

Advent 3

The verse this week is taken from the New Testament see Revelation chapter 3, verse 7. Again this gives the family history of the Lord Jesus Christ as being of the House of David (or Jesse, father of David – for information see Ruth chapter 4, verse 18 – 22: 1 Samuel chapter 16, verses 1 – 13 and Matthew chapter 1, verse 6).

*O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;
You open and no one can shut;
You shut and no one can open:
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
Those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.*

*O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Remember that the One we acknowledge as ‘Lord’ and ‘Saviour’, the Babe of Bethlehem, is the One described in Revelation chapter 1, verses 8 – 20. He is the One who holds the keys of Death and Hades (verse 18) and the One who praises or condemns the local church congregations (see Revelation chapters 2 and 3). This vision needs to be in our hearts and minds as we look forward to celebrating his birth at Bethlehem, and his coming in glory at the end of time.

*This, this is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable Friend.
Whose love is as great as His power.
And knows neither measure nor end.*

*‘Tis Jesus, the first and the last.
Whose Spirit will guide us safe home:
We’ll praise Him for all that is past.
And trust Him for all that’s to come.*

Joseph Hart (1712 - 1768)