

Second Sunday in Advent, December 6, 2020 Oh, rend the Heavens! **We Are Trembling!**

Isaiah 64:1-9 [Sermon text: 2-3, 6]

¹ Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ² As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! ³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. ⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? ⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. ⁷ No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.

⁸ Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay; you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

Isaiah 64:1-9 NIV

1. Do your sins make you tremble? Have you ever trembled?
2. Is our God a god of fear or love? Explain your answer.

2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. *2 Peter 3:8-14 NIV*

1. How many days of the Lord have passed since the Lord ascended into Heaven?
2. Is Christ's return coming soon? Is he dragging His feet?
3. Will we have a warning like "a Christ is coming" watch or a "Christ is coming" warning?
4. How can we be ready when we don't know when the return is? Why do we need to know when He's coming? Or not know?

Mark 1:1-9

¹ The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" — ³ "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. *Mark 1:1-9 NIV*

1. Look up the Isaiah passage? What is the message in the chapter?
2. Why did the Baptist preach in the wilderness?
3. What was it that caused the people to go to John?
4. How could John preach "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins"? Didn't the Law require a sacrifice?
5. How was it that John prepared the way for Jesus? Was John really necessary?