**An Eternal Life-Time Warranty**

Based on [Luke 21:25-36](http://biblia.com/books/esv/Lk21.25-36)

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Advent 2 ~ Populus Zion

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Especially this verse. “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*

Most things have a standard warranty. For most electronic devices it seems to be 90 days. For the Power Train of a new car it’s a standard 5 years or 100,000 kilometer warranty, whichever comes first. For everything else on the car, electrical components, power locks and windows, things like that, it’s 3 years. And it’s no mystery why the power windows in your car stop working a month after the warranty expires. Every manufacturer has to have a rough idea of how long their product can be expected to last before something breaks.

One certainty of living in this world is that nothing lasts forever. Even something with a lifetime warranty isn’t expected to last forever, only to outlast its usefulness. Things break, wear out, fall out of fashion. Things come to an end, they die…people die. Our bodies fail us, things fall apart. Trees grow their buds and leaves in the spring only to lose them again in the fall. Things that are will not always be, and when we look around us it appears that the only thing permanent in the world is change.

Now we can’t fault manufacturers for creating breakable products, because nobody’s perfect, except God. But our God—the Lord of Creation, the manufacturer of the world and everything in it—God created a breakable world, and of course, he knows it. And today, Jesus Christ reminds us that the Almighty God who created the heavens and the earth has put upon his creation a limited warranty.

A warranty is a promise, and God promises that his creation will break. Why? Is He not confident in his workmanship? Or did he design his creation only to destroy it?

It’s true that God planned the world, and it's true that it will become obsolete. There are signs of a dying world all around us, suffering, wars and rumours of war, earthquakes, famine. We are already hearing the death rattle; we are already seeing the signs.

The world will pass away, and like that knocking in your car engine before it breaks down, there will be signs of the inevitable breakdown of the world. Jesus speaks a little about the signs today, but what the signs in the sun and moon and stars and on earth are in particular is of little consequence. What Jesus addresses today is how these signs are to be received. To unbelievers they will cause distress and anxiety. Those who are unaware will see these signs and faint with fear and foreboding about what is coming on the world because of the way they will interpret these signs.

But that is not how we will interpret the signs, because Jesus tells us what’s really going on. Jesus tells a parable about a fig tree, and in case you don’t know anything about figs, he says it goes for all trees. It’s a parable about Judgment day, but it’s not fire and brimstone. It’s not a frightening parable about fire and chaff, or about trimming your wicks, or about how the axe is laid at the root of the trees.

Advent is a time of anticipation, of hope in the coming of the Lord. And to put this hope into perspective, Jesus gives us a beautiful, comforting, lovely parable about trees. “**As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near**”, so also when the sun grows dark and you see the distress of nations, you should say, “**the trees are budding**”; and when the sea and the waves roar, you should confess that **the trees are blossoming**.

God put a limited warranty on his creation, not because of faulty workmanship, but because *our works* are faulty. Our daily lives are tainted with sin and weakness. And so he put a limited warranty on this world...and he did this to show us that we are to put our stock not in the things that have only a life-time warranty, but in those things that have an “eternal life”-time warranty. The words of Jesus....

“**This world will pass away, but my words**,” Jesus says, “**my promises, my eternal-life-time warranty will not pass away**.” A warranty is a guarantee, a promise, made in words. And what are these words? These words are the words of eternal life.

Jesus says to the woman at the well, “**Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life**.” He says, “**I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst**.”

Sacraments, the water of life in Baptism, the bread of life in Holy Communion these are the seal of your salvation and a perpetual warranty, a guarantee that the only thing in this world that doesn’t pass away is what God says. The only guarantee is what God has promised…that those who carry in their hearts and confess with their mouths the words of Jesus will live eternally.

And so when moth and rust destroy the treasures of this earth and leave the nations in distress, you can straighten up and raise your heads. Your treasures are in heaven, and you know your redemption is drawing near.

Advent is the season of hope, we look forward not in fear, but in joy to the coming of Jesus in a manger, in the form of a servant, in the likeness of men, and finally in Judgment and Glory on the Last day. For Jesus Christ, the Son of God born man is a new creation, perfect God and perfect man. *He* is how we shall be when our old selves die and we are raised again...in the image of God, and the body of men. He is the fulfillment of the law; he is the promise of Grace, his words are an eternal-“life warranty” that will never pass away.