent living means our lives already begin to look like the kingdom that is on the way.

III. JESUS' CALL "Stay Awake"

Text: Matthew 24:36-44

A. Not Prediction, Preparation

- No one knows the day or the hour.
- Jesus' return will be sudden...the question is not "When?" but "Will you be awake?"

B. What Jesus Actually Calls Us To

- Not obsession over dates.
- Not fear or speculation.
- **Faithfulness. Hopefulness. Wakefulness.**

C. Living as Children of the Day

- Jesus invites us to live alert to God’s light, alive to His work in the world, ready for His return.

IV. LIGHT IN THE DARK

A. Why One Small Light Matters

- A single flame stands out in a dark room.
- Jesus calls His people “the light of the world” for this reason.

B. Ways We Light Candles of Hope

For kids and adults:

- Kindness
- Truth-telling
- Forgiveness
- Sharing
- Encouraging
- Living like Jesus

C. Even Small Acts Push Back the Dark

- Every act of Christlike love is a candle in the darkness.

V. CONCLUSION: LIVE AS IF THE DAWN HAS COME

A. Advent’s Invitation

- Wake up.
- Look to the horizon.
- The dawn is breaking.

B. Scripture’s Unified Call

- Isaiah: “**Walk in the light of the LORD.**”
- Paul: “**Wake up, the day is almost here.**”
- Jesus: “**Stay awake.**”

C. Call to Action for This Week

Live as if the day has already dawned.

Let your...

- habits,
- words,
- decisions,
- expectations

...reflect the light of Christ's coming.