





Christmas is family.

Christmas is giving gifts.

Christmas is stress.

Christmas is sorrow.

Christmas is travel.

Christmas is traditions.

Christmas is food.



Christmas is lonely.

Christmas is memories.

Christmas is kid's giggles.

Christmas is favorite movies.

Christmas is trees & lights.

Christmas is Hallmark in July.

Christmas is Advent...



...and Advent is the profound arrival of God and His kingdom.

ADVENT

Advent is a powerful act of love, ushering in deliverance, salvation, and purpose for everyone; rejecting the subdued notion of Christmas merely as the birth of a cute baby Jesus.



ADVENT


The Astonishing
Arrival of God



A photograph of a stack of logs on a mound of sand. The logs are stacked horizontally and are supported by two vertical wooden posts. The mound of sand is in the foreground, and the background is a plain, light-colored wall.

What is "Advent"?

- It means "arrival" or "coming into place"
- It's marked by the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love

A photograph on the left side of the page shows a stack of approximately ten logs, tied together with a string, resting on a mound of brown sand. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The text on the right is in a large, bold, dark grey font.

**All the busyness, shopping,
and ads during Christmas
can dull our heart and
dilute our senses to the
astonishing act of God
becoming flesh.**

ADVENT



Advent > “The Holiday Season”

ADVENT



Let's see Advent with fresh eyes and receive this revolutionary King, His Kingdom, and His good news.

ADVENT

A photograph of a stack of logs on a mound of earth. The logs are stacked horizontally and are supported by two vertical wooden posts. The mound of earth is in the foreground, and the background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**“At that time the Emperor
Augustus ordered a census
of the Roman Empire.”**

Luke 2:1 // God’s Word Translation

ADVENT

A photograph of a stack of logs on a wooden stand in a desert landscape. The logs are stacked horizontally on a simple wooden frame. The background shows rolling sand dunes under a clear sky.

Who is Emperor Augustus?

- He was the grandnephew and adopted son of Julius Caesar
- He ruled from 30 B.C. - A.D. 14
- He established loyal, local kings to help him. Thus, King Herod (Matthew 2:1) ruled in Israel.
- Issued a heavy tax on people

Who is Emperor Augustus?

- With King Herod's oversight, he supported the rebuilding of the Second Temple in Jerusalem
- He recognized the importance of religious autonomy and so he allowed the Jews to continue their religious traditions and practices





We might think our problems keep God away, but actually, it's our need for help that brings God into our lives.



Caesar Augustus	Jesus the Christ
"Savior of the world."	John 4:42
"His deeds are presented as good"	Mark 1:14-15
Groomed to lead	Luke 2:7
Known as "Son of God"	John 1:49

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When this season centers on the portrayal of a cute baby Jesus, it fosters a church that is subdued, tamed, and domesticated.

A photograph of a stack of logs on a wooden stand in a desert landscape. The logs are stacked horizontally on a simple wooden frame. The background shows rolling sand dunes under a clear sky.

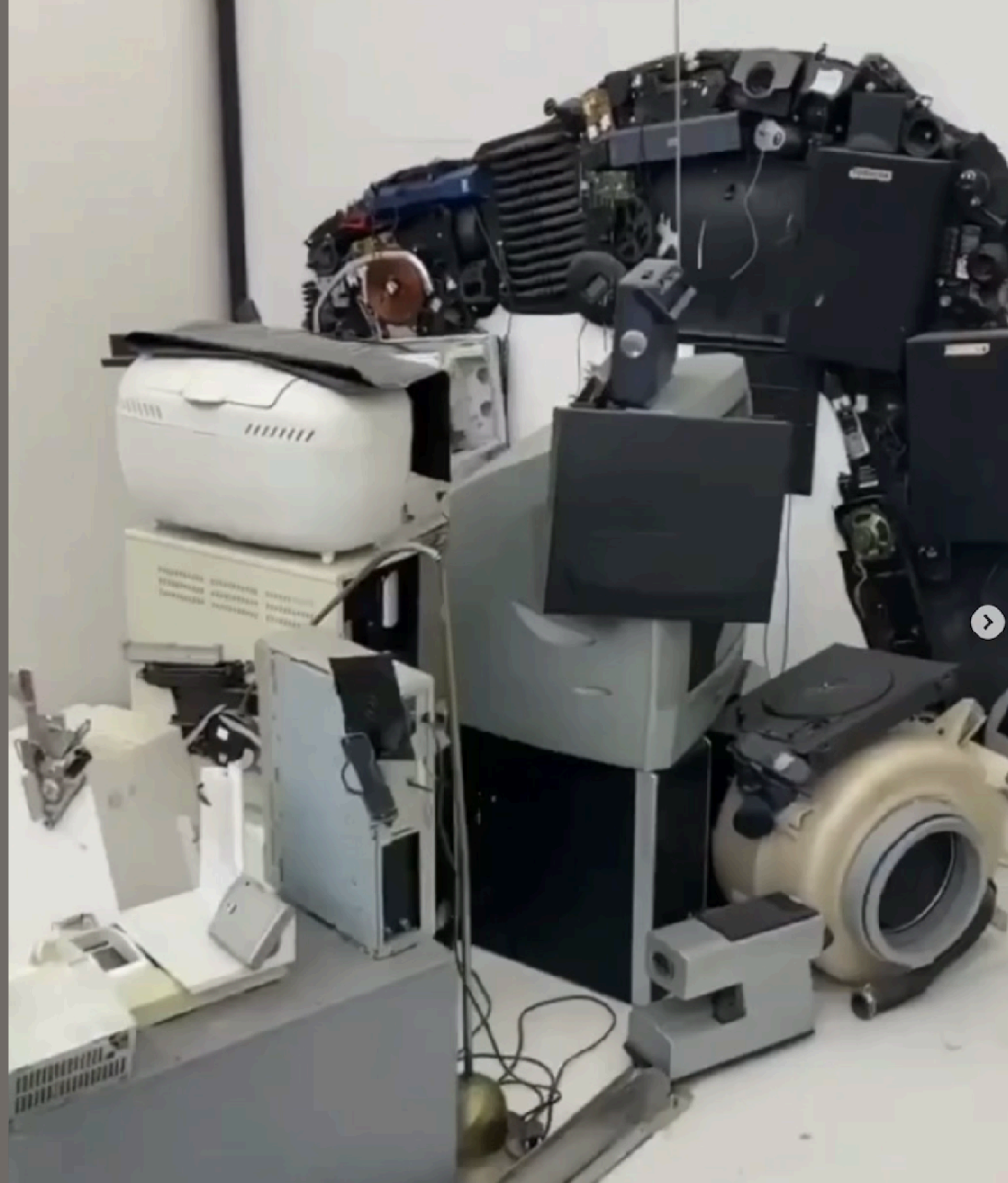
Essential Qualities of the Gospel

- 1. Riotous** (Matthew 2:12, 16; John 11:45-54; Acts 19:23)
- 2. Redemptive** (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13-14; Titus 2:14)
- 3. Righteous** (Leviticus 26:12; Romans 3:22; Philippians 3:9; Romans 1:16-17)
- 4. Revolutionary** (Mark 16:17; Luke 10:17; Colossians 2:15; James 4:7; 1 John 4:4)
- 5. Replete** (John 14:16-17; Ephesians 3:19, 5:18; Colossians 2:9-10)

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We share in the amazing strength of the gospel when we truly see it for what it is.