

THE ANTI-CHRISTMAS

A Four-Week Advent Sermon Series

Week 1: ANTICIPATION

The Search for the Messiah

Biblical References:

Isaiah 9:2-7 (The people walking in darkness have seen a great light)

Romans 8:18-25 (Creation waits in eager expectation)

Luke 3:15 (The people were waiting expectantly)

Suggested Preface:

We live in an age of instant gratification, yet our souls are constantly waiting for the "next big thing" to save us. From technological breakthroughs to political shifts, we scan the horizon for solutions. This week sets the stage by acknowledging our cultural exhaustion and reorienting our collective anticipation toward Christ, who arrives not from the top down, but from the bottom up.

Main Objectives:

- Identify the modern "saviors" our society anticipates (wealth, politics, technology).
- Contrast worldly anticipation (anxious, demanding, loud) with biblical hope (patient, trusting, quiet).
- Call the congregation to recognize Christ as the true, unexpected fulfillment of their deepest longings.

Research & Study References:

"Surprised by Hope" by N.T. Wright; Commentaries exploring Second Temple Jewish expectations of a military Messiah versus Jesus' actual arrival.

Video Integration Strategy:

Play the "Anticipation" video as an opening hook before the scripture reading. Keep the house lights at 30% to maintain the cinematic, contemplative mood of the cold modern city visual. Let the final frame of the warm streetlamp hold on screen for three seconds of silence before the speaker approaches the pulpit. This creates a powerful emotional runway for the sermon.