

THE KING IS COMING

Many families put up their Christmas trees early – Thanksgiving week or before – while others find themselves searching for “the right one” a few days before December 25. The evergreen, real or artificial, has become one of the symbols of the yuletide, pointing to the birth of Christ.



The prophet Daniel, however, never put up a Christmas tree, never lit an Advent wreath, and never sang a holiday carol. But he celebrated Christmas anyway.

He anticipated the coming of the Messiah, and his whole life was lived against the backdrop of Christ’s appearance. It gave him daily encouragement. In Daniel 7:13, he said: “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man (was) coming.”

For us, too, the promise of His coming imparts optimism. Our attitude, however, is that of Revelation 1:7: “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him.”

Imagine how energized you would be if your loved one were returning after a tour of duty in a war zone. You’d be almost giddy with excitement, straightening the house, planning a menu, calling friends, and preparing for the long-awaited reunion.

Speaking on that subject, Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., said in his book *Turning Points*: “How wonderful that Jesus came, clothed in humanity, born of a virgin, laid in a manger. How wonderful that He is coming again, clothed in triumph, descending with angels, crowned with glory.”

Dr. Jeremiah’s challenge: Celebrate Christmas this year with both a backward glance at Bethlehem and a forward look described in Revelation.

Rejoice! Our King is coming.

– Beecher Hunter